

Life In Poetry

Poet Writes About Spirit Of Thanksgiving

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

Here's a poem for this season by Tim Nolan, of Minnesota. Once we begin to be thankful for things, there are more and more things to be thankful for.

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for the Italian chestnuts—with their tough shells—the smooth chocolaty skin of them—thanks for the boiling water—

itself a miracle and a mystery—thanks for the seasoned sauce pan and the old wooden spoon—and all

the neglected instruments in the drawer—the garlic crusher—the bent paring knife—the apple slicer that creates six

perfect wedges out of the crisp Haralson—thanks for the humming radio—thanks for the program on the radio

about the guy who was a cross-dresser—but his wife forgave him—and he ended up almost dying from leukemia—

(and you could tell his wife loved him entirely—it was in her deliberate voice)—thanks for the brined turkey—

the size of a big baby—thanks—for the departed head of the turkey—the present neck—the giblets

(whatever they are)—wrapped up as small gifts inside the cavern of the ribs—thanks—thanks—thanks—for the candles

lit on the table—the dried twigs—the autumn leaves in the blue Chinese vase—thanks—for the faces—our faces—in this low light.

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Family Road Trip A Good Idea

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:
My dad has a 1962 Studebaker Hawk that he bought three years ago, when he was in chemotherapy. He got it out of a barn in Wisconsin, where it had sat for more than 30 years. It has 80,000 miles on it, and it's in pretty good shape. The paint is worn out, and it needs some interior work. He loves this old car and wants to take my brother and me on a trip on old Route 66 next summer starting in Chicago and going to somewhere in Missouri. I'm 14, and my brother is 12. Dad has done a lot of work on it. He's added seatbelts, modern disc brakes and dual master cylinders; he's converted the generator to an alternator; and he's added an electronic ignition and a modern carburetor. Mom is not thrilled with the road-trip idea. She says the car is too old and undependable. For example, the gas gauge doesn't work (Dad says that he just has to know how far he's driven), it does not have air conditioning and he disconnected the heater. He promised to get the non-working AM radio repaired and fix the small hole in the front floor before we go. Who is right — Mom or Dad? Should we go on this trip, or will we break down in the middle of some cornfields in Illinois? Are we going to melt in this old car? Dad says the vent windows and fender vents will keep us from getting too hot. The car is two years older than my dad. He really wants to take this trip. Thank you. —Zach

RAY: Will you break down in the cornfields of Illinois? Yes — and lots of other places. Will you melt in this old car? Yes, especially when you're stopped or broken down, which will be often.



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: Should you go on this trip? Absolutely!

RAY: No question about it. It sounds like a wonderful adventure. And breaking down will just be part of the adventure. It'll give your dad a chance to show his sons how to handle adversity and solve problems, and how to take things in stride. And, since he's a guy who wants to make this trip in a '62 Studebaker, he'll also show his sons that fun can be had under almost any circumstances, even when it's 106 F in the breakdown lane.

TOM: I understand your mom's concerns. That's her job in the family — to worry about things like, oh, life and death. But your dad doesn't sound reckless to us. He's given this car a lot of upgrades, including the addition of seatbelts. And he plans to take the old, slower Route 66, rather than risk your safety at 75 mph on the highway with tandem trailers whizzing by.

RAY: So my suggestion is to assure Mom that you're taking reasonable precautions. That means bringing two things along with you.

TOM: No. 1 is a cellphone, so that when you break down and your dad is unable to fix the problem himself, you can call for help. You may even want to download our iPhone app called "Breakdown Lane" from iTunes.

RAY: It uses your iPhone's GPS data to find the closest highly rated repair shops anywhere in the country — whatever cornfield or city you break down in.

TOM: And the second thing you need to bring is a credit card. You'll use that to either pay for parts and repairs, or, if worse comes to worst, buy three bus tickets home and take the Studebaker's plates with you.

RAY: Either way, it'll be a great adventure that you'll all remember for the rest of your lives. So go for it. And have Mom call us if she needs some more convincing.

Auto repairs can be costly! Save money by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, 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." Get 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.

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AAA Predicts Increase In Holiday Travel

SIoux FALLS — AAA projects 43.6 million Americans, including 145,400 South Dakotans, will journey 50 miles or more from home during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, an increase of 0.7 percent over the 43.3 million people who traveled nationwide last year and 1.0 percent more among South Dakotans. The Thanksgiving holiday travel period is defined by AAA as Wednesday, Nov. 21, to Sunday, Nov. 25.

Highlights from the 2012 AAA Thanksgiving Holiday Travel Forecast include:

- The increase in national travel marks the fourth consecutive year of rising numbers since 2008, when Thanksgiving travel fell by 25 percent.
- Ninety percent of all travel will be done by car or pickup, an in-

crease of 0.6 percent.
• Holiday air travel nationwide will decline to 3.14 million travelers from 3.2 million in 2011. Air travel will also fall in South Dakota — down 1.6 percent — to 6,500 South Dakotans.

• Median spending is expected to drop 10 percent to \$498, compared to \$554 last year. Americans continue to prioritize travel to make dollars go further.

• Average distance traveled will decline to 588 miles from 706 miles, due to a decrease in the number of air travelers and a desire to economize budgets.

• Despite mild improvements in unemployment, the housing market and greater consumer optimism, the economy is still struggling to keep its head above water.
• Thanksgiving travel hit a

decade low in 2008 when only 37.8 million Americans traveled," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Since that year we have seen a steady increase in the number of Thanksgiving travelers. Americans continue to find ways to stretch family budgets so they can still gather around the holiday table."

"While we do not yet know the full impact that Hurricane Sandy will have on travel from the Mid-Atlantic region, we do know the impact for many in that region is substantial," said Buskohl.

AAA estimates the national average price of gasoline will drop to between \$3.25-3.40 a gallon by the holiday, similar to last year's average of \$3.32, which was the most expensive average ever on Thanksgiving. Despite the historically high

prices paid by motorists this year, the national average has declined by nearly 40 cents a gallon since early October and should continue to drop through the end of the year. The national average price of gas for Thanksgiving from 2007-2011 was \$2.75 a gallon.

Because the Thanksgiving holiday falls on a Thursday, many are off from work the Friday after, giving travelers the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends. AAA asked intended travelers which days they would depart for and return from Thanksgiving trips. The majority of travelers plan to leave the Wednesday before the holiday (45 percent) and return the following Sunday (36 percent) with another 25 percent expecting to return on Monday, Nov. 26.

4-H December Open Skate Schedule Set

Another season of skating at the Yankton Kiwanis 4-H Ice Arena is under way. Listed below is the open skate schedule for December.

The monthly Open Skate hours and prices will be posted at the Kiwanis 4-H Ice Arena, located at 901 Whitting Drive and also at the Summit Activities Center.

- December Open Skate Hours are as follows:
- Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. (No Open Skate on Sunday, Dec. 9.)
 - Wednesdays from 6-8:30 p.m.
 - No School Specials: Friday, Dec. 21 — 1-4 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 24 — 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 26 — 1-4 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 27 — 1-4 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 28 — 1-4 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 31 — 1-4 p.m.

Skate passes and rentals are available. For further information, call the Kiwanis 4-H Ice Arena at 665-0229 or the Summit Activities Center at 668-5234. Remember to follow the Yankton Department of Parks and Recreation on Facebook.

USD To Host International Forum Nov. 28

VERMILLION — A University of South Dakota International Forum entitled "A New China?" will be held at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Farber Hall in Vermillion.

Will the new Chinese leadership bring, in time, major changes to this new world power, similar to those undertaken in the former Soviet Union under Gorbachev? What will be the influence of the millions of Chinese students who studied in the US, Europe and elsewhere. Will they demand greater political freedoms and less corruption by officials?

These and other topics will be taken up by Dr. Xuejun Wang (Medical School) and Zesheng Li (president, Chinese Student Association). The moderator is Dr. Benno Wymar (Economics & former instructor of Honors Seminar on the Chinese Economy).

The event is sponsored by USD's Beacom School of Business and is open to the public at no charge.

Fish Fry Slated For Tyndall

TYNDALL — A fish fry has been slated for the Father Cronin Center in Tyndall on Friday, Nov. 30, running from 5-7 p.m.

This will be an all-you-can-eat Alaskan Pollock Fish Fry, served with salads, desserts and refreshments. The fish will be cooked in peanut oil.

For more information, contact Roger Hisek at 605-589-3736 or rshisek@hotmail.com, or visit www.stleotyndall.com.

Avoid Identity Theft During The Holiday Season

SIoux FALLS — The hectic holiday shopping season means parking lots full of people and safety hazards and the heightened possibility of theft. But thieves aren't just looking to steal newly-bought Christmas gifts, they're also after your identity.

"We hope these tips keep shoppers motoring on their merry way, protecting drivers and consumers from seeing the Grinch during this busy time of year," said AAA South Dakota spokeswoman Marilyn Buskohl.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

- Eliminate distractions. Turn off and stow cell phones. Set up navigation and GPS devices before starting to drive.
- Watch for pedestrians. Remain cautious of pedestrians on crosswalks and moving in-between and behind cars. Be alert especially for children who are not always paying attention.
- Learn to play the outfield. Outlying areas have more spaces, lighter traffic and a lower risk of collision.
- Don't put yourself in a tight spot. Avoid parking between a pair of tall SUVs, minivans or pickups where it might be hard to back out of the space. If you can't see well enough to back out safely, get help from one of your passengers.
- Buckle up. Even a low-speed collision can result in injuries. Make sure that everyone is

strapped in a seat belt or child car seat while the car is in motion, even if it's just a short trip to another part of the parking lot.

KEEPING YOUR IDENTITY SAFE

To safeguard your personal information as you shop this season, AAA Financial Services offers these tips:

- Use cash or credit only. Compromised debit information puts your money at risk because the card is directly linked to your bank account. Credit cards offer greater consumer protection and less liability than your bank card.
- Clean out your wallet. Don't carry excess credit cards or your Social Security card with you. For the cards you do carry, keep a copy of all account numbers and phone numbers in safe place at home.
- Search before you swipe. Tech-savvy thieves use inconspicuous tools such as skimming devices to steal your card information at ATMs, gas pumps and other pay terminals. Don't

use swipe devices that look out of place. Be sure to shield your PIN number as you punch it in or ask the cashier to run your card through the register.

Shoppers searching for deals online are urged to exercise cyber safety:

- Shop sites you trust. Stick with online retailers you recognize and make sure you are at their correct site.
- Shop secure. Before submitting credit card information, make sure the website is secure by looking for "https://" instead of "http://" in front of the web address.
- Stay off public Wi-Fi. Never use public wireless hotspots to do online shopping, banking or any activity that requires passwords or personal information.

PERSONAL SAFETY

AAA cautions that crowded shopping malls, streets and parking lots can provide ample opportunity for theft during the holiday season.

Protect your presents by stowing shopping bags in the trunk. A thief can steal your gifts in a matter of seconds, so eliminate the temptation by keeping them out of sight.

Keep a grip on your valuables. Make sure your purse is secure in your hand, along with any valuables you may have just bought. Thieves are always looking for an easy "snatch and grab."

Know who is around. Don't be caught off guard. Keep an eye on what and who may be around you. If someone approaches your vehicle don't be rude, but also do not roll down a window or open a door to a stranger.