

American Life in Poetry

The Good Old Days

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

How could we publish a column about American Life in Poetry without including a poem about a high school reunion? This is from Barbara Crooker's Selected Poems from Futurecycle Press. She lives in Pennsylvania.

25TH REUNION

A quarter of a century
since we left high school,
and we've gathered at a posh restaurant.
A little heavier, a little grayer,
we look for the yearbook pictures
caught inside these bodies of strangers.
Some of our faces are etched with lines,
the faint tracing of a lover's touch,
and some of our hair is silver-white,
a breath of frost. And some of us are gone.
But he's here, the dark angel,
everyone's last lover, up at the microphone
singing Save the last dance for me;
he's singing a cappella, the notes rising
sweetly, yearningly toward the ceiling,
which is now festooned with tissue flowers,
paper streamers, balloons.
And we're all eighteen again,
lines and wrinkles erased, gray hairs gone,
our slim bodies back, the perfect editing.
A saxophone keens its reedy insistence;
scents of gardenias and tea roses float in the air
from our wrist corsages and boutonnières.
No children or lovers have broken our hearts,
it's just all of us, together,
in our fresh young skin,
ready to do it all over again.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. 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. "Heaven's Gate," from DARK ENERGY by Robert Morgan, copyright © 2015 by Robert Morgan. Used by permission of Viking Books, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House, LLC. Introduction copyright © 2015 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.

Car Talk

You Shouldn't Have To Worry About Tire Wear

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:
I park in a parking garage for work, and I have a question about tire wear. I usually park on level 4 or 5, and the only turns that are made are right-handed (clockwise), for both entering and exiting. My question is: Will one side of my tires wear more quickly than the other? Thanks!

—Rodney

Rodney, it's really tempting to tell you that every other day you have to drive backward up and down the ramps just to keep your tire wear even. But the truth is, you don't have to worry about it.

If you were spending all day driving up and down those ramps, then yes, you might wear out the tires on the left side of your car faster than the tires on the right.

But the amount of wear your tires get from going up and down those ramps once a day is tiny compared to the wear they get driving around the rest of the time. So you don't need to do anything.

If it'll make you sleep better at night, one thing

you can do is simply rotate your tires on a regular basis to even out the wear.

For instance, when you get your oil changed every 7,500 miles or so, you can have your mechanic swap the tires around.

I think you'll find that a lot easier than backing up four or five stories of ramps on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Just don't ask your mechanic if making all those right turns on ramps is wearing out your left

springs faster than your right springs. They're a lot more expensive to rotate than tires.

What's the best way to warm up your engine in the morning? Find out by ordering Car Talk's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Car Talk/Ruin, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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ON THIS DATE

75 YEARS AGO

Sunday, September 1, 1940
No paper.

50 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, September 1, 1965
• Two people are in Sacred Heart Hospital for treatment following accidents in Yankton Tuesday, and another was given outpatient treatment by the hospital and released. Catherine C. Hawley was reported in fair condition this morning with a facial injury.
• In keeping with a philosophy that a spirit of family living on campus leads to academic excellence, a series of orientation activities has been arranged to acquaint new students with Mount Marty College. Under supervision of Sister M.

LOTTERIES

MONDAY'S RESULTS

2 BY 2: Red Balls: 6-19, White Balls: 6-20

MYDAY: Month: 5, Day: 13, Year: 57
PICK 3: 9-2-1
PICK 5: 15-16-20-32-33

Wrongly Convicted 'Beatrice 6' To Get New Trial In Lawsuit

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A federal appeals court ruled Monday that six people wrongly convicted in a 1985 slaying of a woman in southeast Nebraska should get a new trial in their lawsuit against the officials who prosecuted them.

The 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals said a jury should decide whether Gage County officials conspired to build the case against the six in the 1985 killing of Helen Wilson in Beatrice.

The appellate court said a lower court judge was wrong to dismiss several claims against Gage County and several officials with the sheriff's department.

The initial trial in the lawsuit ended in mistrial in January.

One of the attorneys defending the county officials, Pat O'Brien said he is still reviewing Monday's ruling and hasn't decided whether to pursue an additional appeal.

The wrongly convicted individuals — known as the Beatrice Six — served a combined 77 years in prison before DNA testing cleared them in 2008.

The individuals have argued that Gage County investigators recklessly strove to close the case, rather than seek justice. The six —

James Dean, Kathleen Gonzalez, Debra Shelden, Ada JoAnn Taylor, Joseph White and Thomas Winslow — also argued Gage County failed to properly train investigators.

Three of the six confessed and implicated the others. White's estate and the five others are seeking at least \$14 million for violations of their civil rights and because they say they were coerced into making incriminating statements. White died in 2011.

The Appeals Court said Monday that the wrongly convicted individuals submitted substantial evidence to support a conspiracy, including that investigators suggested to Dean, Shelden and Gonzalez that they had repressed their memories of the crime, conducted unreported interrogations, disregarded inconsistencies and ignored verifiable alibis.

These six individuals were the first people in the state cleared by DNA evidence, which was made possible by a 2007 Nebraska Supreme Court ruling.

After the evidence from Wilson's rape and murder was tested, authorities said the crime had been linked to Bruce Allen Smith, who grew up in Beatrice, returned to town days before the slaying and then quickly went back to Oklahoma. He died of AIDS in 1992 at the age of 30.

Federal Government Files Suit Against Landlord

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The U.S. government has filed a lawsuit against a St. Louis landlord, alleging he refused to let a tenant with a fractured leg move back into an apartment over concerns that a wheelchair could damage the carpet.

The suit, filed Friday in U.S. District Court in St. Louis on behalf of Daniel Loring, seeks unspecified damages from Calvin L. Salem and the Alice B. Salem Family Trust.

Loring was using a walker in August 2013 when he leased one of the apartment building's rental units. After Loring fractured his left tibia in January 2014, he spent three months recovering in a skilled nursing facility while using a wheelchair.

The government alleges that after visiting Loring at the skilled nursing facility, Salem wrote a February 2014 letter to the facility saying that Loring was not capable of living independently, that he should be in a nursing home and that he could not return to the apartment using a wheelchair because it could damage the carpet.

The lawsuit alleges that Salem's actions violated Loring's rights under the Fair Housing Act.

"The discriminatory actions of the Defendants were intentional, willful and taken in reckless disregard of the rights of Mr. Loring," the lawsuit said.

A phone message left for Salem on Monday was not immediately returned.

The suit said that Loring continued paying the rent for the apartment through

WALL ST. RECAP

Stocks fell moderately on Monday, as a spike in crude oil prices helped offset steeper declines. The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended August down 6.3 percent, its worst showing since May 2012.

FOR THE DAY:

The Dow fell 114.98 points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,528.03.
The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 16.69 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,972.18.
The Nasdaq composite fell 51.82 points, or 1.1 percent, to 4,776.51.

FOR THE YEAR:

The Dow is down 1,295.04 points, or 7.3 percent.
The S&P 500 index is down 86.72 points, or 4.2 percent.
The Nasdaq is up 40.45 points, or 0.9 percent.

BOARD OF TRADE

CHICAGO (AP) — Grain futures were mixed Monday on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Wheat for December delivery was up 1.25 cents to \$4.85 a bushel; December corn gained .25 cent to 3.7525 a bushel; December oats were up 1.75 cents to 2.3025 a bushel; while November soybeans advanced 2 cents to \$8.875 a bushel.

Beef fell while pork rose on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. October live cattle was off .77 cent to \$1.4320 a pound; October feeder cattle lost 1.05 cents to \$1.9787 a pound; while October lean hogs rose 1.60 cents to \$.6802 a pound.

Woman Ran Over Other Woman With Car

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Law enforcement authorities say a St. Louis woman is facing charges after she ran over a woman with her car.

The *Argus Leader* reports 33-year-old Heather Foster-Duff has been arrested on aggravated assault and robbery charges.

St. Louis Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the incident happened Saturday when the victim was leaving a restaurant.

Clemens says the 51-year-old victim and Foster-Duff saw each other in the parking lot and got into a fight over items that Foster-Duff believed the victim had stolen from her in the past.

Foster-Duff grabbed the victim's wallet and ran into the car. The woman tried to get her wallet, and at that point, Foster-Duff drove away, dragging the woman. When the victim let go, the car ran over her.

It wasn't immediately clear Monday if Foster-Duff has legal representation.

Polo Tradition Ends In Black Hills

HILL CITY (AP) — A 30-year tradition between two polo teams in the Black Hills has come to an end because of problems coordinating the annual matches.

The Rapid City Black Hills Polo Club and the Hill City Rushmore Polo and Social Club took to the field for the final time on Sunday afternoon. Although Hill City had won the past five years, Rapid City emerged victorious Sunday in a high-scoring 8-6 match.

"It's bittersweet," said Sandy Keating, who spends her summers in the Black Hills and the winters in Las Vegas. "There will be no more, but today we're putting on the ritz and enjoying the day."

The two clubs began playing in 1985 and held the Picnic and Polo event at Newton Fork Ranch for the past 25 years, the *Rapid City Journal* reports. But they decided to quit this year because it's becoming increasingly difficult to organize matches and train the horses.

Although Sunday's match was the last for the Rapid City and Hill City clubs, polo will continue in the Black Hills — Spearfish started a club several years ago.

Duane Lammers, a member of Rapid City's team, hopes the two teams will eventually be able to come together for another match.

"We all said this might be our farewell tour," he said. "It's getting harder for us, but it's the most fun you can have on a horse. It's been fun."

State's Wealthiest Man Is Insolvent

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A man thought to be one of the wealthiest in South Dakota says he is insolvent.

Tom Vucurevich, of Rapid City, heir to the late banking magnate and philanthropist John T. Vucurevich, has notified creditors including the city of Sioux Falls that he and his wife, Claudia, do not have the money to pay debts, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported.

"Taking into account the liabilities and claims against Mr. and Mrs. Vucurevich, together with the assets that Mr. Dell and I have been able to identify and reasonably value, Mr. and Mrs. Vucurevich are insolvent," said the report compiled by Michael Dell, an accountant for Vucurevich, and independent economist Donald Frankenfeld.

Vucurevich referred questions to his attorney, Mark O'Leary, who said he doesn't publicly discuss matters related to his clients.

About 20 creditors have claims of more than \$11 million. The claims were generated when Vucurevich struck deals with some of the former lenders and business partners of his son, Kent Vucurevich, who declared bankruptcy in 2011.

The city of Sioux Falls is suing to recoup \$279,000 in utility costs from a housing development. Assistant City Attorney Diane Best declined comment.

"Tom is a great man," said Jason Appel, executive vice president at Plains Commerce Bank, which has the largest claim, \$4.7 million. "He and his family have done a lot for the state and Rapid City. He has said he is going to sort his way through this, and we believe him."

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