In addition, the library has a TBS player available if yours breaks. Pick up a replacement machine and don’t wait for a new one from Boise.

The library is partnering in Let’s Talk About It, a book discussion group, with Hansen in early 2009. The theme is “Living in the Modern Rural West”. All theme titles are available as audio books from the Talking Book Service.

The library is open Monday and Thursday, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Tuesday 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM; and Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM., or call the library at 423-4556.

E-mail address: talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov
Web site: www.libraries.idaho.gov/tbs
Donations to the Talking Book Service

General Donations

Lois M. Beno  Edith Steele
Gladys Withrow  Beth Gray
Roy Olsen  Clyde Davis
Maybelle English  Gwenlee Riedel
Emily Baker  Kirk & Hillary
Ken Wise  Anderson
Enid Cook  John & Ruthe
Donna Bretthauer  Swartley

In Memory of:

Ewald Thaemert
Koelsch School PTO
Dr. Susan Williams

Hazel Fattu
Chris Christopherson Inc.
Byron & Ruby Marshall
Jesse Davis

Verdus Robbins
Fager, Jordine, & Hickman Families

Sue Hansen
Beatrice Russell

Changes in NLS Online Catalog

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) and the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFBD) are no longer circulating cassette books.

The National Library Service is in the process of withdrawing these titles from its International Union Catalog.

Use the following online catalogs to identify titles from these sources:

RFBD: https://custhub.rfbd.org/SearchCatalog.asp

CNIB: http://webcluster.cnib.ca/Public/home.aspx

The National Library Service catalog will continue to list all books created by NLS and its network libraries.

Reading Alternative: netECHO

Here’s a reading alternative for those who want to access the Internet without using a computer. With netEcho you can use your phone and voice to search the web to receive and send e-mails-no computers or typing required. The software, developed by InternetSpeech.com, reads the text on the websites and e-mails. For more information and fee schedule, call Internet Speech at (877)-312-4638.

Thanks to generous donations, an additional recording booth is being added in our recording studio. More information will be available in the next newsletter.
Digital Transition Update

Progress continues on the conversion from cassette to digital format. Sue Walker attended the biennial conference of the National Library Service in May and received lots of information on the topic. Due to funding shortages, the timetable for initial distribution of the books and players has changed. Here’s how things stand right now and any steps you can take to be ready for the conversion:

Players: 5,000 players will be produced by the end of 2008. These players will be tested by users in 8 states (unfortunately, Idaho is not one of the states). Once these prototype players are tested, any necessary changes will be made and the player will go into general production. Idaho expects to receive the first of the players for user distribution sometime in 2009. At this time, we expect to receive approximately 25 players per month for the first year. Under federal law, veterans receive preference when distributing the players.

What you can do: If you haven’t indicated your interest in receiving a new player, call TBS at (800) 458-3271 and ask to be placed on the waiting list. Once veterans have received their players, others on the list will receive players based on how many books they receive a year. The goal is to make the players available to those who read the most.

Digital Books: There are currently almost 11,000 titles in digital format. NLS expects to begin distributing the first of the digital cartridges by early 2009, but they cannot circulate without the players.

NLS BARD Database: All digital titles currently can be downloaded by TBS users from the NLS BARD database. To download and listen to the titles, users must have high speed Internet access, an e-mail address, and have use of a digital player. Currently, 3 players will play the downloaded titles and are available for purchase:

- The Victor Reader Stream from Human Ware (www.humanware.com, us.info@humanware.com, 1-800-722-3393)
- The LevelStar Icon (www.levelstar.com, info@levelstar.com 1-800-315-2305)
- The Braille Plus Mobile Manager from the American Printing House for the Blind (www.aph.org/tech/pda_info.htm, cs@aph.org, 1-800-223-1839)
Digital Transition Update Con’t

For more information on purchasing any of these players, contact the vendors. For information on accessing the NLS BARD database, contact TBS.

What you can do: TBS is considering purchasing several Victor Reader Stream players for short-time use by users. If you have high speed internet access, an e-mail address, and would be interested in testing one of these players, contact TBS and we’ll add you to the list. At this time we are trying to determine the level of interest in this project.

Locally Recorded Books: We continue to record VCTs digitally and plan to circulate them on cartridges as soon as we can do so. At this time, we have no firm plans for making them available for download, but are exploring ways to make this a viable option.

Although slower than anticipated, the quality and ease of use of the digital books will be a major improvement over cassette books. The TBS staff is committed to making the transition as smooth as possible and will keep you posted on further changes as they occur. Feel free to contact us with questions.

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.

Titles featured in this quarter are on the topic of “Health”.

Healthly Exchanges Food Newsletter. Monthly. (C)

Low-fat, low-calorie, easy recipes.

Arthritis Today. Bimonthly (D)

Information about arthritis research, treatments, and medications.

Diabetes Forecast. Monthly. (D)

Diabetes, nutrition and health care; research findings from ADA.

Health and Nutrition Newsletter. Monthly. (D)

Medical conditions of special interest to older adults.

Order these titles by calling the Talking Book Service at (800) 458-3271 or completing the order form in the middle of the newsletter.
New Idaho Talking Books From Our Recording Studio
To Order, check your selections and mail this pre-addressed order form or call 1-800-458-3271.

Melinda and the Wild West:
A Family Saga in Bear Lake Valley, Idaho (VCT 1091)
Author: Linda Weaver Clarke
Read By: Margaret Dimmick
In 1896, Melinda Gamble decides to give up her life of monotonous comfort for the turbulent uncertainty of the still untamed Wild West. Driven by her intense desire to make a difference in the world, Melinda takes a job as a schoolteacher in the small town of Paris, Idaho. 2 Cassettes  Adult Fiction

Appaloosa Rising; The Legend of the Cowboy Buddha (VCT 1092)
Author: Gino Sky
Read By: Nichole Albertson
Here is a true western of the 1980s, revealing the connections, mystical and functional, between the Stanley Basin and Tibet, between fighting weird monsters and eagle killers, with wrestling our own death wishes as we live and celebrate the feminine spirit.
Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2 Cassettes  Adult Fiction

Danny the Dump Truck (VCT 1096)
Author: Julie Creed
Read by: Lana Thurston
Danny the dump truck goes to the big city for his first day of collecting recycle materials. For kindergarten through 3rd grade. 1 Cassette  Juvenile Fiction
New Books Continued


Author: Thomas E. Burg
Read by: Larry Weeks
The Washington, Idaho and Montana Railway was built in 1905-1907 to access the world's finest stands of white pine. The fifty-mile line from Palouse, Washington to Bovill, Idaho was the Potlatch Lumber Company's conveyance of timber to mill, cut lumber to outside connections, and the artery of the commerce for the region. 2 Cassettes Adult Non-Fiction

________Rediscovering Indian Creek: The Story of Our Region (VCT 1095)

Author: Indian Creek Writers Collaborative
Read by: Janice Pori
This story is the collaborative effort of many writers in the region of Indian Creek, Idaho who have imagined the history of this stream and its surrounding area. 1 Cassette Adult Non-Fiction

________Jesus Urquides: Idaho's Premier Muleteer (VCT 1094)

Author: Max A. Delgado
Read By: Carla Stern
In this elegantly written and painstakingly researched book about the packer Jesus Urquides, historian Max Delgado authoritatively shows us that Mexican people are not a recent phenomenon in Idaho's history and were prominent in the state's early development. 1 Cassette Adult Non-Fiction

________Jesus Urquides: El Arriero Ejemplar de Idaho (VCT 1103)

Spanish Language version of (VCT 1094)
New Books Continued

Lookout Cookbook: A Collection of Recipes by Forest Fire Lookouts Throughout the United States (VCT 1097)

Author: Libby Langston
Read By: Lana Thurston
This book is an artful blend of recipes, history, personal stories, and courses of action for continued preservation of forest fire lookouts.
1 Cassette Adult Non-Fiction

Grace Jordan (VCT 1098)

Author: Susan Hendricks Swetnam
Read by: Kathy Yribar
In the 1960s Grace Edgington Jordan was one of the most famous women and writers in Idaho. Today, however, her work has largely been forgotten by scholars. This study argues that Jordan as both a writer and a patron of writers deserves renewed attention.
1 Cassette Adult Non-Fiction

Les Schwab: Pride in Performance, Keep It Going (VCT 1100)

Author: Les Schwab
Read By: Bob Stevenson
This is the autobiography of the man who, through hard work, honesty, and a unique profit sharing plan, built the Les Schwab Tire Centers and their family of employees into the foremost tire centers in the Northwest.
2 Cassettes Adult Non-Fiction

Order Health Magazines Below

Healthy Exchanges Food Newsletter. Monthly. (C)
Arthritis Today. Bimonthly (D)
Diabetes Forecast. Monthly. (D)
Health and Nutrition Newsletter. Monthly. (D)
NEW SERVICE

We are adding a new format! In addition to the Descriptive Videos we are adding Descriptive Discs. We only have a few at this point, but will add them as we can.

_________ DVD 500 Lonesome Dove (Western) 4 discs.
_________ DVD 501 The Lucy Show (Humor)
_________ DVD 502 The Andy Griffith Show (Humor)

New Descriptive Videos

_________ DVS 293 Dishonored Lady (Mystery)
_________ DVS 294 The Lady and the Highwayman (Romance)
_________ DVS 295 Sword of Lancelot (Historical Fiction)
_________ DVS 296 The Magic Sword (Historical Fiction)
_________ DVS 297 Becket (Drama)

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

Ordering VCT’s and magazines listed in newsletters just got easier. Beginning with this newsletter, titles recently recorded in our studio will be listed in the middle of the newsletter on 4 yellow pages. These pages will also act as the order form.

Simply pull out the 4 pages, write your name at the top of page one, and mark all the titles you want to read. Then fold the form in half with the TBS address facing out, tape at the bottom, and mail. The order form will also contain information for ordering magazines and any other resources listed in the newsletter. Let us know how it works for you!

Biennial Survey On Its Way!

The Talking Book Service needs your feedback to help us better serve you! Every two years the Talking Book Service distributes a survey to determine how well we’re meeting our users’ needs. In the fall newsletter you will receive a short survey that will cover all aspects of the Service.

Please give us your honest feedback and return it as soon as possible so that we can evaluate how well we’re doing. All responses are confidential. The survey also will be posted on the Talking Book Service website at: http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs and can be completed whenever you’d like to comment on any aspect of the Talking Book Service.

Moving Project Disrupts Service

In late May staff started what they thought would be a short project: removing books from the movable shelves so the shelves could be repaired and maintained. While the books were off the shelves, they were boxed and unavailable to circulate. Unfortunately, a series of unplanned events extended the project from the scheduled 3 weeks to 6 weeks.

We apologize if recently you received fewer books than usual, or received books not quite to your reading expectations. The good news is the shelves are repaired, the books are reshelved, and normal circulation has resumed.

Contact the Talking Book Service ASAP if your circulation has not returned to normal, and we’ll check it out.
In April the Idaho Commission for Libraries celebrated National Volunteer Week by throwing a carnival for their many volunteers. The Commission celebrated the contributions of over 90 volunteers. In 2007, volunteers provided 8,145 hours of time. They recorded 46 books, repaired over 5,000 cassettes, and inspected and rewound over 225,000 talking books. They also assembled thousands of bulk mail items, helped with Read to Me programs, Summer Reading, workshop material assembly and anything else we asked them to do.

Fourteen volunteers were presented with two 15-year and 12 five-year certificates of longevity. Two more volunteer names were added to our “1000-Hour “ plaque.

While brainstorming ideas for this year’s volunteer event, Nancy Reese, an Office Specialist with ICFL said, “The volunteers always come and focus on work, let’s do something fun, like a carnival!” So that is what we did. ICFL staff really got into the fun by planning and building carnival booths, including a “treat walk” with home-made goodies, “Dart Toss” with noisy popping balloons, a “Fishing Booth” with fabulous prizes, “Ring Toss”, “Tic Tac Toe” and let’s not forget “Vasha the Volunteer Visionary” our very own resident fortune teller.

By Sheila Winther

Volunteer Spotlight

Sue Vap and Erma Krishnek with Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Winther

Of course, our Volunteer Coordinator showed up in top-hat and tails to become the “Ringmaster” for our day of silliness. From the loud chatter and many smiles, it looked like our volunteers all had plenty of fun and I don’t think any of them were thinking about working.
Thanks to all who provided notes of appreciation for Volunteer Appreciation Day. They are compiled in a notebook for volunteers to read. Staff often thanks volunteers for all their hard work, but it’s even better coming from the end users. We are fortunate to have great volunteers and users who are so appreciative of this service.

Below is a list of tasks volunteers routinely complete for Talking Book Service users:

1. Narrate/monitor/review books and magazines of local interest
2. Inspect returned books, magazines, and descriptive videos
3. Duplicate books and magazines
4. Repair books and mailing cases
5. Clean and repair machines
6. Prepare mailings
7. Complete special projects such as moving books
8. Label outreach supplies such as posters

Accessible Voting is Here for You!
The Talking Book Service is working with the Idaho Secretary of State’s Office to inform users of the tools available to make voting easier for those with vision loss or other conditions that make it difficult to vote.

A ballot marking device offers the following options:
- Headphones to listen to the ballot and make selections with a Braille keypad.
- A zoom feature to enlarge the print on the ballot.
- A contrast feature to improve readability by presenting black type over a white background or white type over a black background.

Other ways to vote:
- Use the assistance of a person of the voter’s choice.
- Absentee by mail.
- Absentee in person before Election Day at an absentee polling place.
- Curbside assistance at the polls and home voting are available under special circumstances.

These methods and tools are available in all Idaho counties. Contact your county clerk or visit the Secretary of State’s website: www.idahovotes.gov for more information on all options for accessible voting in Idaho.

Exercise your right to vote in all elections!
National Library Service Site Visit

Every 2 years a representative from the National Library Service (NLS) in Washington, D.C. visits TBS to review our procedures and discuss issues or questions staff may have. The visits are an opportunity to share what we are doing at the local level and learn more about what is happening throughout the NLS network of libraries.

On July 21 and 22 David Whittall was on-site for the 2008 visit. David gave a demonstration of the new digital players and met individually with all TBS staff. In addition to providing valuable information about the digital transition, he also shared expertise gained from working in various Talking Book libraries and visiting other Talking Book libraries.

He will write a formal report with both commendations and recommendations for changes within a few weeks. While we work to meet NLS expectations, our top priority is to meet YOUR expectations so let us know whenever we fail to do so.

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

NEW DIGITAL PLAYER & CARTRIDGE

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