

LIFE IN POETRY

Observing The People Who Surround Us

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

Here's a fine poem by my fellow Nebraskan, Barbara Schmitz, who here offers us a picture of people we've all observed but haven't thought to write about.

UNIFORMS

It is very hot—92 today—to be wearing a stocking cap, but the adolescent swaggering through the grocery store automatic door doesn't seem to mind; does not even appear to be perspiring. The tugged-down hat is part of his carefully orchestrated outfit: bagging pants, screaming t-shirt, high-topped shoes. The young woman who yells to her friends from an open pickup window is attired for summer season in strapless stretch tube top, slipping down toward bountiful cleavage valley. She tugs it up in front as she races toward the two who have just passed a cigarette between them like a baton on a relay team. Her white chest gleams like burnished treasure as they giggle loudly there in the corner and I glance down to see what costume I have selected to present myself to the world today. I smile; it's my sky blue shirt with large deliberately faded Peace sign, smack dab in the middle, plus grey suede Birkenstocks—a message that "I lived through the sixties and am so proud." None of the young look my way. I round the corner and walk into Evening descending.

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Problem Isn't Wife's Fault

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
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Dear Tom and Ray:
Something my wife does drives me crazy, and I want to get your support before pointing it out to her. Our driveway is approximately 60 feet long and uphill. It's fairly steep for three-quarters of the run, then it flattens out at the top. My wife insists on backing up the driveway to park so she can go forward down the driveway in the morning. I think that backing up is harder on the transmission than driving up forward. Currently, we are experiencing signs of transmission issues on our 2004 Volvo XC90 T6, which I've found are common with this particular car. But could my wife be exacerbating the issue or causing it directly by backing up the driveway every evening? Thanks for your wise counsel.

— Jackson

TOM: I'm glad you wrote to us, Jackson. That way, we can stop you from humiliating yourself in front of your wife.

RAY: And instead allow you to humiliate yourself in front of the whole country.

TOM: It's unlikely that your wife had anything to do with your transmission problem—unless she's backing up 60 miles a day instead of 60 feet.

RAY: In which case, she'd have a transmission problem and a stiff neck.

TOM: Reverse gear is basically the same as any other gear, in an automatic transmission, Jackson. In most cases, it's made of the same metal and uses the same hardening process. And in many automatics, reverse actually is not a separate gear. The transmission just uses an internal clutch or a brake to make one of the forward gears go backward.

RAY: Some manufacturers may choose to



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

save a little money on their reverse gear by not making it quite so high-quality, or by not putting it through so rigorous a testing regimen. Why? Because it doesn't need to perform as well as the forward gears.

TOM: Right. Reverse never has to be "slammed into" at 6,000 rpm. It's always engaged at idle. And it never has to mesh perfectly at 5,000 rpm. Most people rarely go above 1,000 rpm or 2,000 rpm in reverse.

RAY: The vast majority of the time, reverse goes completely unused. When given a choice, most people prefer to go forward.

TOM: Compare the mileage you've driven in reverse with how far you've driven in the forward gears. You say your driveway is 60 feet long and your wife backs up it every evening. If she's done that 365 days a year since the car was new in 2004, she'll have gone a total of 29 miles in reverse by now. Compare that with how many forward miles you have on the car: 60,000? 90,000? 120,000?

RAY: So the use of reverse is almost insignificant in the life of the transmission.

TOM: What's much more significant is how hard you drive the car—whether you stomp on the gas and do jackrabbit starts, and whether you shift from drive to reverse or vice versa while the car is still moving.

RAY: And probably most significant, in your case, are the design and manufacture of the transmission, and the match between the engine and transmission. We know Volvo has had trouble with the XC90 T6 transmission from your year, and I'm guessing it's because the transmission can't handle the torque that this turbocharged engine puts out.

TOM: So you should see if your Volvo dealer will take pity on you and help you fix this, Jackson. That's definitely the person to discuss this with, rather than your wife. Right now you've got a transmission problem. If you blame it on your wife, you'll have a transmission problem and a marital problem.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

BIRTHS

WILLOW MACKAY

Alexandra Kahle and Evan Mackey of Yankton announce the birth of their daughter named Willow Illa-Rose Mackey born on June 1, 2011 at 9:01 a.m. She weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces and was 21.25 inches long.

Grandparents are David Kahle of Yankton, Ella Hirocke of Gayville and Nancy Mackey of Creighton, Neb.

Cleanup Crew Sought For Riverboat Days

The Riverboat Days Board of Directors is looking for a group to run the clean-up crew over Riverboat Days weekend in August. The crews

will be paid. Any local group interested should contact the Riverboat Days office at office@riverboat-days.com or at 665-1657.

Recovery program in the district's elementary schools.

According to Joyce Wentworth, student services director, the funds received by the district will allow for six teachers to be hired using the Title I funds.

Wentworth cautioned, "Even though all federal money is receded into the general fund, it can not be used for anything other than the programs to which it is assigned. It is not general fund optional money. As with federal funds every year, these allocations are only for one year."

Title II was allocated \$194,000 and is earmarked for class size reduction.

"This money will allow us to hire the equivalent of three full-time employees (FTE)," Wentworth said. "We will hire one FTE at Lincoln to reinstate the fourth first-grade classroom. We will use one FTE at Beadle as an extra section of kindergarten, bringing the number of kindergarten classrooms in the district to nine, one less than last school year. The other FTE will be split between Webster and Stewart."

Special Education program 611, which supports physical therapy, occupational therapy, early childhood programs and many paraprofessional positions in the district was allocated \$653,000.

Special Education program 619, which supports early childhood education, was allocated \$18,000.

Wentworth said that while the amounts sound like a lot, the federal dollars would only account for approximately 19-20 percent of the total cost of all special education programming. At the same time, 100 percent of spending is mandated by federal regulations.

At the close of Monday's meeting, Rick Althoff asked to address the school board. Kathy Greenway informed him that as he was not on the agenda and the meeting was not a public forum, he would not be allowed to address the board. At which point, the board closed the meeting.

Althoff then handed each member of the board a letter, which was not made available to public.

School

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of withholding public documents that he believes by law should have been made available.

Bietz informed Lemon that the only documents not released were done so per legal council's advice, as the documents requested were part of the personnel file of the individuals.

To which point, Lemon informed the district that his group is pursuing an administrative hearing regarding salary documents.

Lemon also advised the district that he believed the wording on the ballot was "problematic" and should have contained more specific details.

Bietz responded that the district followed the laws available on wording for a ballot and that more specific levy information is not permitted on a ballot because it is all preliminary data, and the final numbers would not be available until after October.

Other financial business at Monday's meeting included:

• Yankton School District lunch prices were raised 50 cents per meal for the upcoming school year.

Faced with new federal regulations that limit the foods that can be served and how often, and mandated minimum prices by the federal government, district officials said they were left with no choice but to increase the prices across the board.

"We are faced with an increase in food costs of a minimum of \$30,000 for the next school year, coupled with decreasing enrollment and the new federal requirements," said YSD business manager Jason Bietz. "I am making the recommendation that we increase the meal prices by 50 cents across the board. ... The increase will still reflect a net loss of \$40,000 for the district next school year."

For a family that does not qualify for free or reduced lunches, the increase will represent an average cost of \$87.50 per student per school year.

The increase brings the cost of a lunch at the high school to \$2.50, at

the middle school to \$2.40 and elementary meals to \$2.20 per meal. Breakfasts will be \$1.30 per meal across the district. Reduced lunches will be 40 cents for a lunch and 30 cents for a breakfast.

During the 2010-2011 school year, 62.7 percent of district students paid full price while 28.8 percent qualified for free meals and 8.5 percent qualified for reduced price meals.

"Even with the increases approved tonight, we are still not in compliance with the new federal regulations at the middle school and elementary level," Bietz cautioned. "This is an ongoing process that, as the new regulations are finalized, we will have to revisit."

• Also, it was announced during the meeting that the district has received an initial notice of how many federal dollars will be received for Title I, Title II and Special Education 611 and 619 programs.

The initial amount of Title I dollars allocated to the Yankton School District has been set at \$397,333 dollars. These funds will allow the district to re-implement the Reading

60th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Fejfar

Harold and Clarine (Wood) Fejfar of Yankton, SD are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Their family requests a card shower in their honor. Greetings may be sent to 804 East 18th Street, Yankton, SD 57078.

They were married June 27, 1951 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton, SD.

Their children and spouses are the late Steve and (Mary) Fejfar of Yankton, SD; Jerry (Lora) Fejfar of Sioux Falls, SD; Jeff Fejfar (Maureen) of Yankton, SD; and Nancy (Rod) Benjamin of Benson, MN. The couple also has 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Celebrating 60 years

Jacob E. and Harriet (Dyk) Namminga will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 22, 2011.

Greetings may be sent to 812 Ash Street, Springfield, SD 57062.

The couple has four children: Judy and Dennis Ward, Centerville, SD; Joanne and David Hatle, Hartford, SD; Sharon and Alan Egge, Yankton, SD; and Audrey and David Gaspar, Flandreau, SD. The couple has 12



Mr. & Mrs. Namminga

grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

They will celebrate with a family dinner at a later date

50th Anniversary

The family of Fred and Dorothy Frank request a card shower in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Fred Frank and Dorothy Tycz were married at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Tyndall, South Dakota, on June 24, 1961. The couple has four children, Tim Frank, Terry Frank, Tom Frank, and Todd Frank. They also have 10 grandchildren.

Greetings may be sent to the couple at PO Box 613, Tyndall, SD 57006.



Mr. & Mrs. Fred Frank



Mr. & Mrs. Mike Auch

35th Wedding Anniversary

Mike and Mary Auch of Yankton will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary on June 19, 2011.

Their family requests a card shower. Greetings can be sent to 2400 Douglas #52, Yankton, SD 57078.

Mike and Mary (Klasi) were married June 19, 1976, at the United Church of Christ in Scotland.

The couple has three children: Malissa (James) Bender, Matt Auch (Jodie Peterson), and Marcus Auch, all of Yankton. They have two grandchildren: Mike and Emma Bender.

Celebrating 45 Years!



Mr. & Mrs. Bruening

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bruening of Yankton, SD, will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2011. Their family requests a card shower in their honor. Cards may be sent to 2821 Mary St., Yankton, SD 57078.

Mary Jo Souhrada and Robert Paul Bruening were married June 18, 1966, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Lesterville, SD.

They have five children: Kristi (Brian) Baker, Sioux Falls, SD; Kevin Bruening, Lesterville, SD; Paula (Brian) Girard, Yankton, SD; Randy Bruening, Yankton, SD; and Mary Ellen (John) Kathol, Manlius, NY. The couple has five grandchildren.

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 19, 2011



Don't Forget Dad!

Shop the many fine stores at the Yankton Mall for the perfect gift for Dad, Not sure what to buy? You can't go wrong with our

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Father's Day is June 19th

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Happiness is a DIRECTION, not a place.



Let us help you find your path.



Family Education and Counseling Center, Inc.

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