

American Life In Poetry

A Close Call

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE

As a writer and reader, there's hardly anything I enjoy more than coming upon fresh new ways of describing things, and here's a sparkling way of looking at an avalanche, by Marty Walsh, who lives in Maine.

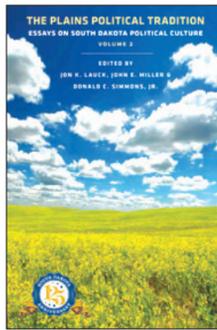
THE SNOW'S/FEET SLIP

out from
under it
and down
the mountain
slope it comes
flat on its back
white skirt
and billowy
petticoats
blowing
back over
its head,
whiplashing
rickety
pine sapling
as it passes,
bowling boulders
left and right
until it comes
to a juddering
sudden heart-
thumping stop
just shy
of the little village
in the valley far below.

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State Historical Society To Release New Book At USD

PIERRE — Across the country, election-night viewers typically see South Dakota as a "red" or Republican state, but is it really that simple? In their upcoming book from the South Dakota State Historical Society, editors Jon K. Lauck, John E. Miller and Donald C. Simmons, Jr., present 10 essays that focus on the unpredictability and inconsistencies in the state's political culture. "The Plains Political Tradition: Essays on South Dakota Political Culture, Volume 2" will be released on Thursday, Nov. 13, at a conference hosted by the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.



stories of direct democracy, organized labor, West River identity, New Deal planning, Cold War loyalty, bicultural conservatism and the Christian Left — among other topics. Tracking the shifting dialogues that make the Great Plains unique, the authors and editors take South Dakota further into the growing study of modern political culture.

"Our political heritage is much more varied and unique than people realize," said Jay D. Vogt, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, headquartered at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. "The editors continue to shed light on the South Dakota political experience — connecting it to the greater Midwestern and American setting."

South Dakota's political landscape is a mix of geographical variations and political subcultures that changes over time. The first volume of "The Plains Political Tradition" examined this complexity, and this new volume explores compelling

Authors of the essays in "The Plains Political Tradition" will discuss their topics in a series of panels at the USD conference, which runs from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST on Nov. 13. Tom Isern, University Distinguished Professor of History at North Dakota State University in Fargo, will give the luncheon keynote address. Contact Sandi Allred at sandi.allred@usd.edu or (605) 677-5242 to register. The event is free to the public.

Russell Hoffman



65th Birthday
Open House

Saturday, Nov. 15th
2:00-4:00PM
Days Inn

GO BLUE FOR BREAKFAST



Diabetes control begins with a healthy breakfast and "Go Blue for Breakfast" is part of a global initiative to promote diabetes awareness on World Diabetes Day.

Join us for a free, healthy breakfast!
Northern Lights Cafe
8-10 a.m.
Friday, November 14

Prediabetes risk screenings, pedometers and healthy recipes will also be offered. Let us help you get a healthy start to your day and together we can raise awareness of diabetes.



Is An Angry, Profane Diatribe A Sign Of An Unskilled Mechanic?

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

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Dear Tom and Ray:
A mechanic recently replaced my timing belt, pulleys, water pump and another belt on my 2001 Toyota Avalon, and the car runs fine. But I made the mistake of hanging around the shop while the work was being done. While installing my new belt, the mechanic became very upset at it, with numerous references to its parentage, romantic habits and promiscuity. My question is: Does this indicate that he is an unskilled mechanic, or would you say this is normal, even with a skilled one?

— Craig
TOM: He probably was just chatting with a colleague, Craig.
RAY: Actually, he shouldn't get frustrated when putting the timing belt on an '01 Avalon — it should go on very easily. The V-6 engine doesn't leave you a lot of room to work in that engine compartment, but once you have all the sprockets lined up, that belt should slip right on.
TOM: If that's leading to a profane diatribe, then, yes, he's a rank amateur.
RAY: However, that car's serpentine



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

belt is another story. And my guess is that that's what led to your mechanic's eloquent soliloquy.
TOM: For some reason, some manufacturers have started making their serpentine belts a few millimeters shorter. Why? I don't know. To save a few cents on rubber? But it does increase the difficulty of slipping the belt over the various pulleys.
RAY: The general rule for installing a serpentine belt is that you always put it

on the largest pulley last. That way, you can turn the pulley by hand and use its mechanical advantage to leverage the belt over the lip. Maybe your mechanic doesn't know that trick?
TOM: Or maybe he does, and while he was working on your car, he got a text from his daughter saying she's marrying a mechanic.

Used cars can be a great bargain, and reliable, too! Find out why by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used 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.

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Glen Taggart Benefit Slated Nov. 22 In Wakonda

WAKONDA — Glen Taggart of Wakonda has a fan club of family and friends working together to host a benefit on his behalf. Glen has been diagnosed with incurable Stage 4 Adenocarcinoma (lung cancer). He is currently undergoing chemotherapy to hopefully slow the progress of the cancer.

Below is an update from Glen's wife Tracy:

"Glen just finished his third treatment which was Oct. 29 with the next on Nov. 19. He will continue with treatments until February. The treatments are done every three weeks and take eight hours. He has a follow up shot the next day to help the white blood cells. Glen is still in a considerable amount of pain and that is due to the chemo and mainly because of the follow-up shot he receives. His family is strong and prays that Glen will win this battle."

Glen and Tracy have a daughter, Stacie, at home who is a senior at Irene-Wakonda High School. He has two daughters, Elizabeth and Stephanie Taggart of Independence, Missouri, and two step-sons, Michael Hofer (fiancée Amy) of Freeman and Arron Ness (fiancée Rachel) of Yankton. Glen and Tracy have four grandchildren: Dylan, Skylar, Chance and Kaylee.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A benefit for Glen Taggart of Wakonda is slated for Saturday, Nov. 22. Glen has been diagnosed with incurable Stage 4 Adenocarcinoma (lung cancer). Pictured are Glen and Tracy Taggart.

Glen was born in Vermillion and is the eighth of nine children born to Alfred "Doc" and Joyce Taggart. His siblings are Bernice (Red) Chamberlain, Mike (Connie) Taggart, Chuck (Mary) Taggart, Leo (Tricia) Taggart, Tom (Rhonda) Taggart, Wally Taggart all of Vermillion, Dave Taggart of Wakonda and Betsy Brunick (deceased). Glen has another great support system; his mother-in-law Neva Morgen of Platte, two sister-in-laws Kelly (Lee) Tjeerdsmma of Avon and Kristi (Monte) Wagner of Platte, along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Glen is a quiet guy, hardworking and devoted to his family and friends. He has lived in Wakonda for nearly 30 years where he worked for Gari's Carpet Service for 25

years. He has worked the past four years at the Irene-Wakonda Elementary School as the custodian and part time for the Town of Wakonda reading water meters. Glen has continued to work in between his chemotherapy treatments.

Tracy says they feel so blessed for the support they are receiving from family, friends and the community. She says Glen is a strong man and fighting to beat the odds.

The benefit is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Wakonda Legion Hall. A free will donation supper will start at 4:30 p.m. The supper will consist of pork loin sandwiches, hot dogs, "Neva's" potato salad, baked beans, chips, dessert from the Irene-Wakonda staff, juice and coffee. The silent auction starts at 4:30 p.m. and a live auction

at 7 p.m. with Girard Auction donating their services. Items coming in for the auction are fantastic! Donations range from oil changes, acres of custom application, seed beans, seed corn, pies, honey, homemade rolls, guns, hunting trips, hair care baskets, quilts, custom made black walnut gun cabinet, solid oak quilt rack, IH Farmall 1206 Pedal Tractor, toy tractors/balers, two half hogs, food/hotel certificates, two barn quilts, and much more!

A dance will follow the live auction featuring "Midnight Special" — Joe Sokolowski" donating their musical talents. Cash donations can be made out to the "Glen Taggart Benefit" at First Premier Bank, PO Box 326, Wakonda SD 57073. If you would like more information or to donate an item to the auction please contact: Pam Ganschow 605-267-2607, Charmaine Gullikson 605-267-2583 or Connie Taggart 605-670-3137.

Our small communities always come together to help those in time of need. This benefit is to help with the financial burden of monthly bills and cost of living expenses. It seems the bills still come in even when we are hospitalized or ill at home and unable to work. Please join us Nov. 22 for supper, shopping, dancing and supporting Glen and his family.

Saluting Our Soldiers On Veterans Day

All of us at the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan would like to take this opportunity to honor and thank all of the veterans and their families for your sacrifice and service to our country.

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