



Books on Tape Update

*Idaho Commission for Libraries
Talking Book Service*

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NLS/BPH Digital Talking Book Player “Sneak Peek”



After years of plans and trials, the prototype of the Digital Talking Book player (DTB) can be described!

The most obvious feature of the new player is its size: it is substantially smaller and lighter than current players. The new DTB player measures a svelte 6 x 9 x 2 inches and weighs in at a little over two pounds compared to the C-1's seven pounds.

The body of the player is dark grey for maximum visual contrast between the background of the case and the colors of the buttons.

A nifty feature is that the controls talk when pressed to guide the user. Another new feature is the sleep button that allows the machine to turn itself off 30 minutes after it is pressed.

Current features such as volume, tone, and speed control will be part of the new player, but the rocker switch will no longer be needed due to the ability of the new format to hold more information. In fact, most titles will fit on one memory chip which will reduce interruptions while listening to a book.

Since it has no moving parts other than the controls, the new player should provide longer battery life and reliability than current players.

Unfortunately, there will not be enough players in the first year to distribute to everyone. Therefore, cassette players and audiocassette books will circulate for several years.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic News

Effective July 2006, RFB&D no longer offered cassette players or recorded textbooks onto cassettes.

Beginning in July 2007, RFB&D will offer audio books only on CD with all books recorded in digital format. In order to play RFB&D textbooks, users will need specially adapted CD players or software installed on their players. RFB&D offers a complete line of players, software, and accessories for nonprofit sale, including a hybrid CD/four-track cassette player to help members make the transition from cassette to CD format.

CD player or software not purchased from RFB&D must have a User Authorization Key (UAK) to play RFB&D books. The cost of the UAK is \$10 for CD players and \$10-\$20 for software plus shipping and handling costs, depending on the software product used. The CD player must also be sent to RFB&D to install the UAK. Contact Member Services at 800-221-4792 with questions regarding the purchase or installation of the User Authorization Key. Users will also need an authorization form for the UAK which is available from Member Services.

For more information log on to: www.rfbd.org or call **866-732-3585**.

New Technology Provides Quick Access to Printed Materials

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB), in partnership with Ray Kurzweil, has created the first portable reading machine for the blind and visually impaired: the Kurzweil-National Federation of the Blind Reader. The Reader uses character recognition software combined with text-to conversion technology. Weighing less than one pound, the Reader fits in the palm of your hand.

The user holds the Reader over a piece of paper and simply pushes a button to take a picture. The machine takes about thirty seconds to process the image and then begins reading the contents of the page.

The Reader can be used to read mail, a menu, a receipt, a newsletter, or just about any printed item. James Gashel, Executive Director for Strategic initiatives at the NFB, said, "I use the Reader everyday to read some kind of printed material and in doing so has given me a greater level of independence."

For more information or to order the Kurzweil-National Federation of the Blind Reader at an introductory discount, call NFB at (877) 708-1724.

Volunteer Spotlight

by Sheila Winther, Volunteer Services Coordinator

When I receive three e-mails within five minutes, each requesting volunteer help for large mailings that need to go out by the end of the week, do I panic? Absolutely not! I just pick up the phone and call our, always eager to help, mail crew.

Janet Nelson, Bertha Ruckman, Nancy Bunch, Irene Crane, Minnie Dunkle, Beverly Cline, and Mary Moore joined our volunteer team from 1999 through 2004, and have been faithfully helping us get our newsletters and other large mail projects sent out.

They help us stay in touch with not only our Talking Book readers, but the entire statewide library community. Some of the projects they have helped with include: Summer Reading, Talking Books, Child Care Reads, Jump Start into Kindergarten, and many continuing education workshops for library staff across the state.

These generous ladies are all members of the Telecom Pioneers of America, Treasure Valley Chapter. This wonderful service group has been a loyal partner to Idaho Commission for Libraries since 1991, assisting with Talking Book machine repair, Talking Book inspection, bulk mailing and many other tasks. Not only are they hard workers, they are just some of the nicest people you could ever meet.

So the next time you receive a piece of mail from us, you can be sure one of these great ladies was probably responsible for getting it mailed to you. Thanks mail crew; you just don't know how many lives you have touched with your kind and generous spirits.



Irene Crane



Bertha Ruckman, Mary Moore,
Nancy Bunch, Janet Nelson



Minnie Dunkle and Bev Cline

**New Books From Idaho
Commission for Libraries,
Talking Book Service
Recording Studio**

To order, complete and mail the enclosed order form or call the Talking Book Service at 1-800-458-3271

VCT1020

When the River Ran Wild!: Indian Traditions on the Mid-Columbia and the Warm Springs

Reservation

By George Aguilar
Read by Sue Vap

A story of the author's people, the Kiksht-speaking eastern Chinookans, of the Columbia River at Five Mile Rapids.

3 Cassettes **Adult Nonfiction**

VCT1021

On All Sides Nowhere: Building a Life in Rural Idaho

By William Gruber
Read by Tracie Lee

When Bill Gruber left New York City for graduate school in Idaho, he and his wife bought an abandoned log cabin and its surrounding forty acres in Alder Creek, a town considered small even by Idaho standards. But farm living was far from bucolic.

1 Cassette **Adult Nonfiction**

VCT1022

In Nez Perce Country: Accounts of the Bitterroots and the Clearwater After Lewis and Clark

By Lynn Baird
Read by Janice Pori

Using primary source material as well as bibliographical annotations, narrative sketches, and vignettes, the authors weave a saga of those who followed in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark.

3 Cassettes **Adult Nonfiction**

VCT1023

The Potts Factor Versus Murphy's Law

By Stanley Potts
Read by Bob Stevenson

For many years Stan Potts outfitted and guided in some of the wildest country in America, the fabled Frank Church Wilderness of north-central Idaho. He outlines many adventures as well as misadventures of a lifetime truly lived to the fullest extent.

1 Cassette **Adult Nonfiction**

VCT1024

The Bluebird Will Sing Tomorrow: Memoirs of Velma V. Morrison

By Velma Morrison
Read by Kitty Fleischman

Velma V. Morrison grew up on a farm in Tipton, California during the Great Depression. She was a busy restaurateur and single mother of three when Harry Morrison, a

widower and founder of the Morrison-Knudsen Company came into her life.

1 Cassette **Adult Nonfiction**

VCT1025

Moyie River Ranch

By John Sater

Read by Norma Ericson

Eric's a cowboy through and through but he's getting a mite tired of the eccentricities of green broke horses, prickly yucca, and, most of all, snakes. Taking a chance at a new and better life he heads to northern Idaho Territory.

1 Cassette **Adult Fiction**

VCT1026

Lost Sheepherder Mine

By Evea Powers

Read by Norma Ericson

Live the adventure of Wendell Lawrence who sought the Lost Sheepherder Mine. At the age of 17, he was fresh out of Hollister High School in southern Idaho. Every day he looked toward the Jarbidge wilderness not too far from his friend's ranch.

1 Cassette **Adult Fiction**

VCT1027

For Better or Worse: The Legacy of William "Deadshot" Reed

By Kathy Hill

Read by Carla Stern

This book details the life of William Reed, his wife, Bessie, and his twelve children. It is the story of a family who not only overcame the rugged isolation of Idaho's back country, but also the unpredictability of its leader, the man everyone simply called "Deadshot".

1 Cassette **Adult Nonfiction**

VCT1028

The Hero

By Ron Woods

Read by Carla Stern

Without paddles and out of people's sight, three boys are swept downstream toward the dams, the steep falls, and three separate destinies.

1 Cassette **Juvenile Fiction**

VCT1029

Into the Desert

By Bill Gulick

Read by Ken Cooper

Book 3 of the Roll on Columbia series. This story portrays the use and development of the Columbia River from the establishment of Astoria in 1811 down to the present day. Sequel to: Through the Cascades.

3 Cassettes **Adult Fiction**

Do have something you would like to tell us? Please go to:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>

anytime to complete the survey and provide input into your service. Your opinions are greatly appreciated.

Magazine Corner

The library has magazines on tape: Direct (D) and Circulating (C). The Direct magazines come in a container with no return label; these you may keep. The Circulating magazines come in a container with a turn around post card. These should be read first and returned within two weeks so other patrons may receive them. You will receive the next issue when available. This quarter History and Local Interest categories are featured

History

American Heritage, 8 issues per year (D)

Articles on America's social, educational, & cultural history.

American History, Bimonthly (C)

American history emphasizing events and personalities.

Discover: The World of Science, Monthly (D)

Articles on ecology, history, natural history, science, & technology.

Smithsonian, Monthly (C)

Science, natural history, art, archaeology, history, & ecology.

True West, Monthly (C)

Nonfiction articles about the Old West.

Local Interest

Arizona Highways, Monthly (C)

Arizona travel, history, & art.

Idaho Magazine A Celebration of Life in the Gem State, Monthly (C)

Idaho history, travel, personalities, and current events.

Idaho Yesterdays, Bimonthly (C)

Idaho history.

Latah Legacy Journal, Semiannual (C)

Historical articles about Latah County, Idaho.

Montana: The Magazine of Western History, Quarterly (C)

History of the western United States, emphasizing Montana.

Overland Journal, Quarterly (C)

Camping & trails along the Central Route from the Missouri River via the Platte River and South Pass to Oregon & California.

Owyhee Outposts, Annual (C)

Idaho history and culture.

Sandpoint Magazine, Semiannual (C)

History & culture in northern Idaho.

Snake River Echoes, Semiannual (C)

History of eastern Idaho, western Wyoming, and southern Montana.

Utah Historical, Quarterly (D)

Utah history.

Call 1-800-458-3271 for a complete listing of available magazines or go to our website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs-collection>

Recent Donations

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Joyce Dodge | R. Starr Farish |
| Sam Barton | Steven Muffley |
| Velma Milligan | Bobby Bopp |
| Lucille Bickett | Dick Messersmith |
| Melvin Snow | Paul Bancroft |
| Mabelle English | Harriet Wilkerson |
| Doris Halliday | David Woodard |
| Bernice Hawker | C.J. Kingrey |
| Lois Beno | Emil Baker |
| Leonard Kraemer | Fern Graham |

IN MEMORY OF:

Oriette Sinclair

Alex & Char Sinclair

IN MEMORY OF:

Juanita "Bo" Krenz

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 Doug & Sharon Krenz
 Richard & Thelma Ising
 Norman & Ginger Kramer
 Earl W. Krenz
 Jan Monson
 Eunice & Bernice Schumacher
 Lowell & Jacqueline Schumacher
 Daniel & Sondra Arntsen
 Richard & Valerie Krenz
 Idaho Falls Round Table Club



Fred Riggers Goes to Washington

In May library user Fred Riggers will travel to Washington to participate in the Collection Development Advisory Group's three day meeting. The group's purpose is to make recommendations on the types of titles selected and recorded for the Talking Book collection. This includes genre, language, and audience served. Share your comments on the titles available in the collection with Fred by calling him at (208) 853-1999 or contact the Talking Book Service at (800) 458-3271.

Welcome to the 10² Club

The following TBS patrons are 100 Years old and have been added to the 10² Club. Congratulations!

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| THELMA N NANZ | |
| Jerome | 02/23/1907 |
| ESTHER SHREFFLER | |
| Lewiston, ID | 12/01/1906 |
| GARY RINEHART | |
| Twin Falls | 11/07/1906 |
| LILLIAN HUMPHREYS | |
| Mountain Home, ID | 11/06/1906 |

Participate in “The Big Read”

The Big Read provides the opportunity to read and discuss a single book. A variety of activities allows participants to view the book’s themes and context from varying perspectives.

The Big Read is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and is sponsored in the Boise area by The Cabin (formerly Log Cabin Literary Center) in partnership with Ada Community, Boise Public, and Friends of Boise Public library. Other libraries in southwest and south central Idaho are also expected to participate by making copies of the book and reading guides available and hosting book discussions or other related programs.

This year’s title is Ernest Hemingway’s “A Farewell to Arms”, a classic story of romance during World War I. The book, published when Mr. Hemingway was thirty years old, draws on his own experiences ten years earlier during the war. Call the Talking Book Service to reserve title RC49506, and it will be promptly sent.

A schedule of programs scheduled to run from mid-March through mid-May is available. (<http://thecabinidaho.org/calendar.htm>)

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This newsletter is available on cassette tape upon request. Just call 1-800-458-3271