

Jazz Life

A Journey for Jazz Across America in 1960
William Claxton and Joachim Berendt
(Taschen, \$126)

What it is: As outsized as it is awesome, *Jazz Life* was William Claxton's record of a coast-to-coast trip in 1960 spent photographing jazz players — back when "jazz" meant everything from



Mahalia Jackson's gospel singing to Ornette Coleman's radical improv. A treasured book long out of print, it has been reissued in a glorious, expanded form that makes up for the neglect of Texas (it claims Oak Cliff's T-Bone Walker "hails from Kansas City"). Obscurities and greats, New Orleans street bands and session men: This is a magnificent time capsule.

What's more: Comes with a wide-ranging CD (originally two LPs) recorded on the trip by musicologist Joachim Berendt.

Jerome Weeks