

American Life In Poetry

School Drills

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

I've seen many poems about the atomic bomb drills that schoolchildren were put through during the Cold War, but this one reaches beyond that experience. John Philip Johnson lives and writes in Nebraska, and has an illustrated book of poems, *Stairs Appear in a Hole Outside of Town*.

THERE HAVE COME SOFT RAINS

In kindergarten during the Cold War, mid-day late bells jolted us, sending us single file into the hallway, where we sat, pressing our heads between our knees, waiting.

During one of the bomb drills, Annette was standing. My mother said I would talk on and on about her, about how pretty she was. I still remember her that day, curly hair and pretty dress, looking perturbed the way little children do. Why Annette? There's nothing to be upset about— The bombs won't get us, I've seen what's to come—it is the days, the steady pounding of days, like gentle rain, that will be our undoing.

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DAV Forget-Me-Not Days In Yankton

The days of Sept. 18-19 have been selected as the dates of the annual Forget-Me-Not Days of the Disabled American Veterans in Yankton. On those days, Forget-Me-Nots (small blue flowers of remembrance) will be handed out by volunteers at businesses in Yankton.

Funds raised by the project will be applied directly to the assistance of local Disabled Veterans and their families during the coming year.

It's easy to show you remember and appreciate the sacrifice of the men and women who became disabled in the service of their country by wearing a Forget-Me-Not on Sept. 18-19.

The first time DAV members ever offered little blue

Forget-Me-Nots to the public was Feb. 24, 1926. The first DAV Forget-Me-Not drive was held to raise funds to support DAV services and assistance desperately needed by veterans disabled in World War I.

The idea grew out of an image carried home from the First World War in the memories of soldiers who had seen spring flowers growing among the graves of comrades and allies killed in the fighting. A man could respond to such a scene, with its promise of new life following the sacrifices of so many. The poem "In Flanders Field," by Canadian Colonel John McCrae, immortalized the image, capturing the hearts of people yearning for peace.

Car Talk

When 'Check Engine' Light Is Flashing, Your Car Means Business

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2002 Lexus ES 300. The mechanic says that I have three cylinders misfiring in "bank 1." I don't know what to do. He sounds like he just wants money. He said it will be \$90 an hour just to find out what's making them misfire. The car is shaking, and the Check Engine light is blinking. What does it mean that cylinders are misfiring? And what is bank 1?

—Josh

Bank One was the name of that ballpark in Phoenix before they changed the name to "The Bank That Ate Bank One Ballpark."

Actually, in automotive terms, a bank is a set of cylinders. So, because you have a V-6 engine, you have two banks of three cylinders each. Those banks form a "V" shape. That's why they call it, what? A V-6!

And "misfiring" just means that a cylinder is not firing every time it's supposed to. Each cylinder in your engine is supposed to fire (that is, combust the fuel and air, and push the piston down) every other time the crankshaft turns. If a cylinder doesn't fire every time it's supposed to, it's said to be misfiring. That makes the engine run rough and the car shake. And if you have three out of six cylinders that are badly misfiring, the car will barely run at all.

In this car, as in many cars, the engine is installed transversely (aka sideways), so bank 1 is the cylinder



Ray
MAGLIOZZI

removing the pieces that are in the way of those plugs. He scraped his knuckles a few times, gave up, tossed the new spark plugs in his toolbox and said, "OK, pal, you're all set."

That would be a nice, easy solution. Those plugs should last 100,000 miles. But if the plugs in bank 1 have been in there for 150,000, while the plugs in bank 2 were changed at some point, that could cause your misfiring.

It also could be the coils. Each cylinder has a coil that generates the spark needed for the cylinder to fire. Those can go bad, too.

Or you could have a crack in an intake manifold gasket, creating a big vacuum leak. That would cause very rough idling and misfiring. If it is a vacuum leak, those symptoms should disappear when you run the car at high speed. So if you can drive it on the highway with no misfiring and adequate power, that suggests a vacuum leak.

But if the Check Engine light is

bank closest to the passenger compartment. That makes it hard to reach, and requires removing other parts to get at it.

So one possibility is that your spark plugs never got changed back there. Maybe you went in for a tune-up and some lazy mechanic had a hard time

flashing, you need to take care of this right away. That flashing light is warning you that the catalytic converter is being damaged. Your injectors are working, sending fuel into the cylinders, but the fuel isn't getting combusted. Instead, the unburned fuel is going right through the cylinders into the exhaust system, where it's ruining your catalytic converter. And that's many hundreds of dollars.

So if you don't trust this particular mechanic, you need to find one you do trust, Josh. Someone needs to figure this out for you. You might check www.cartalk.com/mechanics-files. That's a database of trusted and beloved mechanics, compiled by our own readers and radio listeners. You put in your ZIP code and read the love letters about shops in your area.

But don't panic and freeze up, Josh. It's going to cost you some money to diagnose and fix this, but not fixing it will cost you even more. Good luck.

In the pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Click and Clack break down the strategies for buying a car, so you can make the most of your money. Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Car Talk/Next Car, 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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Neb. Transportation Improvement Plan Revision Announced

project's scope of work.

An amendment, referred to as Revision 7, is available for public comment on the NDOR website <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/STIP/index-public-comment.html> from through Sept. 18.

The FHWA and the FTA will not approve the revision until the public comment period has ended and comments have been evaluated and incorporated in the revision as appropriate.

Copies of the Public Involvement Plan for the Nebraska Department of Roads' STIP are available from each of the eight district offices.

A copy of the proposed STIP Public Involvement Plan may be obtained upon request to the Communication Office, 1500 Highway 2, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759, or by calling (402) 479-4512 or by e-mail at maryjo.oie@nebraska.gov.

Under federal legislation, the Nebraska Department of Roads is required to have a public involvement plan for the STIP in place. This plan can be viewed at www.transportation.nebraska.gov/STIP/.

Federal law requires that all citizens and other interested parties in the State's

transportation planning process be given reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed STIP and on any proposed amendments to an approved STIP. NDOR uses statewide news releases and an automated email subscription management system called GovDelivery to inform the public and advise them of the means and time period to comment on STIP's and any amendments. All comments will be addressed and those responses reported to the FHWA and FTA.

Attorney General Warns Of Sextortion Scheme

PIERRE — Attorney General Marty Jackley is warning South Dakotans about a crime that is targeting social media sites and individuals of all ages. Predators meet individuals online, coerce them into sending sexually explicit photos or videos, and then use those images in a blackmail scheme.

The Division of Criminal Investigation has been investigating several incidents throughout the state over the past few days. The scheme begins with the predators establishing a relationship with individuals online through casual conversation, which leads to exchange and capturing of images and videos. The predators then threaten to release or distribute these materials in order to extort money.

Victims of this scheme are asked to contact local law enforcement.

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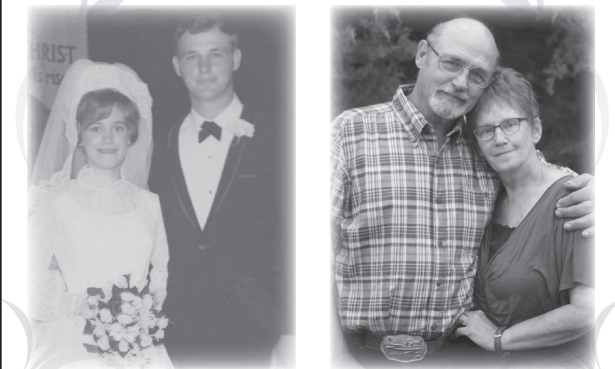


Jablonski-Taecker

Dr. Matthew Taecker and Kayla Jablonski of Great Falls, MT, would like to announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. Matthew Taecker is the son of Jeannine (Taecker) Hickey Reuer and grandson of Shirley Hickey of Chamberlain. The couple reside in Great Falls, MT, where Matthew is employed as an Emergency Room Physician and Kayla as a Registered Nurse, both at Benefis Hospital in Great Falls, MT.

Matthew is a 2001 graduate of Yankton High School and a 2006 graduate of Creighton Medical School in Omaha, NE. Matthew completed his residency at Denver General Hospital in Denver, CO in 2014. They are planning a September 26, 2015 wedding in Bozeman, MT. In the Spring of 2016, the couple will make their honeymoon destination in a 59 mile trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Africa.

45th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. & Mrs. Schwarz

Bruce and Donna Schwarz will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on September 19, 2015.

Donna Michael and Bruce Schwarz were married on September 19, 1970, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton, SD.

A social hour and dance will be held at the Utica Hall on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

Social hour beginning at 7:30 pm and a dance from 8pm-midnight. Music provided by Riverside Productions. Everyone is welcome to come and help celebrate this joyous occasion. The couple has four daughters and their spouses: Jennifer (Chris), Danielle (Dan), Laure (Jason) and Erin (Patrick). They have 14 grandchildren.

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