

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:

Parenting: The First 40 Years Are The Hardest

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

One of my friends told me he'd seen a refrigerator magnet that read, Parenting: The First 40 Years Are The Hardest. Here's a fine poem about parenthood, and about letting go of children, by Chana Bloch, who lives in Berkeley, California.

THROUGH A GLASS

On the crown of his head
where the fontanelle pulsed
between spongy bones,
a bald spot is forming, globed and sleek
as a monk's tonsure.

I was the earliest pinch of civilization,
the one who laced him
into shoe leather
when he stumbled into walking upright.
"Shoes are unfair to children," he'd grouse.

Through a pane of glass
that shivers when the wind kicks up
I watch my son walk away.

He's out the door, up the street, around
a couple of corners by now.
I'm in for life.

He trips; my hand flies out;

I yank it back.

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State Historical Society Offers Property Tax Moratorium

PIERRE — A new application is available from the South Dakota State Historical Society for the eight-year state historic preservation property tax moratorium for restoration and rehabilitation made to historic sites.

The deadline to apply is Nov. 1. Twenty-four properties across the state were approved by the State Historical Society Board of Trustees for the program last year.

"These approvals are significant," said Jay D. Vogt, State Historical Society director and state historic preservation officer. "If a historic building qualifies for the tax benefit because of certified improvements, an eight-year delay is placed on the property tax assessment. The assessments may

not be increased due to certified rehabilitation of the building."

The state property tax moratorium is available for buildings listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places and rehabilitated in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The 24 projects approved for the program in 2009 represented nearly \$6.7 million in private investment in South Dakota's historic buildings, he said.

For more information about the State Historic Preservation Property Tax Moratorium, contact the State Historical Society at (605) 773-3458 or visit the society's website at www.history.sd.gov.

There's A Hole In The Tailpipe

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI



CLICK & CLACK

Dear Tom and Ray:
My wife has a 1994 Toyota Camry with a very loud exhaust. I figured there has to be a hole somewhere causing this. So, when I got home today, I started her car and could tell that the noise was coming from the front. As soon as I looked underneath, I could see a hole. It is well before the manifold, in plain view, and is located on the pipe. But it's not a rust hole or a crack; it looks like a hole that was intentionally put there. Then I immediately noticed, hanging right next to it, a small tube that looks like an exact fit for the hole. It is obvious that this tube is supposed to be connected to this pipe. What is it, and is it an easy fix? — Jeff

RAY: Boy, you're really taxing the old brain cells by asking us to remember what the exhaust pipe on a '94 Camry looks like. Sure you don't want to quiz us on the Second Italo-Abyssinian War instead?

TOM: I think that hole was some kind of test port.

RAY: I think my brother's right. A lot of

cars from that era had a tube in the engine compartment that plugged right into the exhaust pipe, before the catalytic converter. It allowed the mechanic to stick a probe into the tube and analyze the pre-converter exhaust.

TOM: Then he could compare that reading with the exhaust coming out the tailpipe

— on the other side of the converter — and see how well the converter was working.
RAY: But that tube has now rusted off, and all you're left with is the hole. And since you really don't need the tube anymore, just have someone weld or braze the hole shut for you.

TOM: Or you can go with my brother's favorite exhaust repair product: frozen concentrated orange juice cans.

RAY: Nah, they haven't been the same since they switched over to cardboard. Too many fires! In any case, I wouldn't spend a lot of money on repairing it, because chances are good you're going to have to replace the whole exhaust system before long. If that connector has rusted off, chances are there's a lot more rust where that came from, Jeff. Good luck.

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 e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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Lower James Celebrates National RC&D Week

The Lower James Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) will join its members and friends nationwide to commemorate National RC&D Week. This year, RC&D Week, held annually to celebrate the continued success of the RC&D Program, runs from Sept. 19-25.

Lower James RC&D is a local-led non-profit organization covering seven counties in southeast South Dakota. The council was federally authorized in 1974 and became a non-profit organization in 1991. With its headquarters in the Mitchell USDA Service Center, it has a unique partnership with the

USDA through its natural resource conservation and rural development related mission.

Since 1974 Lower James RC&D, with the help of the conservation districts, county commissioners, city officials and many others, has been instrumental in implementing more than 400 locally led projects for sponsors in the seven-county area of Aurora, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Sanborn, and Yankton counties.

Lower James RC&D's completed projects have ranged from relatively small campground/trail/tourism type improvement projects to large million dollar multi-county water-

shed projects and enterprise facilitation work in conjunction with business start-ups and expansions. Council members are volunteers who want to make their communities better places to live, work and play. To learn more about Lower James RC&D visit <http://www.sdrcd.org/LowerJames.aspx>

In 2010, RC&D Week commemorates the 46th anniversary of the RC&D Program and nationally recognizes local RC&D Councils and their many partners and projects. To date, 375 RC&D Councils have been established in all 50 states, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands region, covering 85

percent of United States counties and serving more than 77 percent of the population.

"For many years now, RC&D Councils have helped plan and carry out activities that increase the conservation of our precious natural resources while supporting economic development and enhancing the standard of living in local communities across America," said James Sipperly, president of the National Association of RC&D Councils. "Because these Councils are locally organized, sponsored, and led, they provide an ideal way for folks to join together to improve the quality of life in their communities."

Communities Receive \$1.4 Million For Alcohol Prevention

PIERRE — Gov. Mike Rounds has announced that \$1.4 million has been awarded to 26 community coalitions across South Dakota for alcohol prevention services.

The South Dakota Department of Human Services received the alcohol prevention funds federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The federal grant funds will enhance state South Dakota's

efforts to build to build community partnerships that to focus on coordinate prevention alcohol prevention initiatives for efforts targeting youth and young adults.

The grant supports an extensive collaboration to strengthen the state/local prevention system.

Coalitions will use these funds to assess local substance abuse issues and develop tailored local prevention plans. Coalitions

implementing effective alcohol prevention strategies may be eligible for additional funding for up to four years to implement effective alcohol prevention strategies.

The \$1.4 million grant program supports an extensive collaboration to strengthen the state/local prevention system. Funded Coalitions in the area are:

• Coalition for a Drug Free Yankton — Yankton County, \$46,733

• USD Strategic Prevention Program — Vermillion, USD, \$50,000

For materials and additional information concerning this project, visit the "SD SPF SIG" website at <http://sdspf.org> or contact George Summerside at 605-773-3123.

Horizons Project's Statewide Fair Set For Fort Pierre

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service will host a Horizons community resource fair and conference on Sept. 24-25.

The conference theme is "Road to Success" and takes place at the AmericInn, 312 Island Dr., Fort Pierre. The event is open to all communities in the state, and will focus on resources and ideas for rural areas. Registration before Sept. 21 is required for participants who wish to take part in the noon meal on Sept. 25.

To register, or for more information, call Kari Fruechte at 605-685-6972 or e-mail her at this address: kari.fruechte@sdstate.edu. Or call organizer Debbie Bortnem at 605-688-6191, or e-mail her at

this address: Deborah.bortnem@sdstate.edu.

A pre-conference social begins at 6 p.m. on Sept. 24 for members of Horizons communities. It will include complimentary appetizers, community displays, and networking. Elsie Meeks, director of the USDA Rural Development for South Dakota, will give an opening address at 7:30 p.m. After the presentation, participants can take part in a "Futures Game" or view documentary clips about helping families succeed in communities.

On Sept. 25, the conference begins at 8:30 a.m. with a keynote presentation by Ben

Winchester, a research fellow with the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Community Vitality. His talk is titled, "The Brain Gain of the Newcomers." Several breakout sessions take place during the day and they offer ideas for community development. A wide range of vendors of South Dakota that offer community development programs, from CAP agencies to grant and loan providers and housing agencies, also will be on hand Saturday.

The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service Horizons program is sponsoring the free event.

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