

NET Radio Tells Story of Lincoln Couple Featured in Ken Burns' National Parks Documentary

LINCOLN, Neb. (Sept. 10, 2009) -- NET Radio's Jerry Johnston interviews Jill Koelling, a former Nebraska State Historical Society employee who is writing a book about a Nebraska couple featured in Ken Burns' new public television series on the national parks system. The interview will air during on NET Radio's "Weekend Edition" Saturday, Sept. 26, at 8:30 a.m. CT, repeating Sunday, Sept. 27, at 9:30 a.m. CT. It will also be available on NET Radio's Web site and as a podcast at netNebraska.org/radio.

From 1915 to 1939, Edward and Margaret Gehrke left their home in Lincoln for summer vacations at national parks. Edward was an amateur photographer, and Margaret kept a detailed journal of their trips.

Now, those photographs and journals are helping Ken Burns tell the story of the National Parks in his new six-part documentary series "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," premiering on NET Television on Sunday, September 27. Burns discovered the Gehrke's photos and journals at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Koelling's book will chronicle the Gehrke's national park trips before the days of good roads and reliable maps. In addition to the adventures (and misadventures) along the way, the Gehrke's photos and observations tell the story of a couple's quest to experience the natural beauty of the American West.

An audio link to the story will be on NET Radio's Web site (www.netNebraska.org/radio, click on "Arts and Humanities," then Nebraska Humanities Feature) the day of the broadcast. All that is needed to listen is access to the Internet.

The Nebraska Humanities Council provides partial funding for humanities features on NET Radio.

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