

LIFE IN POETRY

Growing Up In Fear

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

When I was a little boy, the fear of polio hung over my summers, keeping me away from the swimming pool. Atomic energy was then in its infancy. It had defeated Japan and seemed to be America's friend. Jehanne Dubrow, who lives and teaches in Maryland, is much younger than I, and she grew up under the fearsome cloud of what atomic energy was to become.

CHERNOBYL YEAR

We dreamed of glowing children,
their throats alive and cancerous,
their eyes like lightning in the dark.

We were uneasy in our skins,
sixth grade, a year for blowing up,
for learning that nothing contains

that heat which comes from growing,
the way our parents seemed at once
both tall as cooling towers and crushed

beneath the pressure of small things—
family dinners, the evening news,
the dead voice of the dial tone.

Even the ground was ticking.
The parts that grew grew poison.
Whatever we ate became a stone.

Whatever we said was love became
plutonium, became a spark
of panic in the buried world.

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Husband Causing Wife To Overheat

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

My husband and I recently purchased a new car. My husband refuses to run the air conditioning in heavy stop-and-go traffic or if we are sitting in the parked car. When I ask him what the reason is, he says that since the compressor for the air conditioning is belt-driven, if there is no airflow into the engine, the car will overheat. So I'm wondering why I see everyone else sitting in their nice, cool cars with the windows up, but their cars aren't overheating. He has been this way with all of his vehicles. We have a vacation coming up with a 12-hour drive. I'm worried about long, HOT construction delays. Is he right—should I continue to silently melt in 90-degree weather? Or can we turn on the darn AC?

—Katie
The reason you see everyone else sitting in their nice, cool cars is because they're not married to your stubborn husband.

TOM: He's being overly cautious. Far too cautious. For at least three decades now, all



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

cars have come equipped with electric cooling fans. When the car isn't moving and there's no wind being pushed through the front grille, an electric fan now comes on, independent of the engine, and makes its own breeze for the radiator.

RAY: That's why cars can sit in traffic, even with the AC on, on very hot days, and still not overheat.

TOM: In fact, most cars have a second cooling fan, or a higher speed for the cooling fan, that kicks in automatically whenever the air conditioner is turned on, just to provide extra cooling under hot conditions.

RAY: Now, there is a limit to a cooling fan's effectiveness. It never will provide as much cooling air as you would get when driving 65 mph on the highway. So if you're stuck in traffic for a long time, and it's 120 degrees out, an engine still can overheat. But those are highly unusual conditions.

TOM: So the bottom line is that you're suffering needlessly, Katie. Here's what you should do: Suggest that your husband try leaving the AC on during your upcoming vacation.

RAY: Right. Just leave it on, whether you're stopped or moving. As long as the "HOT" warning light on the dashboard doesn't come on, that means the car is fine. And unless you're in bumper-to-bumper traffic in Phoenix during a horrendous heat wave, or the cooling system malfunctions, that light's never going to come on.

TOM: But just in case, wear Egyptian cotton, Katie. Good luck.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF YANKTON

Habitat Is The Nation's Sixth Largest Builder

BY JULIE DYKSTRA

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County works to provide affordable housing in Yankton. It has helped Habitat for Humanity International rank as the sixth largest homebuilder on *Builder's* magazine top 100 list. With 6,032 closings in 2010, this is the second time Habitat for Humanity has placed in the top 10.

"Our placement on the Builder 100 list is a testament to what can be accomplished when people work together," said Larry Gluth, senior vice president of U.S. and Canada for Habitat for Humanity International. "So

many families in the United States and around the world face an incredible need for affordable housing, and this need only increases during challenging economic times. Habitat works every day to help these families, and we are grateful for the generosity of our donors, volunteers and advocates who have joined our efforts to help families obtain safe, decent and affordable homes and to strengthen communities."

In 2010, Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County helped two families obtain affordable housing and plans to build two more homes this spring to be located on Mulberry Street in Yankton.

"The fact that our local affiliate has built as many homes as it has — 32 homes between 1996 and the present — is a testament to the tenacity, generosity and all that is good about Yankton as a community. This fact is also a testament to Habitat for Humanity as a cause on a local, regional and now national scale," said Steve Huff, president for Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County. "When we band together to ensure that affordable housing should be available to those in need, we can and do make a difference."

The Builder 100 list is an annual compilation of the largest homebuilders in the country. In

2009, Habitat for Humanity ranked eighth on the list with 5,294 closings, marking the first time the organization made it to the top 10.

Get involved in an organization that not only provides an affordable housing option for families willing to help themselves, but also yields a positive return to our community through an expanded tax base and stimulated economy. Help Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County make a difference, call 605-260-4224 for more information on how you can help contribute volunteer labor, financial gifts or gifts in kind.

RC&D

Working Toward A New Future

Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development Councils are working toward a new future. The Northeast Nebraska RC&D, based out of Plainview, is one of Nebraska's twelve RC&Ds, which cover all 93 Nebraska counties.

The RC&D program had previously been administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, but recent budget cuts eliminated Federal funding for the RC&D program.

According to Gary Bergman, Nebraska RC&D Association President, despite the loss of the Federal funding, all 12 Nebraska RC&D Councils plan to continue their RC&D projects.

"The loss of Federal funding has been a blow to the program, but I am encouraged that everyone associated with the RC&D program is still fully invested in continuing the great work the RC&D Councils have accomplished for over 40 years," Bergman said.

The RC&D has a rich history in Nebraska. The first RC&D authorized in the state was the Panhandle RC&D in Scottsbluff in 1970. In July 2003, the Sandhills RC&D in Mullen, Neb., became the final RC&D to be authorized in Nebraska. The RC&Ds have worked on projects that improve natural resources, recreation, tourism, education, and economic and community development in rural Nebraska.

The impact of the RC&D program across Nebraska has been impressive. Each of the 12 RC&D councils completes an average of 10 projects each year, or over 120 projects annually statewide.

The Northeast Nebraska RC&D is a non-profit organization operating under a 501(c)(3) status and comprised of its own council. Council members are volunteers who serve as representatives from the counties

within the RC&D area. Council members represent local businesses, government, and organizations, and help identify RC&D projects within their local communities.

Council President, Dennis Wacker said, "The Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council will be seeking financial support from their local partners. In the past, each of the six counties, the four NRD Districts and the two native tribes located within Northeast Nebraska have contributed annual dues toward the RC&D Program. If these partners along with the over fifty town and villages within our six county area stepped up their support, we can re-establish the funding needed to operate our local RC&D services." Some highlights from the past years projects, President Wacker commented on include a Historic Dixon County Cemetery Tour, Antique Critique, Makin' Money Camp, Electronic Recycling Collections, Feather & Dance Celebration, Stream Monitoring, Farmers Market Moms, Blossoms, Butterflies & Birds Tour, Organic Farming, Prairie Chicken Dance Tour and Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Wacker also stated that the RC&D has taken in and redistributed over \$200,000 in Projects and Grants to our local communities this last year.

For more information about the Northeast Nebraska RC&D, please contact 402-582-4866; 702 East Park Avenue, Plainview, NE 68769; e-mail: northeastrcd@plvwelco.net Website: www.nenercd.org

P.E.O. STAR Scholarship Awarded To YHS Senior Whitney Duarte

The prestigious P.E.O. STAR Scholarship, for the 2011-2012 academic year, was presented to Whitney Duarte, a senior at Yankton High School. The scholarship was presented at the Yankton High School awards ceremony by Lynette Erickson from Chapter BT.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The prestigious P.E.O. STAR Scholarship, for the 2011-2012 academic year, was presented to Whitney Duarte, by Lynette Erickson from Chapter BT.

Whitney is the daughter of John and Lorie Duarte and was recommended for this scholarship by Chapter BT of Yankton, S.D. Duarte has been accepted and will attend University of Nebraska Lincoln where she plans to study Chemical Engineering beginning this fall.

The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship is a \$2,500 scholarship based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success. The program is open to young women who are citizens or legal permanent residents of the United States or Canada and who are graduating high school seniors at the time of application. A student must be recommended by a P.E.O. chapter.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood, founded January 21, 1869 at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is an international philanthropic and educational

organization which promotes increased educational opportunities for women. There are approximately 6,000 local chapters in the United States and Canada with more than 350,000 initiated members. The P.E.O. Sisterhood has given nearly \$190 million in financial assistance to more than 80,000 women. The P.E.O. Sisterhood also owns Cotney College, a two-year liberal arts college in Nevada, Missouri.

MSU-Mankato Graduates Announced

MANKATO, Minn. — Minnesota State University, Mankato graduated 2,191 students during spring/summer commencement exercises Saturday, May 7, at the Taylor Center on campus.

Graduate level degrees presented included three doctorate of nursing practice degrees, 113 master of arts degrees, 12 master of fine arts degrees, five master of arts in teaching degrees, 15 master of business administration degrees, 16 master of public administration degrees, 15 master of science in nursing degrees, 182 master of science degrees and 18 specialist degrees.

Awarded at the undergraduate level were 172 bachelor of arts degrees, 46 bachelor of fine arts degrees, 10 bachelor of athletic training degrees, 1,620 bachelor of science degrees, 14 bachelor of science in civil engineering degrees, five bachelor of science in computer engineering degrees, 16 bachelor of science in electrical engineering degrees, 20 bachelor of science in mechanical engineering degrees, 27 bachelor of science in social work degrees and 40 associate of arts degrees.

Area Graduates include:
Vermillion — Chelsea L. Gauer, BS, Family Consumer Science, Magna Cum Laude
Yankton — Andrea J. Walsh, BS, Corrections

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Price includes 3 wineries, 1 meal & transportation. Deadline 8/1/11

Fremont Dinner Train
Sept. 18, 2011 Price: \$75.00
As you ride on the Fremont & Elkhorn Valley Railroad, you'll take a trip back in time, when hardy Nebraska pioneers began settling in the beautiful Elkhorn River valley. We shall hear music of the Big Bad Era and enjoy a three-course meal as we travel along the Elkhorn Valley. Deadline 8/22/11

Mall of America Trip
Due to the cancellation of the Twins trip, we are considering a trip to the Mall of America. If interested, call 665-4685.
MALL OF AMERICA

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