

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:

Moments Of Time Enjoying Nature

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

In our busy times, the briefest pause to express a little interest in the natural world is praiseworthy. Most of us spend our time thinking about other people, and scarcely any time thinking about other creatures. I recently co-edited an anthology of poems about birds, and we looked through lots of books and magazines, but here is a fine poem we missed, by Tara Bray, who lives in Richmond, Virginia.

ONCE

I climbed the roll of hay to watch the heron
in the pond. He waded a few steps out,
then back, thrusting his beak under water,
pulling it up empty, but only once.
Later I walked the roads for miles, certain
he'd be there when I returned. How is it for him,
day after day, his brittle legs rising
from warm green scum, his graceful neck curled,
damp in the bright heat? It's a dull world.
Every day, the same roads, the sky,
the dust, the barn caving into itself,
the tin roof twisted and scattered in the yard.
Again, the bank covered with oxeye daisy
that turns to spiderwort, to chicory,
and at last to goldenrod. Each year, the birds—
thick in the air and darting in wild numbers—
grow quiet, the grasses thin, the light leaves
earlier each day. The heron stood
stone-still on my spot when I returned.
And then, his wings burst open, lifting the steel-
blue rhythm of his body into flight.
I touched the warm hay. Hoping for a trace
of his wild smell, I cupped my hands over
my face: nothing but the heat of fields
and skin. It wasn't long before the world
began to breathe the beat of ordinary hours,
stretching out again beneath the sky.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2006 by Tara Bray, and reprinted from her most recent book of poems, *Mistaken for Song*, Persea Books, Inc., 2009, by permission of the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2010 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.

SCHOOL

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out the state money that has been allocated already and replaced it with federal dollars. The schools haven't gotten any additional funds. ... If you take a look at the stimulus dollars that have been sent to the schools and what has been taken away by the state, the state is actually spending less than they were years ago — something they are going to have to correct when the stimulus dollars go away. And they ARE going to go away. ... Stressing that the Yankton School District has been serious about using its resources wisely, Gertsema noted that it is only the general fund that is facing issues.

"We are talking about the general fund and 87 percent of the general fund goes to staffing and benefits," he said. "If you take a look at the district we have always been cautious to not over staff our schools. We have always made a point to keep down our expenditures. With the way it is going, we as a school district just can't keep up."

While the school board took the position to not make cuts this year, the district faces a real challenge next year.

"We are going to have to start looking at cuts this next school year; some adjustments are going to have to be made," Gertsema said. "I hope that the Legislature does a better job this year in taking care of the schools, because if they don't, it really does only leave one option for the schools: It forces school district opt outs from the tax levies. That is the direction we are being forced to go in. It is not unusual in the state. If you look at the schools around us, most of them have already had one opt-out if not two times, and some of them are planning on going for their third."

Other business during Monday's meeting included:

- postponing approval of the new absenteeism policy and procedures until it can be reviewed to make sure all statutes are enforceable;
- approving purchase of the property at 917 Locust adjacent to Lincoln Elementary School out of the capital outlay fund; and,
- hearing a report on the school district report card that will be submitted to the state as part of No Child Left Behind requirements.

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Press & Dakotan

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How To Stop In An Emergency

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
I just saw a few minutes of "Worst Case Scenario: Brakes Fail" on TV, and it seemed like they were suggesting the opposite of what I've always been told. Basically, the host was saying if you're going under 20 mph, then you should try to downshift or use the emergency brake. But if you're going over 20 mph, you shouldn't downshift, because it could cause the transmission to break off, and you'd lose control. Instead, he said you should try to generate friction by swerving, or running into guardrails or small bushes. He also said that if you're going over 20 mph, you should not use your emergency brake. In the show, he was driving (well, sliding and skidding) down several hills before finally driving through some mailboxes and bushes, and into a tree. What do you guys think of his advice? — Matt

RAY: Well, I think he was negligent in failing to suggest that you sideswipe a few parked cars on the way to the tree. That would have been more fun!

TOM: Actually, these days it's very hard to lose all of your brakes. Cars have dual braking systems. So if you wanted to cut someone's brake line and cause him to drive over a cliff to his certain death, these days you'd have to cut more than one of his brake



CLICK & CLACK

lines. And in the real world, without mischief involved, it's unlikely that both halves of the brake system would fail simultaneously.

RAY: Now, it may FEEL like you've lost your brakes, because you may have lost half of them. And when you have a 4,000-pound vehicle, half of your brakes makes a big difference. But the first piece of advice we'd give is to stand really hard on the brake pedal. Your car may have more braking power than you realize.

TOM: The next thing to do is downshift. It doesn't matter what speed you're traveling.

If you have an automatic transmission, go right to the lowest gear. Modern transmissions are electronically regulated, and the computer won't allow the transmission to go into too low a gear. It'll drop to the lowest appropriate gear for your current speed — which will help — and then it will drop down again once you've slowed down some more.

RAY: So the transmission will not break off. But even if it does, what do you care? Your interest is in saving your life and those of other innocent people. A transmission can always be replaced.

TOM: Once you've downshifted, then I would advise you to apply the parking brake. You'll notice that carmakers no longer call it the "emergency brake." Their lawyers made them change the name, because it didn't always work in an emergency. But it might work, and it often will work, so you absolutely should give it a try, regardless of speed.

RAY: And then, if all of that fails, start looking for soft stuff to crash into. An unmanned roadside farmer's market is ideal, as lettuce has proven to be an excellent energy absorber. Good luck, Matt.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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MMC

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knowledge of hands-on nursing skills. It's also critical that instructors are able to communicate the importance of how to treat people and work with hospital staff as a team.

On occasion, Holzbauer enjoys illustrating to students that the length of her experience can be traced back to helping develop Sacred Heart Hospital's first intensive care unit.

"Those types of units are so common now we tend to think they were always there," she said. "I sometimes tell students that I was part of the team that developed our hospital's first ICU. That usually surprises them."

As much as things have changed in nursing programs over the years with advancement of technology and nursing techniques, Holzbauer says some foundational nursing principles haven't changed at all.

"I've always told students that they need to be able to care for the whole patient," she noted. "The best nursing students cultivate observation and communication skills so they can attend to the whole patient. One of our former doctors used to say if you can't walk into a room and look at a patient, don't even pick up the stethoscope. You have to connect with a patient to provide the best quality care."

Among the new developments at Mount Marty's nursing department is the plan to develop a simulation lab that will enhance student learning resources. While technology and medical updates are key to students' training, Holzbauer says the faith-based element of the program is equally important.

"We stress caring for the entire patient, that we don't just care for the patient's body but

also for their mind and spirit, the whole person," she said. "There are a number of ways we incorporate the subtleties of faith into the program, such as the pledging and pinning ceremonies. Students pledge to care for people by reciting the Florence Nightingale pledge. We also bless their hands. I think these are very meaningful rites of passage when our students are accepted into the Nursing program and when they graduate."

Working to develop the best possible academic path for each student is another strength of Mount Marty's program. Holzbauer said teaching staff makes every effort to assess each student's strengths and potential in order to ensure their success in their nursing career.

"I still receive cards all the time from graduates who express their appreciation for the quality of the nursing foundation they received here," Holzbauer said. "When our graduates leave here, they feel comfortable working in any part of the country because of the excellent training they found here."

Holzbauer believes Mount Marty's nursing program created a symbiotic relationship that resulted in benefits to both the program and the college over the years.

"Our program prepares many students to go on to graduate school and Mount Marty's masters program in anesthesia," she said. "Some students began with a career path in mind and then found another path that was more suited to them. We see much more diversity in our students now, with more adult students entering the program. Graduates find many more job opportunities now than they did 50 years ago. The professional vision and insight that initiated the program 50 years ago is still at the core of the program today."

Call Mount Marty College at 605-668-1517 for details.

CITY

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he said.

Russell said the state will bear the cost of the signals at that intersection, as well as Fourth and Walnut, and will probably split the cost with the city on Fourth and Douglas.

Also at the meeting, Russell discussed fluctuations in the water pressure resulting from painting the water tower at Memorial Park.

"We've had to take that tank off-line and adjust some of our pressure zones," he said. "We've experienced three major breaks in the past week already, so we're just kind of monitoring to see where that's at."

People who notice water coming up from the ground are instructed to notify the city.

In other city news, the commissioners also passed a bid award for the construction of a

wildlife fence at the Chan Gurney Airport, a project that has been on the capital improvement plan for the past few years.

"We've gotten to the point in the capital improvement plan where this is the highest priority of the state aeronautics division that handles this portion in the state of South Dakota," Russell said.

The woven wire fence will be eight feet tall, with another perimeter line up to 10 feet, he said.

Ninety-five percent of the project will be funded through a grant from the state aeronautics division. The state will also provide another 2 percent of the funding, leaving the city to cover the remaining three.

Also included will be funding for future study in "the next potential project within the capital improvement plan, which would be hangar relocation, environmental reviews and studies like that," Russell said.

Bruce and Donna Schwarz of Yankton, SD, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 19.

Their family requests a card shower. Cards may be sent to 43076 Lakeport Rd., Yankton, SD 57078.

The couple has four children: Jennifer Hauger, Yankton; Danielle McFarland, Crofton; Laure Gardner, Yankton; and Erin Schulte, Burke. The couple has 10 grandchildren.

Mr. & Mrs. Schwarz

WHO IS JAY?



Jay Williams is a candidate for the South Dakota House of Representatives from Yankton County.

- Born and Raised on a Farm in South Dakota
- Graduated from the University of Wisconsin on a US Navy scholarship
- US Navy Veteran/ Naval Aviator
- Owns and Operates a High Tech Business in Yankton
- Dedicated Family Man

WHY HE'S RUNNING:

- Employment — to get more high paying jobs in South Dakota.
- Environment — to preserve our clean air and water.
- Education — our children are our future.

Jay Williams for State House

Paid for by Yankton County Democrats
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q232QFDpA8>

408 James Place, Yankton, SD 57078.

Lois Boller and Don Modereger were married on Sept. 16, 1945, in Vermillion, SD. They have 3 children: Donna "Midge" Stengle, Yankton, SD; Jeff Modereger, Burlington, VT; and Brian (Michelle) Modereger, Desoto, KS. They have five grandchildren: Staci, Matt and Kelsey Stengle, and Charlie and Katie Modereger. The couple also has one grandson, Jonas Stengle.

Mr. & Mrs. Modereger
Mrs. and Mrs. Don and Lois Modereger of Yankton, SD, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 16, 2010. Their family requests a card shower. Cards may be sent to:

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