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OPINION

Some Thoughts **On Firefighters**

his is a good moment to think about firefighters. They do a lot for us, and they do it in sometimes miserable conditions at any time of the day or the night.

As it happens, Monday served as a good example.

At approximately 9:30 a.m., Yankton firefighters were notified of a structure fire west of town. The temperature at the moment, according to The Weather Channel, was -9 degrees, with a wind chill at approximately -25.

Nevertheless, those brutal factors could not matter. The firefighters went to work on the blaze; ultimately, they got help from Tabor and Lesterville volunteers. They could not save the house, and five people were left homeless. But far more importantly, no one was injured in the incident.

Many hours later, about an hour into what was technically Tuesday, Yankton's firefighters were summoned again. This time, it was a fire reported at the Colonial Inn Motel on Broadway.

If you've ever listened in on fire calls over a scanner, you know they can sometimes be fascinatingly vague. That's understandable, since the only information the dispatchers can transmit is what they have received. So, when a call comes in that there is a fire at a motel, for example, it is quite often a minor incident, such as excessive smoke coming from a kitchen area or just a fire alarm malfunctioning

But Monday night's motel call was the real deal — the second major fire in less than 18 hours handled by the Yankton crew. Again, other units were called to assist (this time, Lesterville and Gayville were summoned) in battling a blaze that mostly destroyed the motel.

These are the situations and the stakes that firefighters must prepare for every time a call comes in. As stated above, most calls are not so serious, or have not yet reached the point of great danger. But sometimes, the danger is there — and the dangers are never completely predictable and never the same.

Firefighters must be ready for any contingency; they must prepare for countless swirling variables. They train to face danger, without ever really knowing what the face of that danger will look like in any given situation.

Actually, that description might strike a lot of you as a good reason NOT to be a firefighter. And that's quite understandable.

But it also points to the reason why those who do fight fires (usually as volunteers in this area) are so vital to each community. They do these things — these sometimes extraordinary, brave and necessary things - in the face of bone-chilling cold or baking heat; in the middle of the day or the middle of the night.

The truly frightening thing is that many small towns are having trouble finding enough firefighters to fill out their ranks. That's a disturbing trend that potentially leaves a lot of people prone to problems such as longer response times and undermanned units, especially when every second counts.

In that respect, firefighters need our help — because we count on their help. It's just something to keep in mind if you're interested in serving your community.

In the meantime, we can appreciate the work they do and the days like Monday that they face. It's a tough business, and these people deserve our gratitude.

kmh

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Ash Wednesday, March 5, the 64th day of 2014. There are 301 days left in the vear

Today's Highlight in History: On March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill deliv-ered his "Iron Curtain" speech at West-

Ten years ago: Martha Stewart was convicted in New York of obstructing jus-tice and lying to the government about why she'd unloaded her Imclone stock just before the price plummeted; her exstockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, also was found quilty in the stock scandal (Each later received a five-month prison sentence.)



CSHOOTY CagleCar

The Rez Of The Story The Magic Of 'Waterlily'

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), History is a sometimes fascinating, always informative, peek at yesteryear. History teaches us where we come from and is thus an important part

of our individual and collective identity. Sometimes oral tradition is the only vehicle available to convey this all important evidence of one's long standing existence and sometimes a classical paragon like the book Waterlily comes along to preserve in all its painstaking detail that which oral renditions would overlook.

Waterlily," authored by Ella Deloria, who was born in 1889 and who journeyed to the "Other World" (as Indian people say) on Feb. 12, 1971, was (according to Agnes Picotte who wrote a biographical sketch of the author), "... The third daughter of Philip Deloria and the first child of his marriage to Mary Sully Bordeau." Philip was of Yankton Sioux heritage through Frank Deloria who was Deloria's

grandfather. My mother read "Waterlily" and was absolutely an instant fan. She rarely reads any book and so I was, to say the least, sort of awestruck at her interest. She has taken the time to create what has become a monthly gathering of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to share with them Ella's story. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren have been treated to not only Ella's story but story's of her own. She also listens to the children's stories as well

"Waterlily," having inspired my mother to the extent it has, is best summed up by Raymond J. Demalle who writes in the afterward:

"Waterlily' is a unique portrayal of nineteenthcentury Sioux Indian life, unequaled for its interpretation of Plains Indian culture from the perspectives of women. The prominent features of Plains Indian lifeways during the middle of the nineteenth century were intertribal warfare and the elaborate system it entailed for encouraging and rewarding individual bravery, and mounted buffalo hunting, by which men pursued the vast herds for the food and other necessities of life that the buffalo provided. In writings about Plains Indians, women have

not played a conspicuous part. The book's focus on the experiences of the heroine Waterlily and her mother and grandmother

Robert B. Reich

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

makes it a major contribution to understanding women in traditional Sioux culture. Yet Ella Deloria surely did not intend the book to be construed as a feminist statement. In presenting her people's past in novelistic form, she wrote from the heart in the

only culturally appropriate way - as a Sioux woman. This special insider's perspective not only infuses the narrative with interest and insight, but offers ample material for a reexamination of the written record of traditional Sioux life.

The dedication that is apparent in Ella Deloria's lifelong quest to preserve traditional Sioux language and culture was deeply rooted in her concern for the future of her people. She articulated this concern in relation to her own work in a letter written Dec. 2, 1952, to H. E. Beebe, who provided her with funds to have the manuscript on social life typed for publication:

"This may sound a little naive, Mr. Beebe, but I actually feel that I have a mis-

sion. To make the Dakota people understandable as human beings, to the white people who have to deal with them. I feel that one of the reasons for the lagging advancement of the Dakotas has been that those who came out among them to teach and preach, went on the assumption the Dakotas had nothing, no rules of life, no social organization, no ideals. And so they tried to pour white culture into, as it were, a vacuum after all, they concluded that the Indians were impossible to change and train. What they should have done first, before daring to start their program, was to study everything possible of Dakota life, and see what made it go, in the old days, and what still so deeply rooted that it could not be rudely displaced without some hurt. I feel that I have this work cut out for me and I do not make all I know available before I die, I will have failed by so much. But I am not morbid about it; quite cheerful in fact.'

"Waterlily' forms a valuable part of Deloria's legacy, the treasure trove of material preserving the Sioux past that she has bequeathed to us all, Indian and non-Indian alike."

You can obtain a copy of Waterlily by contacting bisonbooks.com or through the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE 68588-0630.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...



Vince

TWO EAGLES

Sally Whiting Jo Ann Wiebelhaus Brenda Willcuts Jackie Williams

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minster College in Fulton, Mo. Churchill declared: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has de-

scended across the Continent." On this date: In 1766, Antonio de Ulloa arrived in New Orleans to assume his duties as the first Spanish governor of the Louisiana Territory, where he encountered resistance from the French residents.

In 1770, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who'd been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1868, the Senate was organized into a Court of Impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson, who was later acquitted.

In 1933, in German parliamentary elections, the Nazi Party won 44 percent of the vote; the Nazis joined with a conservative nationalist party to gain a slender majority in the Reichstag. In 1934, the first Mothers-in-Law Day

celebration and parade took place in Amarillo. Texas.

In 1953, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died after three decades in power. Com-poser Sergei Prokofiev died in Moscow at age 61

In 1960, Cuban newspaper photog-rapher Alberto Korda took the now-famous picture of guerrilla leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara during a memorial service in Havana for victims of a ship explosion. Elvis Presley was discharged from the U.S. Army.

In 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas and Hawk-shaw Hawkins died in the crash of their plane, a Piper Comanche, near Camden. Tenn., along with pilot Randy Hughes (Cline's manager). In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Prolif-

eration of Nuclear Weapons went into effect after 43 nations ratified it.

In 1979, NASA's Voyager 1 space probe flew past Jupiter, sending back photographs of the planet and its moons.

In 1982, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood; he was 33.

In 1994, a jury in Pensacola, Fla., convicted anti-abortion activist Michael F. Griffin of first-degree murder in the shoot-ing death of Dr. David Gunn; Griffin was immediately sentenced to life in prison.

FROM THE BIBLE

Forget about the wrong things people do to you, and do not try to get even. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18 NCV. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

Five years ago: President Barack Obama hosted a White House summit where he pumped allies and skeptics alike for ways to overhaul the nation's costly and frustrating health care system As thousands demonstrated outside, California Supreme Court justices listened to legal arguments over the passage of Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage. NATO agreed, after intense in-ternal debate, to restore normal relations with Russia seven months after it had frozen ties in response to Moscow's invasion of Georgia

One year ago: Venezuelan Presi-dent Hugo Chavez, Latin America's most vocal and controversial leader, died at age 58 after a struggle with cancer. The Senate Intelligence Committee voted 12-3 to approve President Barack Obama's pick of John Brennan to lead the CIA. Transportation Security Administration head John Pistole announced that airline passengers would be able to carry small knives, souvenir baseball bats, golf clubs and other sports equipment onto planes (the plan was dropped three months later amid fierce congressional and industry opposition). Fox announced its 24-hour sports cable network called Fox Sports 1,

which launched Aug. 17, 2013. Today's Birthdays: Actor James Noble is 92. Actor Paul Sand is 82. Actor James B. Sikking is 80. Actor Dean Stock-well is 78. Actor Fred Williamson is 76. Actress Samantha Eggar is 75. Actor Michael Warren is 68. Actor Eddie Hodges is 67. Singer Eddy Grant is 66. Rock musician Alan Clark (Dire Straits) is 62. Actress-comedian Marsha Warfield is Magician Penn Jillette is 59. Actress Adriana Barraza is 58. Rock singers Charlie and Craig Reid (The Proclaimers) are 52. Rock musician John Frusciante is 44. Singer Rome is 44. Actor Kevin Connolly is 40. Actress Jill Ritchie is 40. Actress Jolene Blalock is 39. Actress Eva Mendes is 39. Model Niki Taylor is 39. Actress Kimberly McCullough is 36. Actor Sterling Knight is 25. Actor Jake Lloyd is 25.

Thought for Today: "Boredom is the root of all evil — the despairing refusal to be oneself." — Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855).

America's Real Job Killers

enough to buy more goods from Walmart (reminis-

House Speaker John Boehner savs raising the minimum wage is "bad policy" because it will cause job losses

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says a minimum wage increase would be a job killer. Republicans and the chamber also say unions are job killers, workplace safety regulations are job killers, environmental regulations are job killers, and the Affordable Care Act is a job killer. The California Chamber of Commerce even publishes an annual list of "job killers," including almost any measures that lift wages or protect workers and the environment.

Most of this is bunk.

In 1996, when I recommended the minimum wage be raised, Republicans and the chamber screamed that it would "kill jobs." In fact, in the four years after it was raised, the U.S. economy created more jobs than were ever created in any four-year period.

For one thing, a higher minimum wage doesn't necessarily increase business costs. It draws more job applicants into the labor market, giving employers more choice of whom to hire. As a result, employers often get more reliable workers who remain longer — thereby saving employers at least as much money as they spend on higher wages.

A higher wage can also help build employee morale, resulting in better performance. Gap, America's largest clothing retailer, recently announced that it would boost its hourly wage to \$10. Wall Street approved.

Even if raising the minimum wage - or bargaining for higher wages and better working conditions, or requiring businesses to provide safer workplaces or a cleaner environment — increases the cost of business, this doesn't necessarily kill jobs.

Most companies today can easily absorb such costs without reducing payrolls. Corporate profits now account for the largest percentage of the economy on record. Many companies are using their cash to buy back their own shares of stock, artificially increasing share value by reducing the number of shares traded on the market.

Walmart spent \$7.6 billion last year buying back shares of its own stock. Had it used that money on wages instead, it could have given its workers a raise from around \$9 an hour to almost \$15. Arguably that would have been a better use of the money over the long term, not only improving worker loyalty and morale but also giving workers

cent of Henry Ford's pay strategy a century ago). There's also a deeper issue here. Even assuming some of these measures might cause some job losses, does that mean we shouldn't proceed with them?

Americans need jobs, but we also need minimally decent jobs. The nation could create millions of jobs tomorrow if we eliminated the minimum wage altogether and allowed employers to pay workers \$1 an hour or less. But do we really want to do that?

Likewise, America could create lots of jobs if all health and safety regulations were repealed, but that would subject millions of workers to severe illness and injury.

Lots of jobs could be added if all environmental rules were eliminated, but that would result in the kind of air and water pollution that many people in poor nations have to contend with daily.

If the Affordable Care Act were repealed, hundreds of thousands of Americans would have to go back to working at jobs they don't want but feel compelled to do in order to get health insurance.

We'd create jobs but not progress. Progress requires creating more jobs that pay well, are safe, sustain the environment and provide a modicum of security. If seeking to achieve a minimum level of decency ends up "killing" some jobs, then maybe those aren't the kind of jobs we ought to try to preserve in the first place.

Finally, it's important to remember the real source of job creation. Businesses hire more workers only when they have more customers. When they have fewer customers, they lay off workers. So the real job creators are consumers with enough money to buy.

Even Walmart may be starting to understand this. The company is "looking at" whether to support a minimum wage increase. David Tovar, a Walmart spokesman, noted that such a move would increase the company's payroll costs but would also put more money in the pockets of some of Walmart's customers.

In other words, forget what you're hearing from the Republicans and the Chamber of Commerce. The real job killers in America are lousy jobs at lousy wages.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now out on iTunes, DVD and On Demand.

YOUR LETTERS

Weight Limit Issues

Lynelle Gueders, Utica

There is a scenic drive here in Yankton County, a three-mile stretch of 437th St. between Highway 46 and the Lesterville Road. Note at both ends, there is a sign saying "No Thru Trucks." Notice the road is rough and patched its entire length. Do you know what created that bumpy road? It was

trucks driving it to avoid the weigh station at the Highway 46-81 intersection. Taxpayers, this road shows the future of our county roads if we continue allowing overweight trucks, especially during spring road limits.

Our county commissioners recently rescinded the 80,000-pound weight limits after hearing complaints at a commission meeting. Can't people plan ahead during the spring weight restric-

tions? With pre-planning, those heavy loads aren't necessary. Combines shouldn't be on the roads in spring, gravel can be stockpiled by townships to avoid movement during this time, and farmers can plan for the few weeks of weight limits too. If there is an emergency, there are permits to cover this situation.

Yankton County taxpayers, dig deep in your pockets. If potholes and

patches are created by those heavy loads, our roads will be like this stretch of the Sunshine Highway. It will cost much more in tax dollars to fix those roads. Commissioners, think twice when you consider weight limits next spring. Truckers and special interests, remember your future taxes. What is the legacy we want to leave for our children and grandchildren?