

Life In Poetry

Poet Examines The Passage Of Time

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

A Kansas poet, Wyatt Townley has written a number of fine poems about the swift and relentless passage of time, one of the great themes of the world's poetry, and I especially like this one.

FINDING THE SCARF

The woods are the book
we read over and over as children.
Now trees lie at angles, felled
by lightning, torn by tornados,
silvered trunks turning back

to earth. Late November light
slants through the oaks
as our small parade, father, mother, child,
shushes along, the wind searching treetops
for the last leaf. Childhood lies

on the forest floor, not evergreen
but oaken, its branches latched
to a graying sky. Here is the scarf
we left years ago like a bookmark,

meaning to return the next day,
having just turned our heads
toward a noise in the bushes,
toward the dinnerbell in the distance,

toward what we knew and did not know
we knew, in the spreading twilight
that returns changed to a changed place.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2007 by Wyatt Townley from her most recent book of poems, The Afterlives of Trees, Woodley Press, 2011. Poem reprinted by permission of Wyatt Townley and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2012 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.

Election Signs Reminder From The City Of Yankton

Election season is under way, and election signs are popping up around Yankton.

The City of Yankton reminds all candidates and supporters that election signs must be placed on private property out of the public right of way. Placing signs in parks and boulevards, or attaching signs to utility poles, street signs, street trees, or light poles is not allowed by Yankton City Ordinance.

A good general rule is to keep signs to the inside (house side) of a sidewalk or at least 15 feet from the roadside curb. Right-of-way width does vary throughout the city, so if you're not sure, give the Community Development Department a call and the staff will be happy to help you plan your sign placement.

Signs placed in the public right of way will be removed. Signs may be displayed up to 60 days prior and seven days after election day.

For more information, visit cityofyankton.org or call (605) 668-5251.

The Center To Host Movie Event Oct. 14

The Center, 900 Whiting Drive, Yankton, will host a "Sunday at the Movies" event at 2 p.m. Oct. 14.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Kriss Thury at 605-665-4685 or kris@thecenteryankton.org.

Swiss Steak Dinner Planned For St. Helena

ST. HELENA, Neb. — The St. Helena Catholic Order of Foresters is holding its annual Swiss Steak Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 14, at Immaculate Conception Hall, St. Helena, Neb. Dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The menu features Swiss steak served with mashed potatoes, choice of vegetable, salads, dinner roll, and dessert.

Proceeds from the dinner will go towards replacing the siren in St. Helena.

For more information, contact Victor Paltz at 402-357-2163 or full-house@gpcom.net.



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How To Deal If You're In Too Deep

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

I'm an authentic Chinese citizen writing to you guys from China. Did you imagine you would ever have faithful listeners and readers across the Pacific? Well, you have at least one! I studied and worked in the U.S. for 10 years before moving my family back to China. Now I commute about 50 miles a day by car. Your "Car Talk" radio-show podcast has made this routine journey bearable, and even joyful sometimes. Thank you!

My question: Last week, a huge storm hit Beijing, causing serious flooding inside the city. One man reportedly drove his SUV under an underpass, and got trapped under 10 feet of water. Realizing that his car windows and doors were all stuck (or locked), he desperately tried to crack a window to escape. Meanwhile, he called his wife, asking her to come and rescue him with a hammer. Sadly, after spending about 40 minutes inside the car, he still could not break the window. When his wife arrived, it was too late. Of course, shame on the government's infrastructure system. But I wonder what advice you would offer to anyone who finds himself in this sort of situation. You may think it is an uncommon scenario, but who can exclude the possibility that a disgruntled husband, like myself, desperately annoyed by his wife, may want to terminate his life by driving his car into a lake? And when he is already in the water, he realizes he forgot to turn off the rice cooker, and suddenly needs to get out? Thanks! —Yang

TOM: That's why we always say make sure you double-check the rice cooker before leaving the house, Yang.

RAY: Actually, this kind of accident, where a car ends up under — or largely under —



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

water can happen anywhere. So here's what you need to know in case it happens to you.

TOM: First, the window is a better option than the door. There's a huge amount of pressure against the outside of the door from the surrounding water, so it's very, very hard to push open a door.

RAY: Second, on many cars, power windows will continue to work for at least a short time after a car has been submerged. So Step 1 is to take a deep breath and try to open your window immediately. If you have passengers, make sure they're all conscious and free of their seatbelts before letting water flood in.

TOM: In case the power windows do not work, then you should keep a tool in the glove box that you can use to break a window. Car windows are hard to break. Manufacturers don't want them to break easily, or they'd be breaking all the time when they get hit by road debris.

RAY: Car glass also is tempered, which means it's been specially manufactured to be harder to break. And when it does break, it's

Giant Pumpkin Regatta Coming To Viborg

VIBORG — Pioneer Memorial is bringing in pumpkins by the ton (literally) to host a Giant Pumpkin Regatta as part of its annual Oktoberfest fundraiser. The unique event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 20, at Swan Lake Christian Camp near Viborg.

Giant Pumpkin Regattas have been popular on both coasts and in places like Madison, Wis. Nova Scotia held its 27th Regatta last year. However, Pioneer Memorial believes this will be the first time a Giant Pumpkin Regatta is held in South Dakota.

Kevin Marsh, a pumpkin grower in Parker, participates in giant pumpkin growing contests throughout the Midwest, and agreed to let Pioneer Memorial use his pumpkins after the contests in their Giant Pumpkin Regatta.

Different groups of people (pumpkin sponsors, local celebri-

ties, amateur pumpkin racers, etc.) volunteer to race in giant hollowed out pumpkins (weighing between 700-900 pounds or more) on Swan Lake. A variety of races are being planned by the committee including a Men's Race, Women's Race, Teen Race, and Hospital Department Challenge. Winners of races will receive a special trophy. Everyone who pilots a pumpkin will receive a T-shirt. Pumpkin Regatta T-shirts will also be on sale for the public.

A business, non-profit or individual, can sponsor or co-sponsor a pumpkin "boat." The sponsor's name/logo will be painted on a pennant to be flown from the pumpkin. Pumpkins may be used in more than one race, depending on number of "pumpkin pilots."

Everyone raising at least \$50 may pilot one of the pumpkins in

a race with the individual raising the most in sponsorships receiving a prize. A trophy will be awarded the pilot with the best costume.

The pumpkins will be carved out in advance of the big day, and life vests and paddles will be furnished to help navigate the waters. Race time is 1:30 p.m. sharp with registration starting at 12:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in participating either as a sponsor or pumpkin pilot, can contact Brendyn Richards, Director of Development at (605) 326-5161, brendyn.richards@sanford-health.org or go to www.pioneer-

memorial.org for a registration packet.

Annual Oktoberfest activities will be held at the Swan Lake Christian Camp from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with the Giant Pumpkin Regatta launching at 1:30 p.m. Oktoberfest activities include live entertainment, children's activities, bake sale, silent auction of theme baskets and a lunch including homemade Indian Tacos, chicken noodle soup, hot dogs, chili dogs, chips, pie alamode, coffee and pop.

All proceeds from the event will go toward special projects of Pioneer Memorial Hospital & Health Services.



AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Tuesday, October 9

7:40 am The Center (Christy Hauer)

8:15 am Red Hat Convention (Susan Lauck)

8:45 am Dakota Territorial Museum (Crystal Nelson)

Wednesday, October 10

7:40 am The Observer (Kathy Church)

8:15 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

Real Estate And Mobile Home Taxes Due Oct. 31

The Yankton County Treasurers Office reminds the public that the second half of the 2011 (payable in 2012) Real Estate Taxes and the second half of the 2012 Mobile Home Taxes are due and payable on Oct. 31, 2012.

You can use the silver drop box on the north side of the Government Center for payments or bring them in to the office; if you mail the payments they MUST have an October postmark.

Interest will be charged as of Nov. 1.



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