

LIFE IN POETRY

This Poet's Skill Is On Display In Peaceful Ode

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

Cathy Smith Bowers was recently appointed poet laureate of North Carolina, and I want to celebrate her appointment by showing you one of her lovely poems, a peaceful poem about a peaceful thing.

PEACE LILIES

I collect them now, it seems. Like
sea-shells or old
thimbles. One for
Father. One for

Mother. Two for my sweet brothers.
Odd how little
they require of
me. Unlike the

ones they were sent in memory
of. No sudden
shrilling of the
phone. No harried

midnight flights. Only a little
water now and
then. Scant food and
light. See how I've

brought them all together here in
this shaded space
beyond the stairs.
Even when they

thirst, they summon me with nothing
more than a soft,
indifferent furl-
ing of their leaves.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2004 by Cathy Smith Bowers, whose most recent book of poetry is The Candle I Hold Up to See You, Iris Press, 2009. Poem reprinted from A Book of Minutes, Iris Press, 2004, by permission of Cathy Smith Bowers and the publisher. Introduction copyright 2011 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

Responsible Dog Owners Pick Up Their Pet's Waste

The Yankton Parks Advisory Board would like to take time this spring to remind Yankton dog owners to be responsible and obey the local ordinance for dog waste.

The ordinance states, "The person in control of any dog shall be required to remove and properly dispose of any fecal material deposited by said animal on public property or property other than the property of the dog's owner."

Each dog's owner/handler is responsible for picking up and disposing of their dog's waste. This will help keep the park environment and other people's property clean so that dogs, children and adults are happy and healthy.

Pet waste left behind can transmit harmful diseases to other pets and children. Dog feces is one of the most common carriers of the following diseases:

- Heartworms
<http://www.doodycalls.com/resources_dog_poop_heartworms.asp>
- Whipworms
<http://www.doodycalls.com/resources_whipworms.asp>
- Hookworms
- Roundworms
- Tapeworms
- Parvo <http://www.doodycalls.com/resources_dog_waste_p arvovirus.asp>
- Corona

- Giardiasis <http://www.doodycalls.com/resources_giardiasis.asp>

- Salmonellosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Campylobacteriosis

The Parks Advisory Board believes dog owners should pick up their dog's waste because:

1. It's a common courtesy. Only irresponsible dog owners leave their dog's waste for others to look at, step in or clean up. In addition to creating a foul odor, leaving your dog's waste encourages other dogs to mark that spot.
2. Dog waste is unhealthy to the animals, children, and adults who come into contact with it. Removing dog feces prevents infestation of your dog from exposure to infective worm eggs and larvae. Dog feces can transmit diseases from your dog to young children and adults who play or work in their yard/dirt. Ocular larva migrans — an eye disease caused by parasitic worms found in dog droppings — can cause serious eye damage to young children.
3. Dog waste biodegrades slowly.
4. Dog waste being left behind makes ALL dog owners look bad. Not picking up after your dog tops the list of complaints about dogs.
5. Your actions set example for others. Teach children how to properly clean up after a pet.

A Story Of Fords, Spark Plugs

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I own a 2005 Ford F-150 truck with 31,000 miles that I purchased new in May 2005. A backyard mechanic told me that I should replace the spark plugs now, because if I don't, I could damage the motor, and that would cost more than \$2,400. The service manual states that the spark plugs should be replaced at 100,000 miles. I stopped by the Ford dealership and talked to the service manager, and he stated that I should replace the spark plugs now to avoid possible engine damage if the spark plugs break off. He said the cost of replacing the spark plugs if they have no problems would be \$302. I can't believe that replacing eight plugs costs more than \$300 and that I need to do it 70,000 miles early. What's the real story here? Thank you. — Ralph

RAY: It's not a happy story, Ralph. Between 2004 and 2007, Ford made several 3-valve engines that had the unfortunate habit of refusing to give up their spark plugs. And you've got one of them.

TOM: For those who have Ford trucks from this era, the offending engines are the 3-valve 5.4-liter from 2004 to 2007, the 3-valve 4.6-liter from 2005 to 2007, and the 3-valve 6.8-liter from 2005 to 2007.

RAY: Here's the problem. Apparently the head is designed in such a way that the heat or carbon from combustion fuses the plug



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

into the head. When you try to remove the plug, it can break off. If it breaks, it takes a special tool and about \$300 to get the remaining piece out of there. And if you have to drill out all eight of them, that's \$2,400. Not pretty.

TOM: Ford claims that it has released detailed instructions for using a special cleaner and penetrating oil to loosen up the plugs before taking them out. But as many owners can attest, it doesn't always work.

RAY: So even though you're not due to install new plugs for another 69,000 miles, if it were my truck, I'd change them now rather than take a chance. The longer they stay in there, presumably, the more likely they are to snap off when you take them out.

TOM: To rub a little salt in the wound,

these plugs are expensive — they're about \$25 each. That's why the dealer wants \$300 to replace them, including labor. But if even one of them gets stuck and breaks, that's \$300 right there. And since at your current rate of driving you won't get to 100,000 miles until around 2058, I think it's worth swapping out the plugs now.

RAY: And have it done by the dealer or a mechanic who is very familiar with the procedure, to increase your chances of success.

TOM: Is it something Ford really should pay for? In my opinion, yes. It sold you a car that promised 100,000 miles between spark-plug changes. And if you have to change them sooner as a precaution, or drill them out of the head later, that's a defect, in my opinion. But as far as I know, Ford dealers are charging these expenses to the owners. So bring your wallet, and your anger-management tapes, Ralph.

Tom and Ray offer a strategy for everyone who's shopping for a car. Find yours in their 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 e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

WATERTOWN PERFORMANCE



The Yankton Children's Choir performed at the Terry Redlin Art Center in Watertown on Saturday, May 21. Pictured in the concert hall are, front from left: Hope Hulit, Leah Waid, Tamiyah Barnett, Katy Rukas, Tori Cass, Dharian Ahrens, Brenna Becker, Lauren Eidsness and Paul Koenigs; back row: Director Deb Kruse, Shinae Whipple, Lexi Ulmer, Hannah Rembert, Megan McCorkell, Amanda Koch and Austin Ahlers. With just one more performance scheduled for this singing season, the choir will hold summer auditions at 5-7 p.m. Monday, June 20, at the First United Methodist Church at 11th and Cedar in Yankton. Students in the area who are in grades 3-8 are invited to audition for this premier group, which specializes in treble harmony. For further information, email trentsch@southeastjoblink.org.

State Electrical, Plumbing Boards Offer Advice On Flood Preparation

PIERRE — The State Electrical and Plumbing Commissions have issued the following tips to prepare for immediate flooding.

• Plumbing tips for evacuees: Contact your plumbing provider (company or individual) to discuss options for plugging your sewer system. Note: This is for evacuees ONLY.

• Plumbing tips for non-evacuees: Ensure sump pumps and/or lift stations are in proper-working order (if applicable).

• Electrical tips for evacuees: If you do not have a sump pump,

turn off the main breaker in your home, garage or other buildings on your property.

If you have a sump pump, turn off all breakers except the breaker providing power to your sump pump.

• Electrical tips for non-evacuees partially affected: Turn off breakers to the locations affected by flooding (i.e. basements, lower levels, docks, outdoor outlets)

Note utility providers (including the city) may determine the need to disconnect your power

at the transformer or other location. If unsure of what to do, contact a licensed electrical contractor.

For questions about the Pierre-Fort Pierre flooding situation or information about flood preparation, call 1-866-446-5324 or visit <http://www.breadysd.com/floods.cfm>.

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50th Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Wieseler

Leonard and Jeanette Wieseler will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house, hosted by their children, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 5, 2011, at the St. Helena Social Club Hall, St. Helena, NE.

The couple has six children: Janet and Jeff Wiepen, Omaha, NE; LeAnn and John Hecke, Shawnee, KS; Allan and Chrissie Wieseler, Yankton, SD; Carol and Jon Calkins, Hastings, MN; Clair and Carol Wieseler, St. Helena, NE; and Kelly and Beth Wieseler, Lincoln, NE; and 17 grandchildren.

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