



Books on Tape Update

Idaho Commission for Libraries

Talking Book Service

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Fall 2008

**Library Highlight:
Kootenai-Shoshone Area
Libraries' Outreach
Department takes its
service to the clients**



Kate Flagg, senior services outreach assistant, unloads books from the Sprinter van to share with the Best Land Retirement residents in Coeur d' Alene.

Life in several northern Idaho retirement homes is a lot brighter these days, thanks to a new service

provided by the Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries' Outreach Department.

Through partnering with organizations in the region, since this past spring Kootenai-Shoshone Outreach has been taking large print books, videos and audio books to 17 facilities for seniors in Kootenai county.

"This has really been a hit," says outreach coordinator Twylla Rehder. "In fact, we could probably double the amount of places we serve if we just had the time, the staff and the energy."

The program is implemented in two ways. There is the part of the program known as the "deposit collection." It is called that because the librarians drop off, or "deposit," books at selected locations, where folks using the service can pick up and return books and videos. The collection is swapped out once a month, Rehder said.

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E-mail address: talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov

Web site: www.libraries.idaho.gov/landing/talking-book-service

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Then there is the "lobby stop" service, which is the newest and by far the most popular part of the outreach program.

"The idea is that we bring books to the lobby (of a retirement or convalescent center), and then the seniors come to us and choose what they want," Rehder said. "We talk to them, and we get to know them, and then we bring to them more of what they want the next time we come."

The biggest advantage of a lobby stop is that the seniors in those homes get the one-on-one customer service they would get in a regular library if they were able to travel there, Rehder said.

One of the main reasons the Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries' Outreach Department came up with the idea of taking service through the front door of retirement facilities is that many seniors were not able to climb onto the bookmobile that had previously carried their large print books, videos and audio books. With that in mind, the library agency purchased a "Sprinter" van, which is a large van with a high ceiling retrofitted with a lift gate and interior shelving for library services.

"We hear things like, 'this is better than sliced bread'," Rehder said. "Not only do they like the lobby service, but we get to hear their stories about why they liked a book."

Rehder said she keeps up on notifying library directors in the region about her collection.

"It is such a good resource," she said. "We are serving people who have read all their lives, and we want to make sure they get to keep up on their favorite authors."



Kate Flagg from the Kootenai-Shoshone Libraries' Outreach program helps senior client Mary Lou Hayes.

Update on transition from cassette recordings to digital

Access your favorite oldies in the newest way

If you can hardly wait to escape into another C.J. Box great-outdoors suspense novel but would rather listen to it in the latest high quality digital format, your wish is about to come true.

Idaho Talking Book Service staff has selected 1,500 of your favorite authors and titles to be converted to digital format, and C.J. Box is one of those authors. You can start borrowing digital recordings of six different books authored by Box when Talking Books begins its transition to digital players and cartridges in 2009.

There were 12,000 titles available from the National Library Service, but due to fiscal constraints Idaho was only allowed to choose 1,500. So the question was, given that limitation, which authors and titles should we focus on. We decided that our first priority would be on what veterans tend to enjoy because by federal law, our vets will get first dibs on the digital players, which will be limited in number for some time.

We are being told that about 250

machines will be shipped to Idaho the first year. So with about 3,500 Talking book users right now, obviously we have to prioritize. Federal law has helped us do that. And that explains why we have six C.J. Box rough-and-ready novels ready to go. Along that same line, we have selected several books by William Johnstone, Donald Clayton Porter and Jon Sharpe.

But we have gone beyond adventure and westerns. We made sure our users who want to use the new technology can listen to the most popular romances, mysteries and suspense as well as yesteryear's best sellers.

And there's more: In addition to the 1,500 "retro" titles we are getting in the digital format, we will be receiving each month between 50 and 75 of the latest and greatest digitally recorded titles currently hitting the shelves in bookstores and libraries. The thing to know about this, however, is that some of these new titles will never be available in the older cassette format. That might be a disappointment to those of you who aren't inclined to change over to the cartridges, but we have no say in that. The National Library Service sets the policy for the Talking Book Service.

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The new digital cartridges take up less than one-quarter of the space that cassette tapes do.

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For those of you who like the change, the complete digital database of some 20,000 titles will be available to download from your computers. The thing about these changes is that, really, the new talking book machines and cartridges are smaller and easier to use than the cassettes and machines to which you have grown accustomed plus the sound quality is much better.

Time to fill out TBS survey on our service

If you don't tell us, we won't know

Yearning for some titles you can't seem to get through the Talking Books Service (TBS)? Can't imagine life without talking books? Or, maybe you've been wondering if an audio version of the Talking Book Service catalogue exists.

We can respond to those questions and opinions and more, but first we have to hear from you. That's why every two years we include in our newsletter a survey that asks you to rate us on our service. It should

only take you about 15 minutes to complete. Most important, we think, is that you add your own comments at the end of the multiple choice questionnaire that will help us to improve. If you want to, you can put your name on the returned surveys so that we can contact you to discuss your concerns. After all, we aim to please.

After you complete the survey, which should be returned by Oct. 31, just follow the instructions by folding so the TBS address is visible, tape it closed and return to the Idaho Commission for Libraries via the U.S. Postal Service FOR FREE.

Name _____

Address _____

New Idaho Talking Books from Our Recording Studio

To order, check off your selections and mail this

pre-addressed

order form

or call 1-800-458-3271

_____ **Spotted Horse (VCT 1099)**

Author: Glenn Balch

Read By: Marilyn Eagleton

A young Nez Perce warrior's vision quest eventually leads to breeding the famous "spotted horses" that became the most recognized symbol of his tribe.

1 Cassette Juvenile Fiction

_____ **Boise Massacre on the Oregon Trail: Attack on the
Ward Party in 1854 and Massacres of 1859, Snake Country Series
Volume One (VCT 1101)**

Author: Donald Shannon

Read By: Ken Cooper

Only about a half dozen of the encounters between Indian and emigrant parties on the Oregon and the California trails could be termed "massacres."

The author uses his many years of research to present the relationships among the native peoples of the Snake River country and the emigrants, trappers, explorers, traders, and the U.S. Army. Snake Country Series, Volume Two-Utter Disaster on the Oregon Trail VCT 153. 2 Cassettes Adult

Non-Fiction

New Books Continued

_____Getaways: 50 Public Places and Community Spaces in Latah County, Idaho (VCT 1102)

Author: Bill London

Read By: Lise Goertz

The natural attractions found in Latah County might not be as splendid as those in other parts of Idaho, but for those who live in or are visiting the Palouse region, there are many outdoor attractions on public land to discover and to enjoy. These 50 sites are all excellent places for a picnic, a walk or a lesson in local history.

1 Cassette Adult Non-Fiction

_____Mapmaker's Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau (VCT 1104)

Author: Jack Nisbet

Read By: Sue Vap

Between 1801 and 1812 David Thompson, a complex, headstrong and resourceful fur trader, explorer and cartographer surveyed the entire 1,250 mile course of the Columbia River. Author Jack Nesbit utilizes fresh research to convey how Thompson experienced the full sweep of the human and natural history etched across the Columbia drainage.

2 Cassettes Adult Non-Fiction

_____Early Days in Big Canyon Country (VCT 1105)

Author: Marion Kayler

Read By: Lana Thurston

In the Clearwater River Valley is a premier Idaho landscape occupied by lush crops and trees and distinctive wildlife and people. A century after Lewis and Clark crossed the valley and camped, these lands were settled by a flood of determined pioneers. Through a medley of well written and thoroughly researched stories, you will experience the lifestyles of those times.

2 Cassettes Adult Non-Fiction

New Books Continued

_____ **Giants and Legends (VCT 1106)**

Author: AngaLee Wilmot

Read By: Maryan Stephens

It is a time of swords and savages and a time of soul searching. This is the legend of Lief the Large of Willowesborough on a quest to find his kidnapped friend and fellow knight and of Constance, a brokenhearted beauty with a life torn apart by violence. Volume III of Beth of Willowesborough Keep.

Volume I — Heroes and Angels VCT 701

Volume II — Castles and Dragons VCT 708

2 Cassettes Adult Fiction

_____ **A Room for the Summer: Adventure, Misadventure, and Seduction in the Mines of the Coeur D' Alene (VCT 1107)**

Author: Fritz Wolff

Read By: Sue Vap

In *A Room for the Summer*, Fritz Wolff takes the reader on a memorable journey into the rough-and-tumble world of Northern Idaho hard rock mining. He recounts his experiences both above and below ground as an apprentice mining engineer during the late 1950s.

2 Cassettes Adult Non-Fiction

_____ **First 50 Women in Idaho Law, 1895-1975 (VCT 1108)**

Author: Debora Kristensen

Read By: Nichole Albertson

This book shares the personal and professional biographies of the first fifty women admitted to the Bar in Idaho and are stories filled with adversity, hope, and inspiration. 1 Cassette Adult Non-Fiction

New Books Continued

_____ **Governing Idaho: Politics, People and Power (VCT 1109)**

Author: James Weatherby

Read By: Art Latterell

This book details the history, geography and demographics that make the political structure of Idaho. A fascinating study.

3 Cassettes Adult Non-Fiction

_____ **Idaho Magazine**, published monthly, is a fun and informative read. Contributors send articles from all over the state. Each month an Idaho city/town is covered from its historic beginnings to its current events. This is the first magazine to truly cover all of Idaho, from the Canadian Border to Bear Lake. It is full of stories about unique Idahoans, breathtaking landscapes, and even a few tall tales. Call us today!

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Erma Krishnek becomes 24th TBS volunteer in Idaho to get the 1,000-hour Award

At 84, Erma Krishnek's back is straight as an arrow, and her rosy cheeks reflect her glowing health and agreeable nature.

"All my life I have tried to think positive. I really think that is the secret to everything," she

said. "I always think of other people having it much worse than what I've been through."

Krishnek, one of the many volunteers for the Talking Book Service, is a recent inductee into the 1,000 Hour Club. Having done away with her Tuesday shift recently, she works on Thursday afternoons. The reduction in hours comes after years of handling broken cassette tapes, which took a toll on her

In the spotlight ...



Erma Krishnek puts in three hours every Thursday inspecting, cleaning and rewinding cassettes for the Talking Book Service. She says the secret to her good health is a positive attitude.

thumbs and also those of her volunteering partner – daughter-in-law Sharon Krishnek. In fact when the two started, they had a third partner, Sharon's mother, who has since passed on.

"We were called the 'Golden Girls'," Sharon Krishnek said.

But just because Erma has developed a bit of arthritis in her thumb, that doesn't mean she's sinking back into the recliner.

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Talking Book volunteer Erma Krishnek has taken a part-time job demonstrating new products at Costco. She also helps out a neighbor whose health is not good, and she reads, reads, reads, she said. She likes murder mysteries, like J.A. Jantz and John Sanford, who are her favorites, and nonfiction, like the *Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama and *Boom* by Tom Brokaw," she said.

And in case you were wondering -- yes, she's a Democrat, she acknowledged.

So of course, Erma has been watching the current presidential campaign.

"I don't like the bashing," she said. "When they do that, I turn away. I like to keep positive."

We positively appreciate your positive attitude, Erma!

In Memoriam

Richard High

Donation from: Isabel & V.K. Brassey

Patricia Cox

Donation from: Patricia Jensen

Gertrude Lang & Glen Cline

Donation from : Sam & Marien Barton

General Donations from:

Emily Baker

Mary Boardman

Clyde J. Davis

Mabelle C. English

Bernice Hawker

Ernell B. Miller

Velma C. Milligan

Alice Uhl

Gladys Withrow

Donations make second recording studio possible

Thanks to the generous contributions of many of our patrons, we have now installed a second recording booth to add to the one installed in 2005.

The booths allow us to record books by Idaho authors as well as books about Idaho and the Pacific Northwest that would not be recorded at the national level.

Both studios are outfitted with the latest digital equipment, which really speeds up the recording process. That's because making corrections to the initial recordings is so much easier. It has reduced the production time by more than half.

Students to get better audio book access

Now you can listen and learn on the go...

If you are a blind, dyslexic or a physically disabled student who uses the Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic service (RFB&D), you have just lost one of your best excuses for not doing your homework. Telling your teacher that you don't have the textbook because your recordings haven't come in the mail just won't work anymore.

As of Aug. 4, instead of waiting for the postman to deliver CD ROMS with your textbook recordings, now you can download any of some 46,000 educational titles unto your Microsoft Windows-compatible computers. Then you can either listen to the material on your computer, or you can download it from your computer to your MP3 player and listen and learn on the go. The company that you have relied on to translate your educational materials into audio books, RFB&D, is doing this through its new program called "AudioAccessSM."

The system allows you to download on the widely available Microsoft Windows Media Player (version 10 or above).

RFB&D's new online ordering procedure walks members through that process, installs the free RFB&D *Download Manager* software and quickly organizes the books that members order on their computer for easy use. The *Download Manager* allows members to download an entire book or just the sections they need.

What you will need

- Microsoft Windows XP or Vista
- A high-speed Internet connection
- Microsoft Windows Media Player (Version 10 or higher)
- Compatible portable media player

About RFB&D

RFB&D is a nonprofit that serves 237,000 students from kindergarten through graduate school and beyond. It has 7,000 volunteers working in 29 recording studios nationwide. The service allows member students to access complete and unabridged audio versions of the school materials they need to level the academic playing field.

TBS calls for more volunteers for recording

Now that TBS has a second studio, we are looking for some more folks to record books and other materials written by Idaho authors or about Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.

For one thing, we have about 750 books on reel-to-reel tapes that have to be converted to the digital format. And for another, the time to record a book has been greatly reduced since we have gone digital, so that means we can record more material.

If you are or know someone who is a smooth reader and likes to ham it up a bit, and you or that someone has the time to put in every week during regular 8-to-5 work hours, please call Sheila Winther at The Idaho Commission for Libraries — 334-2150/800-458-3271, or e-mail Sheila.winther@libraries.idaho.gov.

We also need more monitors and reviewers. These people don't do the actual recording, but they have a ball using the new digital software to correct the recordings.

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