

LIFE IN POETRY

Poems Offer A Unique Look At The Landscape

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

I am especially fond of what we might call landscape poems, describing places, scenes. Here April Lindner, who lives in Philadelphia, paints a scene we might come upon on the back side of any great American city.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

The burnt church up the street yawns to the sky, its empty windows edged in soot, its portals boarded up and slathered with graffiti, oily layers, urgent but illegible. All that can be plundered has been, all but the carapace — the hollow bell tower, the fieldstone box that once served as a nave. The tidy row of homes that line this block have tended lawns and scalloped bathtub shrines. Each front porch holds a chair where no one sits. Those who live here triple lock their doors day and night. Some mornings they step out to find a smoking car stripped to its skeleton abandoned at the curb. Most afternoons the street is still but for a mourning dove and gangs of pigeons picking through the grass. Our Lady of Perpetual Help is gray, a dead incisor in a wary smile. A crevice in her wall allows a glimpse into the chancel, where a sodden mattress and dirty blanket indicate that someone finds this place a sanctuary still, takes his rest here, held and held apart from passers by, their cruelties and their kindnesses, watched over by the night's blind congregation, by the blank eyes of a concrete saint.

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Failed Inspection: Catch-22

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
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Dear Tom and Ray:
Goofy problem here: We were loaned a Jeep Cherokee by our daughter and son-in-law while our vehicle is being repaired. With a catch, of course: It needed a "speed sensor" in order to pass the emissions test. We got the part, had it installed and promptly failed the emissions test. We were told that we needed to put 50-100 miles on the thing before they could retest the emissions. Is that standard for electronic (or computer-ish) parts? Is there some rationale I'm missing on that? Basically, I need to know so I can tell the judge why I'm driving without an inspection sticker. How are you supposed to put 100 miles on the car in order to get it inspected if you're not supposed to drive it until it passes inspection? Thanks! — Nan

RAY: Good questions, Nan. But your emissions inspector is right.

TOM: Here's how inspections work these days. A scanner gets plugged into your car's computer port. That scanner downloads a bunch of emissions-related information that your car's computer has monitored and stored.

RAY: But if your battery dies completely, gets disconnected or the computer's memory gets wiped out for some other reason (which I'm guessing is what happened in your case), the computer doesn't have enough stored data to determine whether you should pass inspection.



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: So when you drive around for those 100 miles, what the computer is doing is collecting fresh data.

RAY: For instance, the computer looks for engine misfires, which can increase pollution. If there are no misfires after a certain number of miles, it checks off that box. If enough miles go by and your oxygen sensor shows no faults, the computer checks that off the list, etc.

TOM: Then, when you go back for your inspection, the computer can report that it has sufficient data in all areas. And if everything is working correctly, bada bing, you get your sticker.

RAY: If there's not enough data collected, or if everything is NOT working correctly, then you fail your inspection. I don't know

how it works in all 50 states, but where we live, you then get a temporary "Rejected" sticker, and you have 60 days to drive around, humiliated, fix the problem and get re-inspected.

TOM: So I'm guessing that your daughter and son-in-law failed inspection a while ago because the vehicle's speed sensor didn't work. And their 60 days had run out by the time they handed you the keys. So when you failed, it was for the second time, and there was no longer a grace period.

RAY: But keep in mind that rejection builds character, Nan. You'll need that character when you're doing your 100 miles on private property, rather than on public roads, to avoid a ticket. I calculate that'll be about 900 times around the local Walmart parking lot.

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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.

Practice Food Safety At July 4 Gatherings

PIERRE — As the Fourth of July approaches, a health official reminds South Dakotans to make safe food handling part of those holiday cookouts and picnics.

"Without safe food handling practices, outdoor meals run the risk of bacterial food-borne illness, commonly called food poisoning," said Clark Hepper, health protection administrator for the Department of Health. "You can prevent food-borne illness at outdoor gatherings with the same safe food handling practices you use indoors."

The major bacterial food borne illnesses reported in South Dakota are E. coli, Salmonella, and Campylobacter. Another common, but underreported illness is "staph food poisoning," caused by the toxins of the common Staphylococcus aureus.

South Dakota reported nearly 500 cases of such food-borne illnesses in 2010 and a great many more cases were likely unreported. Although these diseases can be transmitted by

"You can prevent food-borne illness at outdoor gatherings with the same safe food handling practices you use indoors."

CLARK HEPPER

food, they are also spread directly by farm animals and their manure.

Symptoms of food-borne illness can include mild or severe diarrhea, fever, vomiting and abdominal pain. Most people will recover at home without medication but some may require fluids to prevent dehydration.

The department recommends these steps when cooking food for outdoor meals:

- Begin with hand-washing. Consider using moist disposable towelettes for outdoors.
- Keep raw foods separate from cooked

foods. Don't use a plate that previously held raw meat unless you first wash it in hot, soapy water

- Marinate foods in the refrigerator, not on the counter or outdoors. Don't reuse marinade — to use as a sauce, reserve some separately before adding food.

- Cook food thoroughly, using a food thermometer to be sure. Cook hamburgers to 160° F and chicken to at least 165° F.

- Keep hot food hot (at or above 140° F) and cold food cold (at or below 40° F).

- Refrigerate or freeze leftover food promptly. Don't let perishable food sit out longer than two hours and no more than one hour if temperature is above 90° F.

To learn more about food safety, see the department website at <http://doh.sd.gov/HealthProtection/> or the Food and Drug Administration site at <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm094562.htm>.

S.D. Announces Website For High-Speed Broadband

PIERRE — The South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT) announced the launch of <http://broadband.sd.gov> — a website for South Dakotans to learn about high-speed broadband technology and offer direct input on the State Broadband Initiative (SBI).

The primary goal of SBI is to inventory broadband availability, but it has many other purposes. Broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on.

Like electricity more than a century ago, broadband is a foundation for economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness and a better way of life, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said.

"High-speed broadband is very important to the future of South Dakota," the Governor said. "Individuals and businesses alike have a vested interest in expanding the South Dakota economy, and I believe that high-speed technology will be an important part of that success."

The first phase of the State Broadband Initiative was creating, verifying, and updating a comprehensive statewide map of broadband availability. The map was produced by a collaborative effort with South Dakota broadband providers.

"We really can't give enough credit to the telecommunications providers who participated with us in this program," Gov. Daugaard said. "Their partnership and cooperation in the project have been very positive in moving it forward."

The interactive website (<http://broadband.sd.gov/Mapping.aspx>) allows people to enter specific addresses and determine what broadband services are available at those locations.

The pre-built maps show broadband availability in South Dakota across a variety of wired and wire-

less technologies.

Beyond reviewing the most up-to-date maps at <http://broadband.sd.gov>, South Dakotans have the opportunity to get directly involved in the project. People who visit the website will find information about the initiative and the benefits of broadband; they can test the speed of their Internet connections; take a survey; report public Wi-Fi "hot spots" and even report areas where broadband is not available.

"We invite the public to go online, learn about the project, and get actively involved," said Dom Bianco, BIT Chief Information Officer. "Active involvement of our citizens will help improve high-speed Internet capabilities for everyone in South Dakota."

"At the end of the day, the most important thing about this initiative is how we can improve the lives of residents and businesses in South Dakota through increased availability of broadband services and choices," Bianco added.

South Dakota's participation in the broadband project is funded by a grant to the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications from the U.S. Department of Commerce, through the National Telecommunications & Information Administration.

Prevent West Nile With Simple Precautions

PIERRE — With increased mosquito populations likely from widespread flooding, South Dakotans need to protect themselves from West Nile virus (WNV), says a state health official.

"We do expect more mosquitoes this summer with so many areas affected by flooding," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, State Epidemiologist for the South Dakota Department of Health. "West Nile has already been detected in mosquitoes in neighboring states (Iowa and North Dakota) and the peak transmission period for the virus is approaching so now is the time to get in the habit of using insect repellent."

Peak WNV transmission season in South Dakota occurs from mid-July through mid-September.

Since 2002, South Dakota has reported more than 1,700 human cases of WNV, including 26 deaths. Detections have been reported in every county.

People can protect themselves from West Nile with these precautions:

- Use mosquito repellent (DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535) and limit exposure by wearing appropriate clothes.
- Limit time outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Screen all windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of the house.
- Eliminate places where mos-

quitoes breed — get rid of old tires and other containers that accumulate water; regularly change water in bird baths and outside pet dishes; and drain water from flower pots and garden containers.

• Precautions are especially important for those at high risk for WNV — elderly persons, pregnant women, diabetics, transplant patients, individuals with high blood pressure, and those with a history of alcohol abuse. People with severe or unusual headaches should see a physician.

For more information about West Nile, visit the Department of Health web, westnile.sd.gov, or call 1-800-592-1861.



Trapp-Iverson

Kimberly Susan Trapp and Justin Dale Iverson were married June 4, 2011, at the First United Methodist Church, Yankton, SD, with Rev. Ron Johnson and Bob Cappel officiating.

Parents of the couple are Rev. Dean and Susie Trapp, Sioux Falls, SD, and Kevin and Holly Iverson, Yankton, SD.

Yankton, SD. Erica Swanson was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Alyssa Trapp and Erika Trapp. Ava Hanson and Chloe Sargent were flower girls. The bride's personal attendant was Samantha Peters.

The best man was John Iverson. Groomsman were Garrett Strietz and Matt Herron. Ushers were Kasey Iverson and Stanley Halseide.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the Riverfront Event Center, Yankton. Reception hosts were Andrea Silver and Kelsey Barth. Guest book attendants were Kaylee Kurban and Shawn Kurban.

The couple resides in Wilmore, KY.

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