

Idaho Commission for Libraries

Vol. 1 No. 4

Fall 2010

Connections

Talking Book Service News

Library Highlight

Boise Public Library

Main Library

715 S. Capitol Blvd.

Boise, ID 83702

208-384-4076

www.boisepubliclibrary.org

Hours at Main Library:

Mon–Thurs: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday*: Noon to 5:00 p.m.

*Closed Sundays during summer



Boise Public Library's Homebound Services delivers materials to its homebound patrons

Boise Public Library has numerous reading options for those requiring print alternatives. The library's Homebound Services (HBS) also provides direct delivery service of materials to patrons who are homebound, without charge, through staff members Courtney and Helen or one of their fabulous volunteers.

these are unabridged. The library has over 7,000 large print books and can also draw from the other Treasure Valley Open Access Agreement library collections. The large print and recorded books collection also includes copies of the 2011 Big Read selection, *The Call of the Wild*. (See more about The Big Read on page 2.)

Reading materials include 7,065 books on CD—including adult fiction and nonfiction, juvenile titles, and young adult titles. The majority of

In addition, eAudiobooks are available for download through the website at www.boisepubliclibrary.org/eCollections/eaudio/. HBS can
(continued on page 2)

Innovative services and community

Highlight *(continued from page 1)*

download these onto MP3 players for their patrons.

Homebound Services delivers to some facilities that have their own Book Discussion groups. These facilities often select multiple copies of a title from the library's Books for Book Clubs collection. Whenever possible, Homebound Services also provides large print and recorded copies of these items.

Homebound Services has a spare TBS player available for TBS users to borrow if their player breaks. Brochures describing more Homebound Services are available at all Boise Public Library branches (Cole & Ustick, Collister, and Hillcrest) and the Main Library Circulation and Information desks.

To contact Courtney or Helen about Homebound Services and services for those requiring print alternatives, call 208-562-4002. HBS staff members are in Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., but they deliver materials four days a week, so please leave a message if no one answers. For general questions or requests for reading materials, you can also contact the Main Library at 208-384-4076 during its regular hours.

*Email: talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov • Website: libraries.idaho.gov/tbs
Phone: 208-334-2150 or 800-458-3271*

2011 Big Read

The Big Read is an annual opportunity for communities to enjoy the same title. A joint project of The Cabin and Idaho's libraries, Idaho's 2011 Big Read selection, Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, is appropriate for all ages.

Here's a brief description of the book:

Buck, a St. Bernard mix, is stolen and trained to be a sled dog in the Alaskan gold fields. Abused by both men and dogs, Buck learns to fight ruthlessly until he finds a master, John Thornton, whom he loves and respects.

In early 2011, libraries throughout Idaho will host book discussions and other activities based on this title. The Talking Book Service has the book available both as a cartridge and as a download from BARD, so contact TBS for a copy and check with your local library to see what activities they have planned.

In January 2011, a listing of statewide activities will be available on The Cabin's website: www.thecabinidaho.org/whatwedo/the-big-read.htm.

What Are You Reading?



Loretta recommends *The Saints of God's Country* for all readers

Loretta Paine, Customer Service Representative at the Idaho Commission for Libraries, couldn't put down *The Saints of God's Country* once she started reading it. A historical novel by Edward Craner, this story takes place in Northern Idaho and is based on the devastating Great Fire of 1910 that claimed the lives of 86 people and burned millions of acres.

August 20, 1910 forever changed the lives of those who lived in Northern Idaho. This book takes you back to a simple time in the tiny town of St. Maries, Idaho, where everyone made a living by farming or logging and where the vast wilderness was a youth's refuge from the real world. Each page showed the wonderful depth of a group of young people's

lives, the friendship and love they shared, their courage and survival through the most devastating conditions imaginable, and their determination to come through with their youth still intact.

As hard as it is to believe, this was a feel-good story about the resilience of youth with a wonderful ending. Loretta recommends it to all readers. There is no strong language, sex, or violence.

Ordering Information

The Saints of God's Country is available in the following formats:

Cassettes: VCT 01120

Digital cartridge: VDB 01120

Have a Favorite TBS Book You'd Like to Share?

If you would like to share your thoughts about a favorite TBS book in this column, please let the TBS staff know by calling 800-458-3271 or emailing talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov. We will keep a list of patrons interested in contributing to the "What are you reading" column and, as space permits, we will contact you for more information about your book.

Recent Donations to TBS

General Donations

Mabelle English Nona Janvier
Alice Fu Alene Maria
Dorothy Griffiths Floyd Turner

Memorial Donations

Joe Cook

Allen & Marjorie Bauscher

Samuel Hazard

Sam & Marien Barton



Maryrose Nelson

Arlene Davis



Gregory and Jan Eby

Joanne Fahrenwald

Elizabeth Fiedler

Elizabeth Gailey

Marloine and Patrick Howard

Robert & Nancy Klicker

Jerome Lang

Mary Ellen Miller

Kathryn Morris

Mardell Nelson

Gordon & Kai Nelson

Bill & Marge Nicklason

Robert & Ann Nielsen

Robert & Imogene Pence

Kip & Cheryl Runyan

Elwood Shemwell

Douglas Ford Small

Millie Elmgreen & Marian Taylor

Hazel Thornburgh

Betty Ustohal

Bob & Diane Bongiorno & Family

Norma M. Parker

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 name and address of all those to be notified. Please make checks payable to Idaho Commission for Libraries and mail to:

Idaho Talking Book Service

325 West State Street

Boise, ID 83702

Thank you for your generosity!

What's Available Digitally?

Many folks have requested a list of digital books. We currently have no printed catalog; however, titles can be identified at our WEB OPAC at <http://webopac.klas.com/idbph>.

Those without access to the Internet may request the *Talking Book Topics* catalog. Sent directly from the National Library Service (NLS), this catalog comes out every other month and lists new digital (DB) books. Call 800-458-3271 and ask for the *Talking Books Topics* to be added as a subscription or order it directly on the back of the order form in this newsletter. Please indicate a preference for a Large Print or Cassette Tape catalog.

Remember, all new titles are available on cartridge. NLS plans to discontinue producing cassettes in 2011.

New Books Order Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

New Idaho Talking Books from Our Recording Studio

Locally recorded books are available on digital cartridges. They are not yet available for download but they are still available on cassettes. To order, select VDB for digital cartridge or VCT for cassette and mail this pre-addressed order form, call 800-458-3271, or order online at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/TBS/CurrentBooks/Fall2010>.

We have lots of new locally recorded books in this issue, so we've kept the descriptions brief in order to fit them all. You can find more detailed descriptions in the online catalog at <http://webopac.klas.com/idbph>.

Sawtooth Tales

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Dick d'Easum

Read By: Rosemary Ardinger

Full of Stanley Basin history and local lore, these sometimes humorous tales span the author's 50-plus year love affair with this central Idaho area.

_____ (VDB 1143) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1143) 2 Cassettes

Legend of the Tumbleweed

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Kirby Jonas

Read By: Jeffrey Tiedge

In this Idaho author's classic western, Tom McLean is both outlaw and hero. After a daring daylight robbery in a Wyoming boomtown, he is on the run.

_____ (VDB 1163) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1163) 3 Cassettes

Soul of the Land: the True Story of Two Brothers and Their Struggle to Own the Land

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Chan Atchley

Read By: Lana Thurston

The book is based on historical accounts of the Atchley brothers and their families as they struggled to become landowners in Idaho in the early 1900s.

_____ (VDB 1171) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1171) 4 Cassettes

Idaho Falls: The Untold Story of America's 1st Nuclear Accident (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: William McKeown

Read By: Kenneth Cooper

This book chronicles the strange tale of SL-1, a military test reactor in the Idaho desert that exploded, killing three people January on 3, 1963.

_____ (VDB 1176) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1176) 2 Cassettes

It's In the Blood: the Story of The Kilpatrick Brothers (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Chris Millspaugh

Read By: Larry Weeks

This is a historical biography of the Kilpatrick brothers from Beatrice, Nebraska who settled in Picabo, Idaho and began cattle ranching.

_____ (VDB 1177) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1177) 1 Cassette

Bell, Cook, and Candle: An Angie Amalfi Mystery (Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence

Read By: Colette Cowman

If Angie can't help her boyfriend track down a maniacal serial killer with an unhealthy interest in her, she may end up as a devil's food of a different kind.

_____ (VDB 1190) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1190) 2 Cassettes

About Grace

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Anthony Doerr

Read By: Kris Query

In this intriguing tale, when David Winkler dreams about the death of his daughter, he leaves his family in hopes that his daughter's life will be spared.

_____ (VDB 1193) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1193) 3 Cassettes

Questionable Ethics: A Mel Addison Mystery

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Angela Abderhalden

Read By: Sue Vap

As Mel recovers from the devastating loss of her husband and child, she becomes the victim of a crime. She begins to put the pieces together.

_____ (VDB 1194) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1194) 2 Cassettes

If Cooks Could Kill: An Angie Amalfi Mystery

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence

Read By: Maryan Stephens

When her matchmaking attempts fall flat and her friend falls for a tarnished loner, Angie finds herself embroiled in a homicide and protecting her friend.

_____ (VDB 1195) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1195) 2 Cassettes

Two Cooks A-Killing: An Angie Amalfi Mystery

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence

Read By: Maryan Stephens

Angie lands a job cooking for her favorite soap opera characters. When a corpse turns up in the cellar, she becomes a guest star in a deadly drama.

_____ (VDB 1196) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1196) 2 Cassettes

Leepike Ridge

(Juvenile Fiction)

Author: N. D. Wilson

Read By: Carla Stern

When 11-year-old Tom finds a corpse, a dog, a flashlight, a castaway, four graves, and buried treasure under Leepike Ridge, his life changes forever.

_____ (VDB 1201) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1201) 1 Cassette

Year of the Horse

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Justin Allen**Read By: Wayne Long**

Yen Tzu-lu, a child of immigrants, is unwillingly pressed into service beside a gang of roughnecks bent on stealing a goldmine from a villain.

_____ (VDB 1203) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1203) 2 Cassettes

David and the Bear Lake Monster: A Family Saga of Bear Lake, ID (Adult Fiction)**Author: Linda Weaver Clarke****Read By: Maryan Stephens**

David, a prankster, tries to bring the Bear Lake monster to life. But he also struggles to solve personal issues and win the woman he adores.

_____ (VDB 1204) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1204) 2 Cassettes

Finding Caruso

(Adult Fiction: Sex and Violence)

Author: Kim Barnes**Read By: Lana Thurston**

Set in hardscrabble Snake Junction, Idaho, two brothers struggle to earn a living. A romantic triangle develops when a femme fatale arrives in town.

_____ (VDB 1207) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1207) 2 Cassettes

For Wood River Or Bust: Idaho's Silver Boom of the 1880s (Adult Nonfiction)**Author: Clark C. Spence****Read By: Carla Stern**

This book is a chronicle of the silver rush in Wood River Valley during the late 19th century: the mining companies, settlements and prospectors.

_____ (VDB 1214) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1214) 2 Cassettes

Concord Cunningham: Scripture Sleuth

(Juvenile Fiction)

Author: Mathew Halverson**Read By: Sue Robinson**

Are you ready to catch villains, solve puzzles, and crack cases? Grab your Bible and get ready to Scripture Sleuth with Concord Cunningham.

_____ (VDB 1216) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1216) 1 Cassette

A Sweetness to the Soul

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Jane Kirkpatrick**Read By: Kathy Yribar**

The captivating story of a young pioneer Jane Herbert, who at twelve faces a tragedy that begins a life-long search for forgiveness and love.

_____ (VDB 1217) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1217) 3 Cassettes

Concord Cunningham Returns: The Scripture Sleuth 2 (Juvenile Fiction)**Author: Mathew Halverson****Read By: Sue Robinson**

Who sabotaged the school play? Is the Bigfoot picture real? Did Mr. Morrison really find Murdock's gold mine? Grab a Bible. Get ready to Scripture Sleuth.

_____ (VDB 1219) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1219) 1 Cassette

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

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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Boise, Idaho 83702

This newsletter is available on cassette tape upon request. Call 800-458-3271. For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to the newsletter via email, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/connections-tbs-news>.

New Books Order Form *(continued from page 7)*

Concord Cunningham On the Case: The Scripture Sleuth 3 (Juvenile Fiction)

Author: Mathew Halverson

Read By: Sue Robinson

Who stole the lumberjack statue? Is a peanut butter sandwich really powering the digital clock? Why is there a mysterious skydiver in Pine Tops? Get ready to look up clues in your Bible.

_____ (VDB 1220) 1 Cartridge

_____ (VCT 1220) 1 Cassette

Coming Soon: Place your advance orders now!

Building Bogus Basin

Author: Eve Brassey Chandler

The history of Idaho's Community Ski Area

_____ (VDB 1230) 1 Cartridge

Talking Book Topics catalog

_____ *Talking Book Topics* – Large print

_____ *Talking Book Topics* – Cassette version

_____ Change from large print to cassette

_____ Change from cassette to large print

New Loan Guidelines

New loan guidelines have been approved for cartridges. Here are the highlights:

- Users in good standing may have an unlimited number of cartridges at one time. Contact TBS to increase the number you receive. Good standing is defined as having no more than one cassette player at a time.
- Circulation period for cartridges is 4 weeks, with one 2-week renewal.

The circulation period for cassettes and DVDs and videos remains the same:

- Cassettes: 6 weeks with one 6-week renewal
- DVDs and videos: 2 weeks with one 1-week renewal

Please return your titles on time so that others may use them, or call 800-458-3271 to request a renewal. Not certain when a title is due? Call and ask.

Three easy steps for always having something to read:

1. Return the cassette or cartridge as soon as you have read it; another title will be sent to you each time one is received.
2. If you're not receiving enough titles, contact TBS and request an increase in the maximum number of items you receive.
3. Request that your service be

"turn around," which means titles will be selected from your author and subject interests and guarantees another title will be sent each time one is returned.

Service Changes for Walk-In Users

Users are always welcome to walk in to the Idaho Commission for Libraries to return materials and/or request additional ones. Please help us serve you by calling at least two hours in advance to request titles. That will give us enough time to select and retrieve them for you. If you can't call in advance, plan to arrive by 4:30 p.m. so staff can give you the quality service you deserve before the Commission closes at 5:00 p.m.

TBS Awareness Day: March 3, 2011

The Talking Book Service is turning 80! Help us celebrate the date that NLS began recording books for distribution to those unable to read standard print and spread the word to those who might not be aware of the free service. Share your stories about how you heard about TBS, what you like about it, and your favorite title by sending them to talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov or TBS, 325 West State St., Boise, ID 83702. Details of planned activities will be available in the next newsletter.

Volunteer Highlight

Sandy Batt

Sandy Batt began her volunteer service with the Idaho Commission for Libraries in 2003, after hearing about it from a friend who volunteers at the Commission. Sandy was looking for something to do because she had retired, and since then she has logged in 1,051 volunteer hours inspecting TBS books.

"Even when the snow blows or the temperature soars, Sandy always shows up," said volunteer coordinator Sheila Winther.

"Unless of course she is traveling. But even then, she often finds a replacement to fill in while she is gone. What dedication!"

Sandy inspects the returned books, checking for missing or damaged cassettes and making sure that all cassettes are rewound and placed in the correct order in the case. Sandy says she enjoys volunteering at the Commission because the staff is nice to work with and, when she goes home at the end of the day, she feels like she has accomplished something.

Sandy is a member of the Qwest Telecom Pioneers of Treasure Valley, a service group made up of current and retired employees of the telecom industry.

An avid reader, Sandy especially enjoys mysteries and suspense. Sometimes when inspecting the returned books, she or another volunteer will come across a title they've read, which prompts some interesting discussions while they work. Sandy also brings her trusty iPod, with over 8,000 tunes, and listens to a wide range of music while she works.

A self-described "Facebook freak," Sandy uses the social network to keep in touch with children, grandchildren, friends, and people that she knew when she lived in Montana two decades ago.

Besides enjoying reading and using Facebook, Sandy is an animal lover. When her dog brought home a feral kitten, she picked up another kitten at the pound so the two kittens could be playmates. So Sandy now has a dog and four cats.



Sandy Batt inspects TBS cassettes

Helen Miller, State Librarian 1962-1980

Helen Miller, Idaho's State Librarian from 1962 to 1980, died on November 18, 2010.

Recognizing the need to build local library service, Helen focused on library development. She contracted for a study that produced "Libraries for Tomorrow," a plan that included a 10-year program to develop cooperative library services, as well as recommendations to establish more tax-supported libraries in the rural areas and to provide a scholarship program to encourage professional librarians to work in Idaho. Helen pursued funding and support to implement initiatives in each of those areas.

In addition, during Helen's tenure the State Library Building at 3rd and State was built, library services for the blind and physically handicapped (now the Talking Book Service) were moved to the agency, the depository for state documents was established (now [Stacks], the digital repository), and the Washington Library Network (WLN) was introduced to Idaho libraries.

The Idaho library community benefitted greatly from Helen's work, and continues to build on what she set in motion. Helen earned a contented retirement gardening with her cats, travelling, and, of course, reading.

From Reel to Cartridge

Volunteers Dave Laycock, Jan Marshall, Stan Young, and Sue Vap have been converting books from reel tapes to digital books on cartridges. The first book began life as eight reel tapes. Here's what happened on its journey to the digital world:

1. The reels were baked in a special oven for four hours. (This restores the audio quality of the book.)
2. The baked reels were fast-forwarded and rewound on an old playback machine to even out the windings of the tape.
3. The rewound reels were transferred one reel at a time, via Zing software, which converts audio from analog to digital, and loaded onto a computer for editing.
4. The digital files were then imported into Book Wizard Producer software to build the structure of the digital book.
5. The digital book was then encrypted in the National Library Service (NLS) software.
6. The encrypted digital book was copied to cartridge, then added to the Keystone Library Automation System (KLAS) as a digital book.

Over 20 hours of audio from eight reels fit on one little digital

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This newsletter is available on cassette tape upon request. Call 800-458-3271. For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to the newsletter via email, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/connections-tbs-news>.



Funded by
the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Cartridge *(continued from page 11)*

cartridge after one big process! It took about nine volunteer hours for this one book—a process we would never have enough staff hours to accomplish.

The goal is to eventually transfer all 750 locally created books (VCTs) to digital format (VDB) so that they too can be played on the digital player. Some of the recently converted titles already available are listed in the TBS calendar that was sent to all users last month.

In 2011 all locally recorded books will be available only on cartridge.

But don't worry, we have a large supply of digital players. If you don't have one yet, call 800-458-3271 to request one today.



The digital player and cartridge