



# NLC Interchange

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Newsletter  
of the  
Nebraska  
Library  
Commission  
Talking Book  
& Braille  
Service

## Cassette Magazines for Summer Reading

The long days of summer are a time to appreciate living on the Great Plains. Here are three magazines from our own studios that highlight what we enjoy here on the prairie. *Capper's*, a monthly publication with a focus on small-town and rural living, includes reader contributions, recipes, poetry, nationally-known columnists, and a continuing story. *Country*, published bimonthly, offers feature stories and columns for those who live in or long for the country. It includes country diaries, travel, features, and recipes. *Great Plains Game and Fish*, published monthly, describes fishing and hunting hot spots in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

*Gardening How-To*, published bimonthly by the National Home Gardening Club, is filled with gardening tips, techniques, and equipment reviews. It is produced by Associated Services for the Blind.

For information about destinations a little further from home, *National Geographic Traveler*, a bimonthly produced by the Florida Regional Library, offers six to ten travel articles, mostly about the United States. An additional section gives full data, such as cost, phone numbers, and addresses for the destinations discussed. *People en Espanol*, also from Florida, is a Spanish-language monthly publication that covers the fascinating lives of ordinary and extraordinary Latinos in the U.S. You will also find beauty tips and human-interest stories.

*Sunset: The Magazine of Western Living*, a monthly publication, discusses what, when, and how to enhance your life in the West. It is produced by the Arizona Regional Library.

To request these magazines, please use the order form on page 7 or contact your Readers Advisor. ■

July



# Free Magazine for Those Who Love the Land

A bimonthly magazine from Ogden Publications, *Mother Earth News*, is now being recorded in our own studios and is available free on cassette. *Mother Earth News* features articles on renewable energy, affordable housing, nutrition and

cooking from scratch, organic gardening, and outdoor recreation. To sign up for this magazine, please use the order form on page 7 or contact your Readers Advisor. If you subscribe to *Grit*, you will receive *Mother Earth News* automatically. ■

## Fascinating Books about Entertainers

We are often fascinated by the lives of celebrities. Here are the life stories of those who sang our favorite songs and acted in our favorite movies:

**RC 47763 *Hollywood Diva: a Biography of Jeannette***

**MacDonald**, by Edward Baron Turk

Presents the career and personal life of one of America's top musical film stars of the 1930s and 1940s. Describes her performances from the comedies with Maurice Chevalier and romantic roles with Nelson Eddy to her later recital hall concerts. Includes listings of her stage and film credits and her principal recording sessions.

**RC 48566 *Bob Hope: the Road***

**Well-Traveled**, by Lawrence J. Quirk  
Traces Bob Hope's life from his youth in England to his career as a vaudevillian, and his rise to fame as a Broadway

musical celebrity, radio-comedian, Hollywood star, and friend to American servicemen around the globe.

Discusses his association with entertainment personalities, including Jack Benny, Dorothy Lamour, and Bing Crosby.

**RC 48662 *Mariah Carey***, by

Melanie Cole

Describes singer Mariah Carey's life and how she overcame prejudice to become a popular entertainer. Mariah's mother, an opera singer, encouraged her daughter's musical talent and realized that, even as a toddler, Mariah had perfect pitch. For grades 5-8.

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# Fascinating Books about Entertainers

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**RC 49037 *Take It from the Big Mouth: the Life of Martha Raye***, by

Jean Maddern Pitrone

Biography of the actress, comedienne, singer, and dancer who died in 1994.

Describes her beginnings with her vaudeville family, her multifaceted career, and her commitment to entertaining military troops. Also discusses her lack of education, her substance abuse, suicide attempts, seven failed marriages, and problems with her only daughter.

**RC 49224 *Been There, Done That***, by Eddie Fisher with David Fisher

Fisher recounts his rise to fame, beginning with his discovery at around age three that he could open his mouth and a beautiful

sound would come out. He discusses his career, his marriages and affairs, the scandals, and his long-running battle with drug addiction. Some strong language.

**RC 50564 *Ray Charles: Man and Music***, by Michael Lydon

Traces Charles's life from his youth in Greenville, Florida. Recalls his vision loss in early childhood; his years at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind; his mother's death; and his rise to fame as a musician, performer, and businessman. Describes his lifelong friendships with Quincy Jones, David Newman, and Leroy Cooper.

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# Fascinating Books about Entertainers

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**RC 51138 *Angels Along the Way: My Life with Help from Above***, by Della Reese with Franklin Lett and Mim Eichler

Autobiography by the singer, television actress, and devout, lifelong Christian. Born Deloreese Patricia Early in a Detroit ghetto, she describes her childhood and early career as a gospel singer and offers gratitude to the “angels” who helped her throughout her life, both professionally and personally. Some strong language.

**RC 51157 *Nat King Cole***, by Daniel Mark Epstein

Biography of the popular signer and jazz pianist. Covers the background, upbringing, and lifestyle of the inventive musician whose career started in Chicago in the 1930s. An entertainer and not a political activist, he nonetheless broke the color line in Las Vegas in the 1950s.

**RC 51221 *Can't Help Singing, the Life of Eileen Farrell***, by Eileen Farrell and Brian Kellow  
Farrell recounts how her unusual singing career took off when she landed her own radio show in 1941 at the age of twenty. Since then the

classically trained singer has been successful in opera, blues, and pop. She also discusses her life as mother and policeman's wife. Some strong language.

**RC 51370 *I'll Be Right Back: Memories of TV's Greatest Talk Show***, by Mike Douglas with

Thomas Kelly and Michael Heaton

The host of the former long-running Mike Douglas Show considers himself “the world's luckiest fan.” He provides highlights from over two decades of chatting with celebrities, including Ray Charles, Princess Grace, John Wayne, Fred Astaire, and John Lennon. His only bitter note is how Westinghouse replaced him in 1981.

**RC 52861 *Swing It!: the Andrews Sisters Story***, by John Sforza

Chronicles the career of the Andrews Sisters from Minneapolis—Patty, Maxene, and LaVerne—who epitomize the big-band era of the 1940s. The versatile trio sang together for three decades, recorded over 600 songs, and made seventeen movies despite their sibling squabbles. Includes a discography and a filmography. ■

# New Cassette Books from Our Studios

## *Fiction*

### ***The Floor of the Sky***

**RC 1026**

by Pamela Carter Joern

read by Shannon White

2 cassettes

An aging widow struggles to keep the family ranch in the heart of the Nebraska Sandhills. Her unwed granddaughter travels from Minneapolis to spend the summer with her in order to wait out the last months of her unplanned pregnancy. The granddaughter revisits her own youth when she and her lover David were teenage runaways, and the tragic consequences. Other family secrets emerge, which test the strength of family bonds.

### ***The Man from Boot Hill: Burying the Past***

**RC 1032**

by Marcus Galloway

read by Dick Shasteen

2 cassettes

Former gunslinger Nick Graves now makes a modest living in the Dakota Territories by planning funerals. He accepts the mundane nature of his new existence until his previous partner in crime enters his life with a fresh scheme to pull off a potentially lucrative jewel heist. Attracted to the prospects of quick money, Nick must choose between the dangers of living with a price on his

head and the tranquil routine of digging graves. Contains strong language and violence and some descriptions of sex.

### ***A Fourth of July on the Plains***

**RC 1058**

by Lean Van Leeuwen

read by Sue Mayeux

1 cassette

Based on an actual 1852 Fourth of July celebration along the Oregon Trail and on the memoirs of seven-year-old Jesse Applegate, this account describes how a weary wagon train from Indiana stopped to hold a Fourth-of-July feast. Feeling left out of planning the festivity, Jesse and his friends find whistles, bells, and makeshift drums to surprise their fellow travelers with a rousing rendition of "Yankee Doodle." For grades K-3.

### ***Are We Not Men?***

**RC 1061**

by Brent Spencer

read by Brent Spencer

1 cassette

Thirteen short stories combine compassion with humor to describe mostly blue collar Midwestern men who find meaning while struggling against their own self destruction. An inmate becomes an expert in infant care when his girlfriend tells him she is expecting. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

**Continued on page 6**

# New Cassette Books from Our Studios

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## *Non-Fiction*

### ***Allies and Mates: An American Soldier with Australians and New Zealanders in Vietnam 1966-67 RC 1039***

by Gordon L. Steinbrook  
read by Michael Cartwright  
2 cassettes

A young, newly-married second lieutenant from Nebraska received his orders for Vietnam in 1966. His assignment was to serve as an artillery forward observer with Australian and New Zealand allies. Through a blend of his own letters and memories, he provides a unique eyewitness account of Aussie-New Zealand cooperation on the battlefield. Contains strong language and violence.

### ***Africa on Six Wheels: a Semester on Safari RC 1044***

by Betty Levitov  
read by Judy Hanefeldt  
1 cassette

Doane College teacher's memoir of leading thirteen students on a three-and-a-half-month semester of travel and study in seven African countries. Adventures include camping in the Namib Desert, swimming on the edge of a Victoria Falls cataract, a bicycle accident, malaria, being briefly detained by authorities in Kenya, and

spice tours in Zanzibar. At the end, the author and her students bonded for life, learning more than they could ever describe.

### ***Stadium Stories: Nebraska Cornhuskers: Colorful Tales of the Scarlet and Cream RC 1047***

by Mike Babcock  
read by Brad Meurrens  
1 cassette

Chronicles Nebraska's colorful history on the gridiron, from the early days when the team was nicknamed the "Bugeaters," through the Osborne era. Main characters include Tom "Trainwreck" Novak and "Touchdown" Bobby Reynolds. Pays tribute to the infamous "Black Shirt" defenses and an amazing string of walk-ons.

### ***Valentines RC 1065***

by Ted Kooser  
read by Dick Shasteen  
1 cassette

Former U.S. poet laureate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, Ted Kooser presents Valentine poems which he began writing in 1986 to fifty women friends. A new poem was printed on postcards and mailed each year. Twenty-two years later, an annual poem was being sent to over 2500 women throughout the United States.

## More Golden Oldies

Here are some great books recorded in our studios during past years. To order, please check the box next to the RC number and return this page to Talking Book and Braille Service, or contact your Readers Advisor.

**RC 898 *Postcards from Nebraska: the Stories Behind the Stories as Seen on CBS News "Sunday Morning,"*** by Roger Welsch  
2 cassettes                      Nebraska history

**RC 899 *A Protocol for Touch,*** by Constance Merritt  
1 cassette                      Poetry

**RC 900 *Homefield: Sonata in Rural Voice,*** by Robert Richter  
2 cassettes                      Nebraska fiction.  
Contains some strong language.

**RC 901 *The Best of Prairie Schooner: Personal Essays,*** edited by Hilda Raz and Kate Flaherty  
2 cassettes                      Essays

**RC 902 *JuJu Swallowed a Penny,*** by Betty Dunn  
1 cassette                      Autobiography

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## Form and Mailing Instructions

Use pages 7 and 8 to mark the books and magazines you wish to order, then put the page into an envelope and mail it to the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book & Braille Service, 1200 N Street, Suite #120, The Atrium, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

**Capper's**

**Country**

**Gardening How-To**

**Great Plains Game and Fish**

**Mother Earth News**

**National Geographic Traveler**

**People en Espanol**

**Sunset: The Magazine of Western Living**

**RC 1026**

**RC 1032**

**RC 1039**

**RC 1044**

**RC 1047**

**RC 1058**

**RC 1061**

**RC 1065**

**RC 47763**

**RC 48566**

**RC 48662**

**RC 49037**

**RC 49224**

**RC 50564**

**RC 51138**

**RC 51157**

**RC 51221**

**RC 51370**

**RC 52861**

# Golden Oldies From Our Studios

Continued from page 7

❑ **RC 905 *Hank's Story*, by Edna Buchanan**

1 cassette Nebraska fiction  
for grades 5-8

❑ **RC 906 *Stories, Poems, & Thoughts to Ponder*, by Margaret J. Dolezal**

1 cassette Short stories and  
poetry

❑ **RC 907 *Roxanna Britton: a Biographical Novel*, by Shirley Allen**

3 cassettes Historical fiction

❑ **RC 908 *Dirt*, by Sean Doolittle**  
2 cassettes Fiction. Contains  
some strong language and some  
violence.

❑ **RC 909 *War Memories*, by Lincoln Area Agency on Aging**

1 cassette War biographies

❑ **RC 910 *The Great Platte River Road: the Covered Wagon Mainline via Fort Kearney to Fort Laramie*, by Merrill J. Mattes**

6 cassettes Nebraska history

❑ **RC 911 *Mountain Pirates*, by Gail Blandenau**

1 cassette Mystery for grades  
6-9

❑ **RC 912 *Linnie's Letters*, by Candi Hodges**

1 cassette Pioneer novel for  
grades 6-9

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