

LIFE IN POETRY

A Beautiful Description Of Mockingbirds

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

I like birds, and poems about birds, and several years ago I edited an anthology of bird poems called *The Poets Guide to the Birds*. I wish Judith Harris had written this lovely description of a mockingbird in time for us to include it, but it's brand new. Harris lives in Washington, D.C.

MOCKINGBIRD

I can hear him, now, even in darkness, a trickster under the moon, bristling his feathers, sounding as merry as a man whistling in a straw hat, or a squeaky gate to the playground, left ajar or the jingling of a star, having wandered too far from the pasture.

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These Mechanics Were Full Of Hot Air

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I was told today at an auto-body-repair shop that the temperature dial on my car (the one that is half-blue and half-red) is NOT a thermostat for the air conditioner, and that I should NEVER touch it when the air conditioner is on. I was told that it does work as a temperature control if you are venting in air from outside or running the heater, but not for the AC. They said that unless a car has digital controls (mine doesn't), I can't adjust the temperature of the AC. I just have to turn it on and leave this dial at the coldest setting, and use the fan speed to adjust how much cooling I get. Is this correct? I had never heard this before. This information was given to me in response to my report of smelling Freon when I adjusted that dial while running the AC. — Rita

TOM: Forget everything they told you, Rita. You can adjust that dial anytime you want.

RAY: That dial operates the heater control valve. All it does is add warm air to the passenger cabin — regardless of whether the AC is on.

TOM: When you turn on the AC, all it does



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

is blow cold air. There's no way to control the "temperature" of the air that comes out of the AC unit itself.

RAY: So how do you control the temperature in your passenger cabin? There are three ways: You can turn the air conditioner off when it gets too cold. You can turn the fan speed up or down. Or you can blend in some warmer air until the temperature is where you want it. That's perfectly acceptable, and will do no harm to anything.

TOM: In fact, that's what the digital, or

"climate control," systems do. When you set the cabin temperature to 72, it turns on the AC, and then blends in warm air from the heater until the thermostat reads 72.

RAY: Blending in warm air also is the only way to comfortably defog your windows in the winter. When there's moisture on the insides of the windows, you need to use the air conditioner to remove that moisture. But if it's 6 below zero out and your butt cheeks are already freezing together, that can be mighty uncomfortable. So what do you do? You turn the temperature control valve up into the red, and blend in hot air. That way, you get warm, conditioned air (i.e., warm, dry air). Your windows clear up, and your teeth don't break from chattering.

TOM: One final thought. You say you smelled Freon when you added heat. What you may be smelling is coolant, which would be coming from a leaking heater core. So ask another mechanic (not these knuckleheads) to check that out for you.

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.

AAA: Motorists Oppose Texting While Driving, But Many Do It Anyway

SIOUX FALLS — For the fourth consecutive year, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's annual Traffic Safety Culture Index shows drivers know that cell phone use and texting while driving are dangerous, yet they continue to do it anyway.

Data from the 2011 survey found that 95 percent of drivers view texting or emailing by other drivers as a serious threat to their own personal safety. However, 35 percent of those same drivers also admitted to having read or sent a text message or email during the previous month.

To help bring greater awareness of the issue of cell phone use and distracted driving and to help combat this dangerous behavior, the AAA Foundation and AAA is promoting Heads Up Driving Week from Sunday, Oct. 2, through Saturday, Oct. 8. The campaign aims to inspire drivers to pledge to a week of distraction-free driving while encouraging them to "Try it for a Week and Do it for Life."

"This research continues to illustrate a 'do as I say, not as I do' attitude that persists among drivers, and perpetuates the threat of cell phone use while driving," said AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety President and CEO Peter Kissinger. "Changing our nation's traffic safety culture requires drivers to take responsibility for their actions and alter their own behaviors on the road."

According to the survey, 88 percent of drivers say talking on a phone is a threat to safety, yet two-thirds admit to having talked on a cell phone while driving in the past 30 days. The findings also show that respondents' concern about texting or emailing while driving (95 percent) is on par with drinking while driving (93 percent). Additionally, 87 percent of drivers express support for having a law against reading, typing or sending a text message or email while driving and 50 percent of drivers support having a law against the use of any type of cell, hand-held or hands-free, for all drivers regardless of age.

Distracted driving, especially the use of cell phones and text messaging, remains a top traffic safety concern for policymakers, safety advocates, law enforcement, industry, and the public. As part of AAA's commitment to improving highway safety for its members and all road users, AAA launched a legislative campaign in 2009 to ban texting while driving in all 50 states. So far in 2011, four additional states have enacted anti-texting laws, bringing the total number up to 34 states

and the District of Columbia that have adopted this safety measure.

Unfortunately, the South Dakota Legislature has still not passed this life-saving legislation despite lobbying and awareness-raising activities conducted by AAA South Dakota and other safety advocates, as well as by families of texting-related crash victims and many others.

The 2011 Traffic Safety Culture Index also found that of those drivers who admitted to having talked on a cell phone while driving (67.7 percent of all drivers):

- 55 percent admitted to answering calls more than half the time while stopped at a red light; and 31 percent said they make calls at red lights fairly often or regularly;

- 44 percent admitted to answering calls while driving on a residential street with no traffic more than half the time; and 26 percent said they make calls on residential street fairly often or regularly;

- 28 percent admitted to answering calls while driving on a freeway with heavy traffic more than half the time; 15 percent admitted said they make calls on a freeway with heavy traffic fairly often or frequently.

Of those who admitted to reading or typing text messages or emails while behind the wheel (35 percent of all drivers):

- 54 percent admitted to reading text messages or emails while stopped at red lights fairly often or regularly; and 35 percent said they type text messages or emails while stopped at red lights fairly often or regularly;

- 27 percent admitted to reading text messages or emails while driving on a residential street with no traffic fairly often or regularly; and 15 percent said they type text messages or emails while driving on a residential street fairly often or regularly;

- 16 percent admitted to reading text messages or emails while driving on a freeway with heavy traffic fairly often or regularly; and 9 percent said they type text messages or emails while driving on a freeway in heavy traffic fairly often or regularly.

For more information about distracted driving and to take AAA's HUDW pledge, visit www.AAAFoundation.org.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Seasons Aren't The Only Things That Change

BY JENNIFER H.

Social Security Claims Representative



Jennifer H.

Many people enjoy watching the changing seasons, and we find ourselves at that time of the year when the shifting from one season to another is most enjoyable. The lush green foliage gradually fades to an autumn rainbow of yellow-orange-red-brown. Cool air brings light jackets out of closets. Pumpkins and decorative corn begin to appear on porches and doorsteps.

But seasons are not the only things that change. When it comes to some changes, we at Social Security need to know about them.

If you receive Social Security benefits, there are certain things that we need to know about you in order to continue paying your benefits. Here is a reminder of some of the most important reporting responsibilities for people who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Your address. Even if you receive your payments by direct deposit or debit card (as most people do), we still need a good mailing address so we can get in touch with you when we need to. You can inform us of a change of address, as well as telephone number, at our website, www.socialsecurity.gov.

Your direct deposit informa-

tion. If your payments go to your financial institution for direct deposit, you need to notify us of any changes. If you change your account information without letting us know, your payment could go to the wrong place. You can change your deposit information at our website, www.socialsecurity.gov.

Your work, if disabled. If you receive disability benefits, we need to know about any work you do. If you start work, stop work, or have any change in your work, hours, or pay, we need to know.

Your living arrangements, if you receive SSI. People who receive SSI are paid, in part, based on financial need. Payments may change based on your living arrangements. Because of that, we need to know how many people are in your household and how the expenses are shared. There are other things we need to know about, such as if you're institutionalized, if you're no longer able to handle your finances, or if you've been convicted of a crime.

Learn more about reporting responsibilities for people receiving retirement or survivors benefits at

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10077.html.

Learn more about reporting responsibilities for people receiving Social Security disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10153.html.

Learn more about reporting responsibilities for people receiving SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11011.html.

Some changes can be reported online at www.socialsecurity.gov. You can report changes to us by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or contacting your local office.

Seasons change; there's little to report there. But when it comes to changes in the lives of people who receive benefits from Social Security, please remember to keep us informed.

YOUR QUESTIONS, SOCIAL SECURITY'S ANSWERS

Question: How do I update or correct the name on my Social Security card?

Answer: To update or correct the name on your Social Security card:

- Complete an Application for A Social Security Card (Form SS-5), available at www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.pdf;
- Show us original documents proving your legal name change, identity, and U.S. citizenship (if

you have not already established your citizenship with us), or immigration status if you are not a U.S. citizen; and

- Take or mail your completed application and original documents to your local Social Security office. Note that we must see originals and cannot use photocopies. We will return any original document you mail to us.

Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: How do I report a lost Social Security card?

Answer: You do not have to report a lost Social Security card. In fact, reporting a lost or stolen card to Social Security will not prevent misuse of your Social Security number. You should let us know if someone is using your number to work (call 1-800-772-1213; TTY 1-800-325-0778).

If you think someone is using your number, there are several other actions you should take:

- Contact the Federal Trade Commission online at www.ftc.gov/bcfdp/edu/microsites/idtheft or call 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338);
- File an online complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov;
- Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit by calling 1-800-908-4490, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and
- Monitor your credit report.

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Celebrating 50 Years
Tom and Sharon (Gustad) Freng of Yankton will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 7, 2011. Their family requests a card shower. Greeting may be sent to 1207 E. 15th, Yankton, SD 57078. The couple has three children: Randy and LeeAnn Freng of Mission Hill, SD; Chris Freng of Yankton, SD; and Erica Brock Sundall of Chamberlain, SD. They have two grandchildren: Katie and Karlie Freng. Tom and Sharon were married Oct. 7, 1961, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Volin.

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MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY
Tuesday, October 4
7:40 a.m. Yankton Community Library (Becky Pittinger)
8:15 a.m. Yankton Middle School Presentation (Steve Sternhagen)
8:45 a.m. Dakota Territorial Museum (Crystal Nelson)
Wednesday, October 5
7:40 a.m. Yankton Contact Center (Kelli Stange)
8:15 a.m. Hy-Vee (Chef Staci)

Whistling Dixie & turning 60!!!
Who's turning 60 on October 8th?
a) Ruby Guthmiller, 800 1st St., Lesterville, SD 57040
b) invention of light bulbs
c) AMYGDALODON dinosaurs