Books on Tape Update

Idaho Commission for Libraries
Talking Book Service
325 West State Street · Boise, Idaho 83702-6072

(208) 334-2150 / (800) 458-3271

Spring 2007

Digital Books: Part 2

Last month we described the prototype of the new digital player. This month we will focus on the new book cartridge and its shipping container.

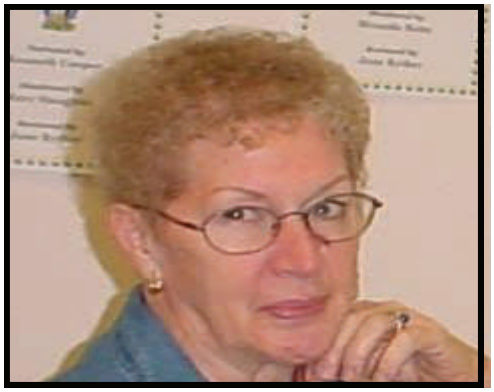
The cartridge itself is the size of a cassette, but with a more complex shape. The end of the cartridge has a round finger hole and is slightly thicker than a cassette, with square sides. It is beveled so that when that end of the cartridge is pressed down on a flat surface in front of the player, the other end of the cartridge tilts up and can slide smoothly into the player. The end of the cartridge that fits into the player is also beveled, but with the bevels slanting toward the center of the cartridge, so that there is only one way it will fit into the player. Each cartridge will have a label with the title on it in text and Braille. Once the cartridge is in the player, the entire title will play uninterrupted. No more replacing tapes in the middle of a book!

The shipping container is slightly longer and wider than a green cassette box but only half the thickness. Most containers will contain just one cartridge since 95% of titles will fit onto one cartridge. As with the current mailing containers, a mailing card will fit on the front of the container and can be turned over to return the container to the Talking Book Service.

The National Library Service will begin distribution of digital books and players in late 2008 with distribution phased in over several years. During the transition, both cassette and digital books will be produced. We will keep you informed of changes in the Talking Book Service as plans are released from the National Library Service.

E-mail address: talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov
Web site: http://www.libraries.idaho.gov/tbs

Volunteer Spotlight: Ruby Weaver and Norma Ericson



Ruby Weaver

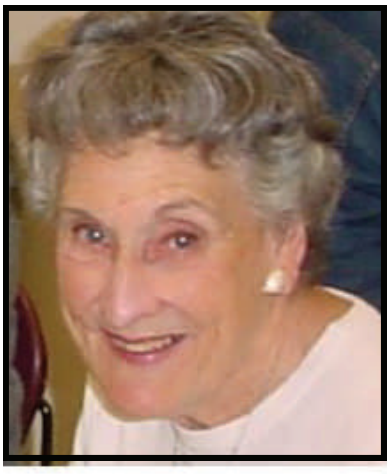
by Sheila Winther, Volunteer Services Coordinator

When you listen to one of our great Idaho Talking Books and think, how do they read without making any mistakes? The answer is, they do! But thanks to the talents of our volunteer talking book recording monitors, such as Ruby Weaver, those mistakes never make it to our finished books. Recording monitors operate our new digital recording equipment while "monitoring" the narration, checking for and editing any deviation from the text, mispronounced words or any other problems that occur.

Ruby has been volunteering as a recording monitor since April 1999 and has given over 500 hours. She started back when we were using the old reel to reel recording studio. When her friend Norma Ericson, volunteer narrator since January 1993 with nearly 900 hours of volunteer time, convinced Ruby to learn to monitor so she would have a recording partner, Ruby was a little hesitant. She just wasn't sure she could master the complicated equipment and recording techniques. Not only did she learn, she excelled! Soon they were working independently and producing many wonderful Idaho books. When we changed to digital recording equipment, Ruby again doubted her ability to learn. "I'll never be able to operate a computer," Ruby said! It took a little coaxing from both Norma and me, but Ruby soon mastered the new system. Now Ruby says, "Please don't ever make us go back to the old reel system."

Ruby and Norma have become quite a team. Together they have produced many high quality, interesting Idaho books, ranging from history and biography to fiction. Thanks Ruby and Norma, for sharing your talents so our talking book readers have access to the wide variety of Idaho's great literature.

Norma Ericson



National Library Service Visit

A representative from the National Library Service visits the Talking Book Service every two years to offer support and advice on the services offered to users. In the report from David Whitall's recent visit, David determined that the Talking Book Service met many of the standards for quality service. He was especially impressed with the quality of the recording studio where the VCT titles are recorded.

He recommended changes in how machine paperwork is handled, additional resources on the website, and ensuring staff availability to meet user needs. All recommendations will be addressed over the next few months. We will first try to implement recommendations that support comments received from the user survey and affect direct customer service because meeting user needs is our first concern.

Survey Results Are In !!!

Thanks to all who returned the 2006 user survey. We appreciate your positive comments and will try to address your concerns: Of the 937 or twenty seven percent of users who responded to the survey,

- 81% rated the service excellent,
- 18% rated it good,
- 1% rated it poor

In addition, 30% of users also use their local library's resources to supplement the Talking book Service.

The Customer Service Representatives followed up on all comments by contacting the user or changing service as suggested. If you have not heard from us or seen a change in your service, your name may have been left off the survey. Give us a call, and we'll help you out. You don't have to wait for the next survey to let us know what you think. Give us a call at 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271 or complete the online survey at: http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs.

Donations to the Talking Book Service

General Donations

Norma Brown
Jim Matlock
Berniece Hawker
Gladys Withrow
Laurene Drassal
Nina Jones
Estelle Hollibaugh
Nelnet, Inc
Mabelle English

In Memory of:

Richard Foster

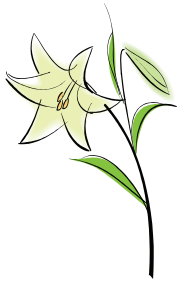
Harold and Betty Foster
M. Foster

Lillian Hartwell

Frank and Faye Bowles

Clara (Millie) Chase

Norma Massey
Doris Weaver



Donations Continued

In Memory of:

Carl Bailey

Myron Goffin
Bart & Dorothy Brassey
Franklin Smith III
Sherwin & Marien Barton
Ervin & Carol Schneider
Ronald & Patricia Rose
Eleanor F. Olson
Telcom Pioneers ID Chapter 121
Pauline Timmerman
Arnold & June Mecham

Dr. George Weick

Josef & Shirley Munch
J. M. Busard
Suzanne Guetschpoff
Kay Phippen
Bonalyn Munson
Evelyne Jensen
Vernon and Isabel Brassey
Frank and Faye Bowles
Clay and Joan Tellman

Magazine Corner

The Talking Book Service has magazines on tape: Direct (D) magazines come in a container with no return label; these you may keep. Circulating (C) 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's features include:

Inspirational

Guidepost (D) Monthly
Inspirational stories

Science Fiction

Analog (D) 11 issues a year
Short stories with science fiction themes.

Asimov's Science Fiction (D) 11 issues a year
Stories and novelettes, with science fiction themes.

Music

Contemporary Soundtrack (D) Bimonthly
Articles from magazines concerned with jazz, rock, country, and pop music.

Musical Mainstream (D) Quarterly
Articles about classical music, criticism and music teaching.

Quarterly Music Magazine (D) Quarterly
Provides different music magazine each quarter.

Sound & Vision (D) 10 issues per year
Reports on new sound equipment and record reviews with emphasis on popular music.

The National Library Service also provides music service such as Braille scores, instructional recordings and piano scores in various formats. You may visit them on the Web at http://www.loc.gov/nls/music/index.html, or call 1-800-424-8567.

New Talking Books from Idaho Commission for Libraries Recording Studio

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

VCT1030
Reho Wolfe, the End of a Salmon River Era
By John A. Wolfe
Read by Sue Vap

As a traveler to the Salmon River country of Idaho, you meet characters who left their mark on the land. But, more importantly, you meet those who shaped the culture of the river--a culture rich in history and still rising and falling with the currents today. Reho Wolfe was just such a character. A strong-willed woman who took her seven children out of school and moved them into the wilderness, she set a legal precedent for home schooling. Reho's son, John, lovingly and honestly recounts his mother's life journey.

1 Cassette **ADULT NONFICTION**

VCT1031
The Virgin Beauty
By Claire King
Read by Tracie Lee
The new small town Idaho veterinarian has a lot to offer--striking good looks, sharp wit, and a fantastic intellect. Yet so far, no man has been able to see beyond Grace McKenna's considerable height. So the virginal beauty couldn't contain her amazement when rancher Daniel Craig paid her some much needed attention. Trouble was, she didn't know if Daniels' attraction was real or motivated by a startling situation. **Some descriptions of sex and strong language.**

2 Cassettes **ADULT FICTION**

VCT1033

Bayview and Lakeview and Other Early Settlements on Southern Lake Pend Oreille Before 1940
By Linda Hackbarth
Read by Marilyn Eagleton

This book is the culmination of three years of research and recounting of oral traditions about early development at the southern end of Lake Pend Oreille and presents the history of such places as Bayview, Lakeview, Chloride, Cedar Creek (Clara), Whiskey Rock, and Granite Creek.

1 Cassette **ADULT NONFICTION**

VCT1034
Aberdeen Stories : Growing Up Right in Small-Town America
By Steven C Stoker
Read by Mary Lou Werthmann

Enjoy these stand-alone short stories about a boy growing up in an Idaho farm town at a time of slide rules, hula hoops, and church keys. A time when candy bars were big and the national debt was small. Jog your memory or make a new one. These stories will move you.

2 Cassettes **ADULT NONFICTION**

VCT1036
Days of Freedom : A Coeur d'Alene Boyhood
By George E. Wood
Read by Jeffrey Sollars

George Wood grew up in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho during a period when small-town life retained a bustle and vitality, yet simplicity and safety, which have largely disappeared from the American scene. The sharp eye and ear of the young George Wood caught this life and he remembered it well.

1 Cassette **ADULT NONFICTION**

V**CT1037**
The First Canary : The Inside Story of Ruby Ridge and a Decade of Cover-up
By Tony D. Brown
Read by Bill Lee

This is the first hand account of how your government set a family up to be killed by Federal agents. How the government, in an unprecedented move, used civilians to resolve their atrocity, only to try to silence them later.

3 Cassettes **ADULT NONFICTION**

VCT1038
Mailing May
By Michael O. Tunnell
Read by Anne Jeffrey

Nowadays it's no big deal for a girl to travel seventy-five miles. But, when Charlotte May Pierstorff wanted to cross seventy-five miles of Idaho mountains to see her grandma in 1914, it was a very big deal indeed. Here is the true story of how May got to visit her grandma thanks to her own spunk, her father's ingenuity, and the U.S. mail.

1 Cassette **JUVENILE NONFICTION**

VCT1039
It Happened in Idaho
By Randy Stapilus
Read by Larry Weeks

This book takes readers on a rollicking, behind-the-scenes look at some of the characters and episodes from the Gem State's past. In an easy-to-read style that's entertaining and informative, the author recounts some of the most captivating moments in Idaho's history.

1 Cassette **ADULT NONFICTION**

VCT1040
The Adventures of the Box Canyon Gang
By Kammile A. Watt
Read by Norma Ericson

Here's a story inspired by actual events, full of exciting and unusual summer adventures. Join Kammile and the rest of the Box Canyon Gang as they embark on a mysterious voyage for clues and a possible reward.

1 Cassette **JUVENILE FICTION**

VCT1041
Knight in a White Stetson
By Claire King
Read by Nichole Albertson

Where was the last place on earth unscrupulous government agents would look for a top-secret formula? On a remote Idaho ranch--or so scientist Henry Beckett hoped. But posing as an expert cowboy was nothing compared to keeping his hands off of the sexy, spoken-for cowgirl who hired him.
Some descriptions of sex and strong language.

2 Cassettes **ADULT FICTION**

A New Book from other Talking Book Studios

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

IC357
Desert Exile : The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family
By Yoshiko Uchida
Read by Andrea Lewis

Yoshiko Uchida has written a chronicle of a very special type of courage--the courage to preserve normalcy and humanity in the face of irrationality and inhumanity. Her family's story, told in loving detail, brings the internment experience alive. Rather than a history of the decisions that were made, it is the story of the human lives touched and molded by those decisions.

1 Cassette **ADULT NONFICTION**

Adobe Reading Hint

Did you know Adobe software can be configured to read the text of documents in PDF format? It doesn't have as much flexibility as with a screen reader, but it works in this way:

Open the document to be read (document must be in Adobe format)
Choose:
"view"
"read out loud"
"activate read out loud"
Next, choose:
"view"
"read out loud"
"read this page only" or "read to end of document"
When you want to stop the reading, choose:
"view"
"read out loud"
"stop" or "pause"

The newsletter is available at: http://libraries.idaho.gov/books-on-tape-update

Idaho Commission for Libraries
Idaho Talking Book Service
325 West State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR HANDICAPPED

IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES

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Or if you prefer it is available on cassette. To subscribe call 1-800-458-3271.