



NLC *Interchange*

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Newsletter
of the
Nebraska
Library
Commission
Talking Book
& Braille
Service

Award-Winning Book Set in Nebraska

American novelist Richard Powers is known for works that deal with science and technology. One of his novels, *The Echo Maker* (RC 64523), which won the National Book Award in 2006, is set against the Platte River's spring migration of the sand-hill crane. In this novel, twenty-seven-year-old Nebraskan, Mark Schluter, flips his truck one night and suffers a head injury that makes his

loved ones unrecognizable to him and causes him to believe his sister Karin is an imposter. His sister enlists neurologist Gerald Weber to help. What the doctor discovers in Mark slowly undermines even his own sense of being. Even while Mark searches for an accident witness, the doctor begins to fall apart. Contains some strong language. ■

Magazines Celebrate Nebraska's Good Life

Here are some cassette magazines specifically about Nebraska that help us celebrate spring and appreciate the good life we enjoy: *Nebraska Farmer*, published monthly, offers crop reports, articles on farm life, and new agricultural methods and technology. Another magazine from our studios, *Nebraskaland* showcases Nebraska's beautiful state parks and other outdoor recreational opportunities. It is

published ten times a year by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Also published by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, *Trail Tales* is a quarterly magazine for younger readers who love Nebraska's outdoors and nature.

Nebraska Life, published bimonthly, features events, travel, and community

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Magazines Celebrate Nebraska's Good Life

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profiles. A bimonthly magazine that includes Nebraska, *Midwest Living* covers places to visit, recipes, gardens, hobbies, restaurants, editorials, and more—all about Midwest states.

Published ten times a year, with an emphasis on Husker football, the *Big*

Red Report attempts to cover the wide range of sports that are part of the University of Nebraska's athletic program.

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

Volunteer Profile: Amy Miller

What does a non-profit civil rights attorney do in her free time? She reads widely, hosts a weekly program on community radio, and volunteers at the Talking Book and Braille Service. A volunteer narrator since September 2008, Amy has recorded *Nebraska Farmer, Grit, Midwest Living, Nebraskaland*, and *Reminisce Extra*. She has helped to narrate *The Path to Pelini* (RC 1096) and is currently narrating a novel about a Lakota attorney.

Amy volunteers in our studios because reading is her favorite activity and because she feels so fortunate about her own life that she wants to say “thank you.” Her favorite author is Charles Dickens, whom, she says, is still funny after 150 years, as well as

relevant in his depiction of poverty and corrupt government. The latest book she has read is *The Dream of the Red Chamber* (RC 60086), by Xueqin Cao, a classic Chinese novel written in the mid 1700s. She enjoys the way the characters hold festivals to celebrate the first plum blossoms or the waning of the moon.

Amy's favorite movie is *Star Wars* (DVS 22524), and she especially likes R2-D2, the little robot who keeps on trying even though the odds are against him. Her favorite book is *The Collected Stories of Sherlock Holmes*, by Sir Author Conan Doyle. Her favorite web site is Amazon.com, which contains her wish list of books if she were ever to win the lottery. ■

Questions and Answers

Question: The battery on my Library of Congress cassette player doesn't hold a charge. Otherwise, the player seems to work fine. Can you just send me a new battery and let me replace it, instead of exchanging players?

Answer: If a Library of Congress cassette player goes unused, its battery will discharge on its own. Should your player still not work after an overnight charge, then please call us to arrange for another player to be sent to you. As a possible alternative, twenty-six public libraries across Nebraska serve as machine exchange points, so you may be able to swap a

malfunctioning player for one that works, right in your own community.

The batteries used by Library of Congress cassette players have a certain life span and then have to be disposed through proper channels by Talking Book and Braille Service staff, as stipulated by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Malfunctioning Library of Congress cassette players, including those with bad batteries, would need to come back to us, either directly through the mail or through a participating Nebraska public library. ■

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New Cassette Books from Our Studios

Fiction

Valley of the Shadow

RC 976

by Stephanie Grace Whitson

read by Judy Hanefeldt

2 cassettes

Near the time of the Dakota Sioux uprising of 1862, Genevieve LaCroix reluctantly leaves her widowed French father to live at Renville Mission in order to further her education. Her loyalty is torn between her Sioux family and people at the mission. The minister's wife dies in childbirth, and more hardships take place when Sioux rise up against their white neighbors. *Dakota Moon Series, #1.*

Non-Fiction

Heart of a Husker: Tom Osborne's Nebraska Legacy

RC 1046

by Mike Babcock

read by Carolin Roehr

2 cassettes

Portrait of Nebraska's legendary football coach, drawn from interviews with former players and other coaches.

Throughout his twenty-five seasons as head coach, Osborne earned a reputation as a quiet but intense individual of integrity who led the Cornhuskers from 1973-1997.

Letters to a Young Therapist: Stories of Hope and Healing

RC 1090

by Mary Pipher

read by Tami Works

1 cassette

A compilation of letters from a clinical psychologist to a graduate student / therapist-in-training. By mixing storytelling with sharp-eyed observation, the author draws from her experiences helping patients tackle the challenges all humans face in dealing with troubled relationships, stressful jobs and home lives, and having too little time. ■

Great Decisions 2009

Published annually by the Foreign Policy Association, the *Great Decisions* (NSC 3315) briefing book features thought-provoking analysis of issues of special concern to U.S. policymakers. The 2009 edition covers the U.S. and rising powers; Afghanistan and Pakistan;

Energy and global economy; the Arctic age; Egypt in the 21st century; global food supply; Cuba after Castro; and universal human rights. To borrow a copy on cassette, please contact your Readers Advisor. ■

Books about Summer's First Holiday

Memorial Day commemorates the U.S. men and women who died while in military service to their country. While it comes in late spring, it is typically regarded as the first holiday of summer, and a time for families to spend time together. Here are some wonderful books that relate to this important American tradition.

RC 299 *Dear Stranger*, by Catherine Kidwell

This novel chronicles three decades in a woman's life—of loving, growing, and breaking free. Bonnie and John met on a snowy night in 1943. Within a week they were married and separated by World War II. As her story unfolds, Bonnie becomes a new kind of contemporary heroine—a woman newly arrived at independence after years in the role society assigned to her.

RC 738 *A Marriage in Wartime*, by Doris Bishop Huddell

This book contains portions of the seven hundred letters exchanged between husband and wife while separated by World War II. This husband, a minister, enlisted to serve as chaplain in the U. S. Army, temporarily leaving his wife of eight years and four small children. The honest and candid letters reveal the working out of a wartime relationship, in which the wife takes on new responsibilities in order to maintain a household on her own.

RC 888 *Waiting for My Sailor*, by

Genevieve Eppens

The powerful story of one Midwestern family's attempt at a normal life during the uncertainty of World War II. Newly married, the author and her beloved husband experienced long and painful separations and joyful reunions after he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard.

RC 890 *The Sunrise Serenade: a World War II Bomber Crew Story*, by Jerry Penry

True story of a World War II bomber crew downed behind enemy lines. Worry, hunger, loneliness, and sickness prevailed as they struggled to survive in German prison camps or to hide in the underground.

RC 897 *Of Rice and Men*, by Leland E. Mitchell

The courageous true story of a young Nebraskan who was taken prisoner by the invading Japanese after the surrender of the Philippine Islands. For the next three and a half years, he endured slave labor and torture. He was liberated on August 14, 1945. Contains violence.

Books about Summer's First Holiday

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RC 996 *No One Ever Asked Me: the World War II Memoirs of an Omaha Indian Soldier*, by Hollis D. Stabler, edited by Victoria Smith

A Native American veteran recounts his experiences growing up in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Oklahoma, before engaging in combat during World War II in Tunisia, Morocco, Italy, and France. Upon returning home to Nebraska as a decorated war veteran, he felt estrangement. After graduation from Friends University, he pursued a successful career as an educator. Contains explicit descriptions of sex.

RC 47490 *The Greatest Generation*, by Tom Brokaw

Recalling his coverage of the fortieth anniversary of D-Day in 1984, reporter Brokaw describes World War II veterans as “the greatest generation any society has produced.” Profiles individuals who sacrificed for their country, including Thomas Broderick—who founded the Blinded Veterans Association—and businessman Bob Bush, who lost an eye in a heroic rescue mission.

RC 51430 *The Special Prisoner: a Novel*, by Jim Lehrer

Fifty years after being a Japanese POW, retired Methodist bishop John Quincy

Watson spies his chief interrogator and torturer at an airport and tracks him to his hotel room. As Watson confronts his old enemy, he finds his faith and pastoral training tested by the desire for vengeance. Contains some violence and strong language.

RC 57597 *Blood for Dignity: the Story of the First Integrated Combat Unit in the U.S. Army*, by David Colley

Chronicles the experiences of the first African American platoon integrated with white units since the Revolutionary War. Drawing on interviews with WWII veterans, Colley describes the division's three months of European combat in 1945, examines frontline race relations, and discusses the broader implications of military integration for American society.

RC 58405 *Memorial Day*, by Vince Flynn

CIA agent Mitch Rapp leads a commando raid into Pakistan and uncovers an Al Qaeda plot to unleash a nuclear device in the United States on Memorial Day. Even with the bomb successfully disarmed, Rapp fears his team has not thwarted the terrorists' plans. Contains violence and strong language. ■

Golden Oldies From Our Studios

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

RC 958 *Raising a Stink: the Struggle over Factory Hog Farms in Nebraska*, by Carolyn Johnsen
2 cassettes Nebraska farm economy

RC 959 *Lessons from a Dog Guide: Sermons on the Second Readings for Sundays in Lent and Easter, Cycle C*, by Dallas A. Brauningner

1 cassette Devotional

RC 960 *Restoring the Burnt Child: a Primer*, by William Kloefkorn
1 cassette Autobiography

RC 961 *Aira in Red*, by John Wallis Creighton
2 cassettes Adventure fiction.
Contains some strong language and violence.

Continued on page 8

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.

Big Red Report

Grit

Midwest Living

Nebraska Farmer

Nebraska Life

Nebraskaland

Reminisce Extra

Trail Tales

NSC 3315

RC 299

RC 738

RC 888

RC 890

RC 897

RC 976

RC 996

RC 1046

RC 1090

RC 1096

RC 47490

RC 51430

RC 57597

RC 58405

RC 60086

RC 64523

More Golden Oldies From Our Studios

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❑ **RC 962 *Awkward Christian Soldiers***, by Ken Alley

1 cassette Church humor

❑ **RC 963 *Microwave the Boat Ashore: Comic Relief from Everyday Life***, by Ken Alley

1 cassette Humor

❑ **RC 964 *Birding Nebraska***, by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

3 cassettes Natural history

❑ **RC 965 *A Cafecito Story (Spanish language version)***, by Julia Alvarez

1 cassette Fiction

❑ **RC 967 *Life's a Gas: Foibles, Faux Pas and Social Blunders***, by Ken Alley

1 cassette Humor

❑ **RC 968 *Heavenly Hoots: Bringing Back That Old Time Religion with Hearty Laughter***, by Ken Alley

1 cassette Church humor

❑ **RC 969 *Scenes of Visionary Enchantment: Reflections on Lewis and Clark***, by Dayton Duncan

2 cassettes U.S. history

RC 970 *One False Move*, by Alex Kava

2 cassettes Crime fiction.
Contains some violence and strong language.

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Talking Book and Braille Service
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium • 1200 N St. • Suite 120
Lincoln NE 68508-2023
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Free Matter
For the Blind or
Handicapped