



# NLC *Interchange*

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Newsletter  
of the  
Nebraska  
Library  
Commission  
Talking Book  
& Braille  
Service

## Talking Book Librarians Plan Digital Transition

Western and Midlands talking book librarians, along with staff from Library Congress, met recently in Scottsdale, AZ, to advance plans for circulating talking books on flash memory to be used with digital talking book players. The move from audio cassettes to a digital format is scheduled to begin nationwide in 2008. Throughout the transition years and into the foreseeable future, talking books will continue to be offered on audio cassette.

At first, the demand for digital

books and players is likely to exceed the supply. The transition will be complete only when every borrower who wants digital books and a digital player will have them.

Other topics included forming partnerships with allied organizations for joint programs and outreach, and descriptions of software that will enable libraries to produce talking books in the new format according to Library of Congress specifications.

## Talking Book Volunteer Honored at Community Event

Todd Burger was honored this spring at a volunteer recognition event for the city of Lincoln and Lancaster County, hosted by Volunteer Partners. Todd is a volunteer producer in the Prairie Lane Studios of the Talking Book and Braille Service. He also organizes magazines in preparation for recording.

Lincoln Mayor Coleen Seng issued a proclamation for National Volunteer Week. At the volunteer recognition event, she was presented with a symbolic check for over 18 million dollars, representing the value of volunteer hours for all of Lincoln.



# Cassette Magazines for Summertime Reading

The summer months are a time to appreciate living on the Great Plains. From among the magazines recorded in our own studios come three selections 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 Español*, 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. ■

## Questions and Answers

Question: I had to stop listening to a cassette tape from your library because the tape was damaged and would no longer play. What do I do?

Answer: It is always helpful when you mark a cassette tape as being defective. The way to do that is to tie a piece of string or place a rubber band around the problem cassette.

**Continued on page 3**

# Questions and Answers

Continued from page 2

However, please do not place anything on or around the outside of the cassette mailing box. If you would like another copy of the book or magazine, please request one from your Readers Advisor. We won't send a replacement cassette automatically but will gladly send another copy if you request one.

It is also helpful if you stop the

cassette tape at the point where the problem occurs and do not attempt to rewind it. This makes it easier for staff members who inspect tapes to determine the nature of the problem.

If you encounter several tapes in a row that won't play, please let us know. It is possible we need to replace your Library of Congress cassette player.



## Volunteer Profile—Nathalie Freeman

Eleven-year-old Nathalie Freeman has just completed sixth grade, and she is already discovering the joy of serving others. One of our volunteer narrators, Nathalie is recording a book of historical fiction about the 1888 Schoolchildren's Blizzard. She became a studio volunteer

because she always loved reading and wants to make a difference to someone else by helping them enjoy a great book.

The books she enjoys on her own include the works by J. K. Rowling, especially *Harry Potter and the*

**Continued on page 4**

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# Volunteer Profile—Nathalie Freeman

Continued from page 3

*Goblet of Fire* (RC 50228, on cassette; BBR 21005, in Braille; DVS 70740, movie with audio description). She also enjoys *Rosemary's Witch*, by Ann Turner (RC 35423), a novel about a family's move to a haunted New England farmhouse. Nathalie also enjoys soccer, gymnastics, and cross country track. One of the loves of her life is a four-and-a-half-year-old yellow lab named Freddie. Her

favorite food is a veggie burger.

Someday Nathalie would like to become a United States Naval officer, a career goal partly inspired by the movie *G.I. Jane*, about a woman who becomes a Navy Seal. Her favorite websites are [www.clubpenguin.com](http://www.clubpenguin.com), [www.millsberry.com](http://www.millsberry.com), and [home.disney.go.com/tv/index](http://home.disney.go.com/tv/index).



## Good Books for Summer Reading

Summertime, with its long afternoons and short nights, becomes more enjoyable with something cool to drink and a good book. Here are some great reads for a Nebraska summer.

**RC 45044** *How I Spent My Summer Vacation: an Amanda Pepper Mystery*, by Gillian Roberts

Philadelphia teacher Amanda Pepper is invited to vacation in Atlantic City with her friend Sasha Berg. Sasha later finds a dead man in her bed and is arrested for murder. With the help of Amanda's police boyfriend and some colorful locals, Amanda hunts for the real killer.

**RC 45815** *Snow in August: a Novel*, by Pete Hamill

Brooklyn, 1947. Eleven-year-old Irish Catholic Michael Devin and Rabbi Judah Hirsh, a refugee from Prague, become

friends. Michael teaches the rabbi about America and baseball, and Judah teaches the boy Yiddish phrases. When religious prejudice sweeps the community, Michael faces a difficult choice between his neighbors and his principles. Some strong language.

**RC 46096** *Cat Crimes for the Holidays*, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Ed Gorman, and Larry Segriff

Nineteen original mysteries, each involving a cat at the scene of the crime or as a feline sleuth. Various holidays throughout the year provide the settings for these stories, which include "How the July Fourth Cat

# Good Books for Summer

Continued from page 4

Saved the Day and Ruined the Night” and “To Grandmother’s House We Go.”

**RC 48211 *Point of Hopes***, by Melissa Scott

The Midsummer Fair is approaching in Astreiant, and an unusually large number of children start disappearing. In addition, the position of the stars in heaven seems to be heralding a change in the reigning monarch. Pointsman Nicholas Rathe believes there is a connection. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers.

**RC 48438 *Juneteenth: a Novel***, by Ralph Ellison

Senator Sunraider lies in the hospital struggling to survive a gunshot wound. The apparently white politician asks to see Reverend Hickman, the African-American minister who raised him. In the course of their conversations, the senator recalls his childhood and begins to understand his own complex racial identity. Some strong language.

**RC 49036 *My Last Days as Roy Rogers***, by Pat Cunningham Devoto

Ten-year-old tomboy Tab spends summer vacation playing with her African-American pal Maudie May and trying to avoid the polio that has their small Alabama town in a panic. Even though the

swimming pools and movies are closed, the kids manage to find many adventures. They also expose some of the grownups’ darker secrets.

**RC 51632 *Inside the Halo and Beyond: the Anatomy of a Recovery***, by Maxine Kumin

On a perfect midsummer day in Vermont in 1998, poet and experienced horsewoman Kumin broke her neck when her horse-drawn carriage overturned. She records the medical, physical, and emotional details of the long recovery process, and tells how her family, friends, and love of poetry sustained her during the ordeal.

**RC 53503 *I Hear Adventure Calling***, by Emilie Loring

A pretty young heiress finds unexpected romance when her summer vacation turns into a nightmare of fear and suspicion.

**RC 55879 *Krakatoa: the Day the World Exploded, August 27, 1883***, by Simon Winchester

Author chronicles “the most devastating volcanic event in modern recorded history,” a cataclysmic eruption near Java in the Indian Ocean that killed 36,000 people. Explains some of the disaster’s political, religious, economic, psychological, and scientific consequences. ■

# New Cassette Books from Our Studios

## *Fiction*

**RC 979 *Free to Drink the Wind: a Misty West Mystery***, by Ruth Foreman  
read by Dick Shasteen  
2 cassettes

Misty, a rancher's daughter, is captivated by a beautiful Arabian horse running free on a neighboring ranch in the vast Nebraska Sandhills. Concerns grow when the rancher, as well as horses, turns up missing, and Misty's brother sees Humvees hidden in the Sandhills and small aircraft circling overhead. She and her brother set out to solve the mystery. For grades 6 to 9.

**RC 883 *Bet Your Life***, by Richard Dooling  
read by Dan Howell  
2 cassettes

Carver Hartnett, an insurance fraud investigator, looks into the death of Lenny Stillmach, whose unexpected demise raises suspicions since he had purchased high dollar life insurance policies naming his friends, including Carver, as beneficiaries. Lenny's boss, the police, and even the FBI think Lenny has been running a scam by buying and selling lucrative, though sometimes fraudulent, life insurance policies. Contains some strong language and descriptions of sex.

## *Non-fiction*

**RC 1035 *Plains Bound: Fragile Cargo: Revealing Orphan Train Reality***, by

Charlotte M. Endorf  
read by Judy Hanefeldt  
1 cassette

Based in interviews with Orphan Train riders, all of them now elderly, and their descendants, the author presents true stories of individuals being "placed out" primarily under the auspices of the Children's Aid Society. Considered the beginning of documented foster care in America, charitable organizations in New York City sent out the first Orphan Train in 1854. By 1929, the date of the last Orphan Train, between 150,000 and 250,000 homeless children found homes, mostly with farm families in the West.

**RC 1036 *Mountain City***, by Gregory Martin  
read by Carol Yoakum  
1 cassette

Born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, the author spent his youthful summers in Mountain City, a small Nevada town eighty-four miles north of Elko. Now home to abandoned mines and thirty some older individuals, the once bustling community barely supports a handful of businesses, including Tremewan's, a general store run by the author's family for generations. The author presents a loving portrait of his Basque-descendent relatives and other inhabitants who cling to a way of life on the brink of extinction.

# Golden Oldies From Our Studios

Continued on page 7

Here are some more great books recorded several years ago in our own studios. 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 739 *Rain Follows the Plow: Homesteading in Hayes County, Nebraska*, by Robert D. Clark  
3 cassettes Pioneer story

RC 740 *Wild Towns of Nebraska*, by Wayne C. Lee  
2 cassettes Nebraska history.  
Contains some descriptions of violence.

RC 741 *The Prairie Schooner Anthology of Contemporary Jewish*

*American Writing*, edited by Hilda Raz  
2 cassettes Short stories.  
Contains some strong language and descriptions of sex.

RC 742 *Black Elk and Flaming Rainbow: Personal Memories of the Lakota Holy Man and John Neihardt*, by Hilda Neihardt  
1 cassette Biography

Continued on page 8

## Order 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  
 National Geographic Traveler  
 People en Español  
 Sunset: The Magazine of Western

Living  
 RC 979  
 RC 983  
 RC 1035  
 RC 1036  
 RC 35423  
 RC 45044  
 RC 45815  
 RC 46096

RC 48211  
 RC 48438  
 RC 49036  
 RC 50228  
 RC 51632  
 RC 53503  
 RC 55879

# Golden Oldies From Our Studios

Continued from page 7

❑ **RC 744** *The Gate City: a History of Omaha*, by Lawrence H. Larsen and Barbara J. Cottrell  
3 cassettes                      Nebraska history

❑ **RC 745** *Bead on an Anthill: a Lakota Childhood*, by Delphine Red Shirt  
2 cassettes                      Autobiography

❑ **RC 746** *Collected Short Works 1907-1919*, by Bess Streeter Aldrich  
2 cassettes                      Short stories

❑ **RC 747** *An Unspeakable Sadness: the Dispossession of the Nebraska*

*Indians*, by David J. Wishart  
3 cassettes                      Nebraska history

❑ **RC 748** *Prairie University: a History of the University of Nebraska*, by Robert E. Knoll  
4 cassettes                      Nebraska history

❑ **RC 749** *From Hunger: Stories*, by Gerald Shapiro  
2 cassettes                      Short stories

❑ **RC 753** *Swallow Summer*, by Charles R. Brown  
3 cassettes                      Natural history

**8**

Talking Book and Braille Service  
Nebraska Library Commission  
The Atrium • 1200 N St. • Suite 120  
Lincoln NE 68508-2023  
34-00-00

Free Matter  
For the Blind or  
Handicapped