

Life In Poetry

# Holiday's Fly As We Grow Older

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

I'm not alone in noticing how time accelerates as we grow older, and as the seasons grow ever more brief the holidays are gone in a wink. This poem by Nancy Price about Halloween catches a little of that. She's an Iowan whose poems are so heartfelt, clear and useful that we could run them every week and none of you would complain.

TRICK OR TREAT

The ghost is a torn sheet,  
the skeleton's suit came from a rack in a store  
the witch is flameproof, but who knows  
what dark streets they have taken here?  
Brother Death, here is a candy bar.  
For the lady wearing the hat from Salem: gum.  
And a penny for each eye, Lost Soul.  
They faded away with their heavy sacks.  
Thanks! I yell just in time.  
Thanks for another year!

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Car Talk

# Drivers Mistake Could Prove Costly

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

So, a co-worker needed a jump-start after leaving her lights on, and I thought I would be a good Samaritan and help her after work. Her car was parked on a busy road, and I had to pull up next to her in the opposing traffic lane to be able to reach her battery. In my haste, I put the positive and negative clamps on the wrong terminals on MY car (hers were correctly attached). When I got in my car to start it, I could see that the wires were smoking. I immediately got out and disconnected the cables. We ultimately needed to purchase new cables, and then we were able to start her car. The problem is that now her car works perfectly fine – except for the radio, which seems to be dead. When she brought it to the dealer, they said there is some kind of electrical system failure. Is that possible? Please help, as I may be responsible for money for repairs! —Jonathan

**RAY:** I hope she's cute, Jonathan. Then you can justify the expense you're about to incur.

**TOM:** It's not only possible that there was damage to the electrical system, it's likely. In fact, if the radio is the only victim here, you would be not only a good Samaritan, but also a very lucky Samaritan.

**RAY:** Usually when someone crosses the terminals in a jump-start attempt, there's a lot more electrical-system damage. One of the cars even can burst into flames. That's usually our first hint that something's wrong.

**TOM:** I think your mistake was jumping out right away and disconnecting the cables when you saw them smoking. If you had waited just a little longer, the radio would not be a concern right now.

**RAY:** What you did was send a whole lot of current through the ground wires, which are not supposed to be energized. So, lots of things can get fried, including in-car electronics, computers and the wiring itself.

**TOM:** If you're really lucky, you



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

just blew a fuse or a fusible link. It's unusual for a radio to be on its own fuse, but perhaps there are other problems with things on the same fuse as the radio that she just hasn't discovered yet. Or perhaps it's an aftermarket radio with its own in-line fuse. So start by asking someone to check that.

**RAY:** And get a little more information from the dealer about what he means by "electrical system failure." He may just have seen some partially melted wires, and didn't investigate further.

**TOM:** If it's more than a fuse or a new radio that she needs, you should contact your insurance company. Better insurance companies should cover this type of accident under your comprehensive coverage. You may need to have your co-worker file a claim with HER insurance, which will then seek to collect from your insurance company.

**RAY:** We hope it's just the radio, Jonathan. That would be a small price for this kind of mistake. And by the way, they now sell "idiot-proof" jumper cables, which won't operate if you hook them up incorrectly. Go out and buy two pair.

— — —  
*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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## Toys For Kids Program Starting Up Again

Community wide agencies, organizations and volunteers are working together to make the holidays brighter this year through the annual Yankton Toys for Kids program.

The Yankton Toys for Kids wish list is being compiled for children in need, ages 0-18, who live in Yankton County. A release form and a wish list are to be completed and returned by Nov. 9 and are available at Head Start, County Health Office, Contact Center, South Dakota Department of Labor, Economic Assistance, and Division of Child Protection. An agency referral is required to qualify for the Yankton Toys for Kids program.

Donations of new, unwrapped toys, appropriate for ages 0 to 18, are being collected now through Saturday, Dec. 15, and can be dropped off at Robinson Motors, 1003 E Highway 50, or starting after Thanksgiving, at the Yankton Mall.

You may also "adopt a family" through the Yankton Toys for Kids Adoption Program, which enables businesses, community members or organizations to provide clothing, food and gifts to families experiencing tough times. Volunteer "adopters" are paired with a local family in need and provided with

ages, clothing sizes and special requests.

Last year, the Yankton Toys for Kids program served more than 350 children. This year, an increased need is anticipated, so consider ways your family or business can help.

If you would like more information on the Yankton Toys for Kids program, call the United Way & Volunteer Services' Office at (605) 665-6766.

# Longtime Indian Activist Russell Means Dies At 72

BY DIRK LAMMERS AND KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Russell Means spent a lifetime as a modern American Indian warrior. He railed against broken treaties, fought for the return of stolen land and even took up arms against the federal government.

A onetime leader of the American Indian Movement, he called national attention to the plight of impoverished tribes and often lamented the waning of Indian culture. After leaving the movement in the 1980s, the handsome, braided activist was still a cultural presence, appearing in several movies.

Means, who died Monday from throat cancer at age 72, helped lead the 1973 uprising at Wounded Knee — a bloody confrontation that raised America's awareness about the struggles of Indians and gave rise to a wider protest movement that lasted for the rest of the decade.

Before AIM, there were few national advocates for American Indians. Means was one of the first to emerge. He sought to restore Indians' pride in their culture and to challenge a government that had paid little attention to tribes in generations. He was also one of the first to urge sports teams to do away with Indian names and mascots.

"No one except Hollywood stars and very rich Texans wore Indian jewelry," Means said, recalling the early days of the movement. And there were dozens, if not hundreds, of athletic teams "that in essence were insulting us, from grade schools to college. That's all changed."

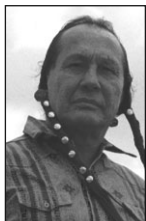
AIM was founded in the late 1960s to demand that the government honor its treaties with American Indian tribes. The movement eventually faded away, Means said, as Native Americans became more self-aware and self-determined.

There were plenty of American Indian activists before AIM, but it became the "radical media go-rilla," said Paul DeMain, editor of News from Indian Country, a national newspaper focused on tribal affairs.

"If someone needed help, you called on the American Indian Movement, and they showed up and caused all kind of ruckus and looked beautiful on a 20-second clip on TV that night," DeMain said.

Means and AIM co-founder Dennis Banks were charged in 1974 for their role in the Wounded Knee uprising in which hundreds of protesters occupied the town on the site of the 1890 Indian massacre. Protesters and federal authorities were locked in a standoff for 71 days and frequently exchanged gunfire. Before it was over, two tribal members were killed and a federal agent seriously wounded.

After a trial that lasted several months, a judge threw out the charges on grounds of government misconduct.



Means

Other protests led by Means included an American Indian prayer vigil on top of Mount Rushmore and the seizure of a replica of the Mayflower on Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth, Mass.

But Means' constant quest for the spotlight raised doubts about his motives. Critics who included many fellow tribe members said his main interest was building his own notoriety.

Means said his most important accomplishment was the proposal for the Republic of Lakotah, a plan to carve out a sovereign Indian nation inside the United States. He took the idea all the way to the United Nations, even though it was ignored by tribal governments closer to home, including his own Oglala Sioux leaders, with whom he often clashed.

For decades, Means was dogged by questions about whether the group promoted violence, especially the 1975 slaying of a woman in the tribe and the gun battles with federal agents at Wounded Knee.

Authorities believe three AIM members shot and killed Annie Mae Aquash on the Pine Ridge reservation on the orders of someone in AIM's leadership because they suspected she was an FBI informant.

Two activists — Arlo Looking Cloud and John Graham — were both eventually convicted of murder. The third has never been charged.

Also in 1975, murder charges were filed against Means and Dick Marshall, an AIM member, in the shooting death of a Sioux man at a saloon in the town of scenic, S.D. Marshall served 24 years in prison. Means was acquitted.

His activism extended to tribes beyond the United States. In the mid-1980s, Means traveled to Nicaragua to support indigenous Miskito Indians who were fighting the Sandinista government.

Born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Means grew up in the San Francisco area and battled drugs and alcohol as a young man before becoming an early leader of AIM.

He also was known for a handful of Hollywood roles, most notably in the 1992 movie "The Last of the Mohicans," in which he portrayed Chingachgook alongside Daniel Day-Lewis' Hawkeye.

He also appeared in the 1994 film "Natural Born Killers," voiced Chief Powhatan in the 1995 animated film "Pocahontas" and guest starred in 2004 on the HBO series "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

Means also ran unsuccessfully for the Libertarian nomination for president in 1988 and briefly served as a vice presidential candidate in 1984 on the ticket of Hustler publisher Larry Flynt.

Means died at his ranch in Porcupine, S.D. He announced in August 2011 that he had inoperable throat cancer and told The Associated Press that he would forego mainstream medicine in favor of traditional American Indian remedies.

## Woman Asks For Stay In Moeller Execution

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A woman with loose family ties to South Dakota death row inmate Donald Moeller asked a federal judge Monday to stop Moeller's upcoming execution.

Moeller, 60, has said he's ready to accept death as the consequence for the 1990 kidnapping, rape and murder of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell. His execution is set for the week of Oct. 28.

Donna Nichols, whose mother married Moeller's stepfather, said in her filing that Moeller wasn't psychologically qualified to dismiss his appeals. She claims that Moeller's years of confinement and psychological problems have made him incapable of making voluntary and rational decisions.

Nichols, of Sioux Falls, did not appear at the Monday hearing. Her Rapid City-based attorney, Robert Van Norman, asked U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol via teleconference to issue a stay and appoint Nichols as a friend of the court.

Moeller, who recently asked Judge Piersol to dismiss his appeals and let him die, said there's no real connection between him and Nichols.

"She's not family," he told the judge. "She's not been a friend."

Piersol took the attorneys' arguments under advisement and said he'll issue a prompt decision.

The judge has upheld the constitutionality of Moeller's conviction and sentence, but he hadn't ruled on the constitutionality of a South Dakota Department of Corrections execution policy that was changed last year.

Arkansas attorneys who had been representing Moeller had hoped to press forward with claims that South Dakota's use of the drug pentobarbital in a one-drug method would inflict cruel and unusual punishment, but his successful request to halt his appeals made that impossible.

Moeller's new attorney, Mark Marshall, said Monday that the motion to appoint Nichols as a friend in the case appears to be an effort by the Arkansas attorneys to continue to insert their wishes over Moeller's.

Marshall said Moeller wants the execution to proceed.

Authorities said Moeller kidnapped O'Connell from a Sioux Falls convenience store, drove her to a secluded area near the Big Sioux River, then raped and killed her. Her naked body was found the next day. She had been

stabbed and her throat was slashed.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Moeller has accepted responsibility for his actions and understands the lethal injection process.

Last week, Eric Robert became only the 17th person to be executed in the state or Dakota Territory since 1877.

Robert, who pleaded guilty to killing a prison guard, is the first South Dakota inmate to die under the state's new single-drug lethal injection method.

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