

# Books on Tape Update

Idaho Commission for Libraries

Talking Book Service

325 West State Street · Boise, Idaho 83702-6055

208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271

Fall 2009

## Digital Players Arrive!

The Talking Book Service (TBS) staff is thrilled to announce that the first digital players arrived in late August. Veteran Richard Ehrler, one of the first to receive his, was so excited he picked his up to avoid waiting for mail delivery. An avid user since 1969, he is looking forward to using the updated technology and not having to turn over cassette tapes or find a damaged tape in the middle of reading a good book.

A self-described "techie," Richard could hardly wait to start downloading books and magazines from the BARD database. He already uses the OPAC to order materials online and uses Bookshare to download titles not available through the Talking Book Service (TBS).

Richard put the player through its paces and called to report that he is highly satisfied with the player's sound quality and ease of use.



**Veteran Richard Ehrler picks up his new digital player and TBS customer service representative Loretta shares his enthusiasm**

Beginning in October, the Talking Book Service will receive approximately 120 players per month and will continue assigning them to those on the waiting list. Call 800-458-3271 today to be placed on the waiting list. Be sure to mention if you're a veteran or centenarian because you'll receive priority.

*E-mail address: [talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov)*

*Web site: [www.libraries.idaho.gov/tbs](http://www.libraries.idaho.gov/tbs)*

## GOOD NEWS!

Would you like access to news from around the world or closer to home at the state or local level? If so, check out NFB-NEWSLINE®, a free service that gives you the flexibility to read current newspapers and magazines whenever you want, wherever you are. NFB-NEWSLINE® provides easy access to over 300 newspapers and magazines, plus TV listings and wire feeds. If you are a patron of the Idaho Talking Book Service, you already qualify for NFB-NEWSLINE®!

### Local papers offered:

- Idaho Statesman
- The Idaho Falls Post Register
- The Spokesman-Review

### National papers offered include:

- The Christian Science Monitor
- USA Today
- The Wall Street Journal
- The New York Times

### Magazines offered:

- AARP Bulletin, AARP The Magazine
- AARP Segunda Juventud (Spanish-language)
- Diabetes Self-Management
- The Economist
- The New Yorker
- Poets & Writers
- Science News
- Time

### Wire Feeds:

- Associated Press (both national

and state-specific coverage)

- United Press International (national coverage)

NFB-NEWSLINE® is accessible to subscribers at any time either by phone or over a secure website ([www.nfbnewslineonline.org](http://www.nfbnewslineonline.org)) that provides text-only versions of publication content. Through this website, subscribers can search entire publications for a particular search term and have papers, sections, or just articles delivered to their email inbox on demand.

Subscribers can also choose to download the text of their favorite publications onto portable devices such as a Victor Reader Stream or MP3 player, thereby increasing the flexibility of the service.

Call 334-2150 in the Treasure Valley, 800-458-3271, or visit [www.nfbnewsline.org](http://www.nfbnewsline.org) for more information.

## RFB&D Individual Membership is now FREE

Through January 25, 2010, any U.S. student with a qualified learning or print disability can sign up for 12 months of free Internet access to the Reading for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) CV Starr Learning Through Listening® Library of more than 46,000 textbooks and literature titles.

**FREE RFB&D Membership, cont'd**

RFB&D, a national nonprofit, volunteer organization, is the leading audiobook library for students with disabilities such as visual impairment or dyslexia. RFB&D's digitally recorded audio textbooks are available in every subject area and grade level for students unable to read standard page. All students using the Talking Book Service are eligible for RFB&D.

This special offer, in celebration of RFB&D's 60th anniversary, is made possible by the generous contributions of RFB&D's donors and major funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

Member benefits include:

- FREE access to the nation's largest audiobook library of textbooks and literature titles
- Human-narrated audiobooks with descriptions of images, tables and graphs
- Easy-to-use online catalog
- 24/7 online member services and phone support
- Various audiobook downloadable formats, including DAISY and WMA (Windows Media Audio)

For assistance, contact Member Services at [custserv@rfgd.org](mailto:custserv@rfgd.org), 800-221-4792, or download the membership form at [www.rfgd.org/membership\\_indapp.htm](http://www.rfgd.org/membership_indapp.htm) and

mail to: RFB&D

Attn: Member Services  
20 Roszel Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Items downloaded from RFB&D can be played on the new NLS digital player after installing a user authorization key from RFB&D. Details about requesting and installing the software are available at: <https://custhub.rfgd.org/BrowseProducts.asp>.

**Recent Donations to TBS  
General Donations**

Emily Baker	Patricia O'Connell
Mabelle English	Marie Thurston
Clarence Harrison	Betty and Bill
Bernice Hawker	Wennstrom
Lois Matheney	

**Memorial Donations:**



**Pattie Zimmerman**

Marie Merwin

**Harry Magnuson**

Billie Shewmaker



Donations are used to enhance the Talking Book Service and are fully tax deductible as allowable by law. Acknowledgements are sent to donors and honorees, so please include the names and addresses of all those to be notified. Please make checks payable to Talking Book Service and mail to:  
**Idaho Talking Book Service**  
325 West State Street  
Boise, ID 83702

## Talking Book Service (TBS) Awareness Day

A special Thank You to the twenty public libraries and one care facility throughout the state that celebrated with Maud using the theme "Beat the Heat: How to Survive after 45." During the week of August 17-21, they hosted a wide range of programs from ice cream socials, to open houses with treats, to formal presentations by Idaho Commission for Libraries TBS staff and community partners on topics pertaining to vision loss and the aging process. TBS staff was present at 14 different locations, sharing information about the Talking Book Service.



More than 200 attendees had a chance to see the new digital player and check out what is available at their local libraries for those requiring print alternatives. TBS patrons in attendance shared information about how the service has impacted them. Other TBS patrons submitted letters to the editor to their local newspapers, sharing similar information.

Local library staff is already talking about new ideas for next year, so keep an eye out for the fun things we'll have planned. The continuing goal is to make aware to those requiring print alternatives the services and formats available that will permit them to continue reading.



Talking Book Service Awareness Day participants "Beat the Heat" at an open house

## Magazine Corner

**Publications that may primarily be of interest to seniors:** For the following titles, an issue must be returned to get the next:

**AARP Magazine:** Subjects of interest to people 50 and over. Monthly.

**Elder Update:** Consumer issues for senior citizens. Bimonthly.

**Good Old Days:** Articles written by senior Americans about experiences and memories from their childhood. 15 issues/year.

**Remember, for those who are interested in downloading to the digital players:** There are 46 magazine titles available for download. For more information on the digital transition, go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/digital-collection>.

**New Books Order Form**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Idaho Talking Books From Our Recording Studio**

To order, checkmark your selections and mail this pre-addressed order form, call 800-458-3271, or order online at:  
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/TBS/CurrentBooks/Fall2009>.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1152) **Religion, Politics, and Sugar: the Mormon Church, the Federal Government, and the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, 1907-1921**

**Author: Matthew Godfrey**

**Read By: Sue Vap**

At the height of attempts during the Progressive Era to rein in big business, the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, a business supported and controlled by the Latter-Day Saints church and run by Mormon authorities, collided with federal regulatory agencies and prosecutors. The Church's involvement, initiated by divine inspiration of the Mormon prophet, led to the monopolistic practices of the Company and to federal investigations. This book offers insights into the role that the Mormon church played in economic affairs in the intermountain West during the early twentieth century.

**2 Cassettes Adult Nonfiction**

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1155) **The Hearts of Horses: A Novel**

**Author: Molly Gloss**

**Read By: Kris Query**

Set in a remote Eastern Oregon county in 1917, this is the tale of nineteen-year-old Martha Lessen, a female horse whisperer. Martha tries, over the course of several months, to break a horse in her own special, gentle way. She gets miraculous, almost immediate, results and earns a place of respect in the community, despite her best efforts to remain aloof and detached. Along the way she helps a family save their horses when their wagon slides into a ravine and she clashes with a man who is abusing horses. This is the touching story of people and animals making connections and touching each other's lives in the most unexpected ways.

**2 Cassettes Adult Fiction**

**New Books Order Form (cont'd from p. 5)**

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1160) **Call Me Little Echo Hawk: The Story of a Name**

**Author: Terry Echohawk** **Read By: Colette Cowman**

Every child has a name, and the story of Echo Hawk will motivate children everywhere to seek out stories about their names. It will also help children learn to be proud of their heritage and their ancestors.

**1 Cassette Juvenile Fiction**

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1161) **Common Courage: Bill Wassmuth, Human Rights, and Small-Town Activism**

**Author: Andrea Vogt** **Read By: Carla Stern**

A thoughtful book about the importance of speaking out on behalf of human rights, this story grew out of the last public interviews with noted Northwest human rights activist and former Catholic priest Bill Wassmuth. Wassmuth's leadership as a small-town activist opposing local neo-Nazis led to the bombing of his parish rectory in 1986. This act galvanized Northwest residents against the white supremacy movement.

**2 Cassettes Adult Nonfiction**

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 709) **Through The Yellowstone Park on Horseback**

**Author: George Wingate** **Read By: Natalie Chavez and Tracie Lee**

In July and August of 1885, George W. Wingate, a prominent and wealthy New Yorker, together with his wife and daughter took a horseback trip through Yellowstone Park. In this engaging travel account, historians, scientists, and those who love Yellowstone Park will all find something of interest.

**2 Cassettes Adult Nonfiction**

**Are you missing books that you requested from TBS?**

We have received order forms without names. If one of these is *your* list, please call us at 800-458-3271 and let us know so we can send you the requested titles.

**New Books Order Form (cont'd from p. 6)**

**Order Magazines Below**

- \_\_\_\_\_ AARP Magazine. Monthly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elder Update. Bimonthly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Good Old Days. 15 issues per year.

**Overdue Notices**

TBS sent out overdue notices to patrons last month. If you receive one of these letters, please return your materials promptly. Fines for overdue materials will not be imposed.

any overdue materials, turn the postcard over on the outside of the green box and mail them back. They are "Free Matter," so no postage is necessary.

Thank you to all who called in response to an overdue notice to renew your books or to let us know that you were returning them. In addition, we appreciate knowing when you don't have a book, perhaps because it is lost or wasn't properly checked back in.

Sometimes books get damaged, lost, or even stolen. If this has happened to any of your cassette materials, give us a call at 208-334-2150 (Treasure Valley) or 800-458-3271 so we can remove the items from your account to reflect accurate information.

The TBS loan period for recorded cassettes is six weeks. Keep in mind that the books you borrow are shared with other users requiring reading alternatives from all over the state—that's over 3,500 people. When you keep a book for longer than the accepted loan period, you are preventing other patrons from enjoying the same materials.

**Loan periods:**

- **Books on tape:** 6 weeks
- **Descriptive videos:** 2 weeks (a replacement fee will be charged for any lost, damaged, or stolen VHS)
- **Descriptive DVD:** 2 weeks (a replacement fee will be charged for any lost, damaged, or stolen DVD)
- **Magazines in green mailing containers:** 2 weeks
- **Magazines in cardboard containers:** Do not return

So please, take a few minutes and look around your house for TBS cassette tapes. If you find

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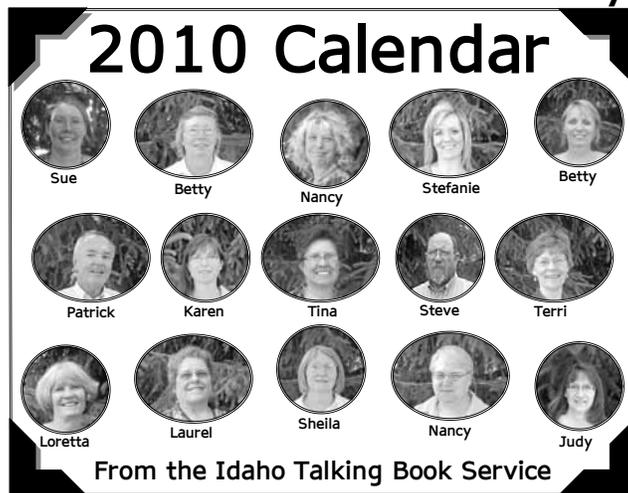
**FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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This newsletter is available on cassette tape upon request. Call 800-458-3271.  
For a podcast or PDF, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/books-tape-update>.

### TBS Calendars on their way



The 2010 TBS calendars were mailed to TBS users October 1, 2009. Persons unable to read standard print because of a physical condition are eligible to use the Talking Book Service. Organizations providing support for people with some of these physical conditions are highlighted in this year's calendar.

## TBS Advisory Committee

The Talking Book Advisory Committee continues to meet quarterly to discuss items of interest to Idahoans unable to read standard print due to a physical disability. The last few meetings have focused on topics dealing primarily with the digital transition.

Committee members come from all areas of the state and several types of organizations working with those unable to read standard print. Staff from libraries, the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), the Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA), the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind (ISDB), and current TBS users work collaboratively to advise Idaho Commission for Libraries Talking Book Service staff about the trends and issues of those requiring an alternative to standard print.

Current Advisory Committee members:

- Heidi Caldwell—Lincidaho
- Donna Denney—ICOA
- Cheryl Duncan—TBS user
- Mary Ellen Halverson—NFB
- Amber Kent—Madison Library District
- Susan Niewenhaus—Lewis-Clark State College Library
- Barbara Nolan—Coeur d'Alene Public Library

- Dorothy Ogden—ISDB
- Nancy Wise—ICBVI

For contact information or to read committee minutes, go to:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/talking-book-advisory-committee>.

### TBS 10<sup>2</sup> Club



We are honored to announce that Paul Bancroft of Shoshone, Idaho, has been entered into the Talking Book Service 10<sup>2</sup> Club. Paul celebrated his 100th birthday on July 10th, 2009.

To emphasize the special status of our 10<sup>2</sup> Club members, we have created special privileges for them. Centenarians have special "no-wait" borrowing privileges, a service that gives them priority status on book reserve lists.

## Volunteer Highlight

by Sheila Winther

### Shirley Moss, ICFL's Fix-It Gal

Shirley Moss began her volunteer service with Idaho Commission for Libraries in February 1992 and has been generously giving four to six hours per week ever since. She is a member of the Quest Telecom Pioneers of Treasure Valley, a wonderful service group made up of current and retired employees of the telecom industry. This service group is part of a nationwide group celebrating one hundred years of community service. For more information on this outstanding group, see their website at [www.qwestpioneers.org/chapters/idaho/treasure.aspx](http://www.qwestpioneers.org/chapters/idaho/treasure.aspx).

Shirley worked in statewide management at the telephone company. She was also a do-it-yourselfer and was interested in learning how to repair the talking book machines. After a few training sessions from our resident repair wizard, Fred Riddle, Shirley was repairing machines on her own. She now shows Fred a thing or two every once in a while.

Shirley is involved in many community service projects, too

many to mention them all here. One project she particularly enjoys is when she transforms herself into Shortcake the clown. As Shortcake she is part of a group called Smile Aide, a Boise-based group of caring clowns that visits area hospitals.

With so many worthy causes asking for Shirley's time, we are very fortunate indeed to receive such a generous portion. Books on Tape without machines to play them on are not much fun. Thanks Shirley, for the many hours of dedication to Idaho's Talking Book readers.



Shirley Moss, ICFL's  
Talking Book Service Fix-It Gal

## The Evolution of TBS Players

The format of books and players has changed much since the program began in the 1930s. Below is a pictorial history of some of the players used throughout the years. Which ones have you used?



1948: Long-playing vinyl records



1970s: Player and tapes—  
The first cassette tapes.



1969: Reel-to-reel tapes—Remember threading the tape on these players?



1986: The EZ cassette player—  
Automatically plays all 4 sides  
of the cassette.

And now, in 2009 →

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Funded by  
the Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2009.



- 2009: Introducing the Digital Player**  
The digital format has many advantages including:
- Improved sound quality
  - A lighter-weight, easier to use player
  - Ability to download books and magazines from a website

Have you signed up for the waiting list?