

# Connections

## Talking Book Service News

### Postal Carrier Recognized as the Year's Best

You've taken a journey, perhaps to a different time or place, maybe you've even made a new friend along the way, but now you hear that all-too familiar phrase – "end of book." But before you can even think about what to read next, your postal carrier arrives with your latest excursion.

Without the dedication of all of the hard-working postal carriers in Idaho, the Talking Book Service (TBS) would be unable to bring those little plastic cartridges filled with new adventures right to your mail box.

And every year, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) recognizes one postal carrier as being the very best. The selection is made from the nominations submitted by the patrons of the TBS.

Recently, the honor for 2015 was bestowed upon Postal Carrier Vicky Shilling, of the Ponderay Post Office, in Ponderay, Idaho (which is near Sandpoint).



**Esther Burrows (left) nominated Vicky Shilling (right) for the ICfL's Postal Carrier of the Year honor.**

Vicky was nominated by Esther Burrows, who said, "No matter what the weather is like, no matter how late or dark the night, she delivers to my door, since I am handicapped, physically." Esther also thanked Vicky for helping to keep her world open.

Vicky was chosen out of 58 nominees (listed pages 2 and 3). If you would like to nominate your postal carrier next year, look for details in our Winter 2017 newsletter.

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**Postal Carrier Recognition Nominees for 2015**

Nominator	Postal Carrier	City
Zola Forsgren	Jody	Ammon
Lyndon C. Hall	Lance Walker	Ammon
Carmen Hensen	Amber Mangum	Blackfoot
Glenn Barker & Susan Lambert	Tim	Boise
Judithann Hill	John	Boise
Cecilia Langland	Cindi	Boise
Pati McClintock	Violet Mendella	Boise
Don Nepple	Amy Roe	Boise
Geraldine Niemeier	Btaanpow Pereitca	Boise
Dorothea Ross	Tim Hoover	Boise
Ruth Walker	Barb	Boise
Yolanda Werdel	Kevin Grabe	Boise
Glenn Colley & Susan Rainey	Tina Whited	Buhl
Marjorie Larsen	Wilie Garcia	Burley
Martha Steihl	Steve Young	Caldwell
Susan Manley	Christian McClimans	Coeur d'Alene
Dorothy Zimmerman	Nancy	Deary
Marge Clark	Kirk	Eagle
Teresa Sanders	Melinda	Garden City
Marjorie Cleaver	John Garn	Idaho Falls
Eloise Jensen	Darryl	Idaho Falls
Marva Jex	Debbie Snyder	Idaho Falls
Shirley McDermott	Darrell	Idaho Falls
Donna Water	John Garn	Idaho Falls
John Snyder	Marty Wilkins	Kamiah
Bill Wilkes	Robert Jones	Lewiston
Eugene Colton	Rhonda Daniels	Malad City
Daryl Woolstenhulme	Loring Cammack	Montpelier
R. Michael Bowman	Hayden Spencer	Moscow
Wannetta Cooke	Sandy Newton	Nampa
Glendon McFarland	Monica Acosta	Nampa
Kathy Garrett	Tracey Blake & Lila Myers	Orofino
Joyce Swan	Christine Hodgson	Plummer
Doreen Stavast	Blake Quigley	Pocatello
Fred Overlin	Rochelle Seher	Post Falls
Matilda Reimer	Gary	Rathrum
Therol Brown	Emily Morgan	Rexburg
Helen Bloxham	Doris Drake	Rigby
Carlyle Gale	Tammy Zeller	Rigby
Ruth Taylor	Konnie Barney	Rigby
Rocky Williams	Carol Radford	Rigby
Geraldine Davis	Dawn Hartman	Sandpoint
Chelsea Denisis	Gena McLean	Sandpoint
S.A. Floyd	Rebecca	Spirit Lake
Catherine Drake	Marnie Sumners	Star
Rose Mary Palmer	Jill Torgerson	Terreton

*cont'd.  
on  
pg. 3*

**Postal Carrier Recognition Nominees for 2015** (Cont'd from pg. 2)

Nominator	Postal Carrier	City
Annette Hill	Allen Aston	Twin Falls
Barbara Silcock	Robert Orr	Twin Falls
Ricardo Zamoá	Nealann Davis	Wilder
Elizabeth White	Karen Babbit	Worley

And thank you to our patrons who wanted to nominate their postal carrier, but did not know that person's name. Those patrons are: Mildred Drayton, Boise; Zelda Brown, Idaho Falls; Dorothy Rowley-Carlson, Idaho Falls; and Becky Madsen, Idaho Falls.

**Postal Problems?**

As great as all of our nominees are at their jobs, there may be a postal carrier in the Gem state who wouldn't quite be nominated as one of our best. Perhaps they just don't realize that our Talking Book Service (TBS) cartridges and players are shipped free of charge to patrons as part of a federal program.

The U.S. Postal Service is paid by the U.S. government to support this program that allows for the free mailing of materials by simply writing "Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped" in the upper right-hand corner of the item. If you are having an issue with your postal carrier, please contact your local Post Master for assistance. If you have questions about what can be mailed free postage for the blind and/or how to do it, please contact the TBS at 800.458.3271.

**2017 Calendar on Its Way!**

The 2017 Talking Book Service (TBS) large-print calendar will be sent to TBS users in late October. If you haven't received yours by mid-November, please contact us at 800.458.3271. If you don't use the large-print calendar, please contact the TBS to have your name removed from the calendar mailing list.

**Satisfaction Survey**

Early next year, the Talking Book Service (TBS) will contract with the University of Idaho Social Science Research Center to conduct a survey of our TBS patrons. We want to find out what you like – and maybe what you don't – about the TBS. This telephone survey will be conducted in February and March of 2017. You will also receive a letter in the mail with more information. We hope you will take a few minutes to share your honest feedback regarding TBS. There is no fee for taking the survey, and you will remain anonymous, unless you want TBS staff to contact you about your service. Thanks for helping us to better serve you.



## We Have Magazines, Too!

Just a reminder that we also have magazines available for your listening pleasure. There are local favorites, like Idaho Magazine, and a wide selection of popular titles, such as, Country, Reader's Digest, and the Smithsonian.

If you would like us to mail you an order form, or if you have questions, please call us at 800.458.3271 or 208.334.2150. Also, on page 8 of this newsletter, there is a list of magazines that you may request from our order form.

Magazine cartridges do have a check-out period, just like books do. We ask that these magazines be returned in a timely fashion, so others may enjoy them, as well.

You may also download magazines directly from the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) and/or the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). Downloaded magazines do not have a check-out period. Those are yours to enjoy for as long as you wish.

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## Talking Book Service

# 10<sup>2</sup> Club

Our Centenarian joining the 10<sup>2</sup> (Ten Squared) Club is

**Earl C. Ratcliff**

of Nampa, Idaho

who was born November 23, 1915

and has been enjoying the Talking Book Service

since December of 2002.



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## TBT Update

Subscribers to the audio version of Talking Book Topics (TBT) will receive the order form and the TBT cartridge in the same container, beginning with the September/October 2016 issue. We hope combining the cartridge and order form in the same container will make the ordering process easier for you. Completed order forms should be sent to the Idaho Talking Book Service (address on the back page), and the TBT cartridge should be returned to the producer.

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## New Books Order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### New Idaho Talking Books from Our Recording Studio

New locally recorded books are available on digital cartridge. To order, write your name on this pre-addressed New Books Order Form, select the numbers of the titles that you want, and mail the form.

These titles are also available for download from BARD. Call the Talking Book Service at 800.458.3271 to register for BARD.

*A Tribute to the Past: A Legacy for the Future* (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Donna Scott

Read By: Sherri Boyce

The state of Idaho was about to celebrate its 100th birthday. Several residents of the Magic Valley (Twin Falls County, Idaho) decided it was time to acknowledge what it took to make the Magic Valley the prosperous place it is today. Readers will take a stroll back in history and re-live the building of the county from a desert to an agricultural oasis.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00830) 1990

11 hours 15 minutes

*So We Flew with the Wind*

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: John H. Austin, Jr.

Read By: Tom Jaramillo

The author's own unique humor and storytelling are captured as he shares the adventures of his lifetime. This book has some of the sadder moments, as he tells of learning to "fly with the wind" with some of Idaho and the West's best backcountry fliers. Austin recounts the good people and also the rascals with whom he came in contact while pursuing his flying career.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00852) 2008

6 hours 23 minutes

*The Angel of Esperanca*

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Judith McConnell Steele

Read By: Susie Johnson

When tragedy overtakes her seemingly charmed family, Helena, a young wife and mother, becomes half-mad with grief and guilt. She is finally driven into her tower where her mournful cries echo nightly over the village of Esperanca, leaving its people haunted and fearful. This mythic tale of love, loss, and redemption will capture readers as Helena herself is captured by her passions.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00856) 2013

5 hours 55 minutes

*Evel Knievel Jumps the Snake River  
and Other Stories Close to Home*

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Kelly Jones

Read By: Kris Query

A collection of short stories set in small town Idaho, told with gentle humor and insider knowledge. The title story is told through the eyes of a 10-year-old boy as Twin Falls, Idaho gets set for the event of the century. Famed stuntman Evel Knievel is coming to jump the canyon on his "jet powered motorcycle" and the excitement is growing.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00862) 2014

6 hours 11 minutes

*The Memory of Old Jack*

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Wendell Berry

Read By: Sue Vap

In a rural Kentucky river town, "Old Jack" Beechum, a retired farmer, sees his life again through the shades of one burnished day in September 1952. Bringing the earthiness of America's past to mind, "The Memory of Old Jack" conveys the truth and integrity of the land and the people who live from it. Through the eyes of one man can be seen the values Americans strive to recapture as we arrive at the next century. Idaho recording for Let's Talk About It book discussion group.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00873) 1974

9 hours 6 minutes

*The Snowball Fight Professional: Fun for Hire* (Juvenile Fiction)  
*Book 2*

Author: Angela Ruth Strong

Read By: Maryan Stephens

I, Joey Michaels, am the Snowball Fight Professional. Basically this means that customers pay me to shoot snowballs at other people. I'll use my profits to buy Grandma a gift so impressive that she'll give me a puppy for Christmas. Unless of course, my cousin Winston has anything to do with it. Earning a puppy wouldn't be so hard if I didn't have the following problems: 1) Winston stealing my employee. 2) Winston getting me in trouble every time I do something wrong. 3) Winston blaming me for things I didn't even do. If I don't get the puppy . . . Ugh. Winston will get him. And Christmas should be all about what I want. Right?

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00876) 2014

3 hours 24 minutes

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Order the book from the "What Are You Reading" article on page 10:

\_\_\_\_\_ (DB043623) *The Ditchdigger's Daughters*

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You may also order the:

\_\_\_\_\_ 2016 Idaho Voters' Pamphlet

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You may also order this newsletter in Braille (beginning Winter 2017):

\_\_\_\_\_ Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News in Braille

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*Order Form continued on page 8*

Idaho Talking Book Service  
Idaho Commission for Libraries  
325 W State St  
Boise, ID 83702-6055

**FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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Idaho Talking Book Service  
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The TBS newsletter, with this order form, is available on cartridge upon request. (Coming Winter 2017, also available in Braille.) 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>. To download via the online catalog, search "Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News."

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*Order Form continued from page 7*

## Magazines

Some of our most popular magazine titles are listed below:

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ AARP: the Magazine   | _____ National Geographic |
| _____ Country              | _____ Overland Journal    |
| _____ Guideposts           | _____ Reader's Digest     |
| _____ Idaho Falls Magazine | _____ Sandpoint Magazine  |
| _____ Idaho Magazine       | _____ Smithsonian         |

Even more titles are available! If you would like a complete list to be sent to you, please call the TBS at 800.458.3271 or order online, under "magazines," at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/collections>.

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## Let's Talk About It, Fall 2016

If you live near the following libraries, you may want to participate in their upcoming book discussion series, Let's Talk About It:

Camas County in Fairfield  
DeMary Memorial in Rupert  
Hailey Public  
Mountain Home Public  
Twin Falls Public

Each library has selected a theme and five books to discuss, and a visiting scholar will lead each discussion. Contact the Talking Book Service for the schedule of books to be read and to request copies of the books be sent to you. Check our Winter 2017 issue for a list of libraries hosting the series next winter and spring.

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## Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

### General Donations:

Bobby & Esther Bopp  
Donna Bretthauer  
Leta Carlson  
Neal Hammert  
Margene Hugues  
Jane McNulty  
Benjamin & Elizabeth Reese  
Joan Wyant  
Clara Znaniecki

### Memorial Donation:

For Kenneth Fallon, Sr.  
Kenneth Fallon

Donations are used to enhance the Idaho Talking Book Service and are fully tax deductible, as allowed by law. Acknowledgements are sent to donors and honorees, so please include the name and address of all those to be notified.

Make checks payable to Idaho Commission for Libraries and mail to:  
Idaho Talking Book Service  
325 West State Street  
Boise, ID 83702

Credit card donations may be made online from the Idaho Commission For Libraries website: <http://libraries.idaho.gov> and click on the "Donate Here!" button in the lower left corner of the page.

**Thanks to all for your generosity!**

## What Are You Reading?

by Kevin Tomlinson, Library Consultant

Kevin assists library directors from Council to Rupert to help them in serving their patrons even better. His territory covers the southwestern portion of the Gem state.

Kevin said, "This book is not new, but it is a real classic. I remember listening to Dick Estell read *The Ditchdigger's Daughters* on "Radio Reader" when it was first published. Kevin added, "It's not only fascinating to read, but an important story, as well."

Thornton, Yvonne S., and Jo Couderd. *The Ditchdigger's Daughters: A Black Family's Astonishing Success Story*. This is the inspirational story of how a poor and uneducated black laborer, a child of the Great Depression, overcame incredible obstacles to give his daughters a better life. The author is one of those daughters.

Donald Thornton left home in his teens and fought in World War II as a Navy seaman, second class. By age 27, he had five children to raise — all girls. He dug ditches for a living, and for many years held down two jobs, while his wife cleaned houses. Together, Donald and Asker Thornton formulated a dream: that all their daughters would be doctors. In a time when there were distinct gender roles, the author's parents refused to

accept those limitations for their daughters. Instead, Mr. and Mrs. Thornton had the wit and wisdom to value education, which, in time, enabled the Thornton women to rise and stand on equal terms with anyone.

Leveraging their musical gifts, the Thornton daughters formed a traveling band, The Thornton Sisters, which enabled the girls not only to earn their own college tuition money, but to beat the odds and achieve their goals in the face of innumerable hardships, not the least of which were racial and sex discrimination.

Dr. Thornton has written a candid biography of a black family that takes us from the tenements of East Harlem, to the stage of the Apollo Theatre, and on to the halls of an Ivy League medical school. This is a story that transcends race, color, and sex, to renew our confidence in the human will to succeed despite enormous adversity. Today, the Thornton daughters include a high-risk obstetrician, a psychiatrist, an oral surgeon, a nurse, and an attorney. *The Ditchdigger's Daughters* is very much a tribute to Dr. Thornton's father and celebrates his family's realization of the American Dream.

***The Ditchdigger's Daughters***  
Adult Nonfiction: DB043623

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## Volunteer Highlight -- Margaret Dimmick

One of the voices you hear emanating from your player might belong to Margaret Dimmick, who has been a "reader" for the Talking Book Service (TBS) for 13 years. Margaret comes to the recording studio at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) once a week to read books and magazines that have an Idaho connection. The ICfL records material by Idaho authors, or that have an Idaho theme, which would not otherwise be recorded on a national scale.

For a time in college, Margaret was a drama major, and she still enjoys putting those acting skills to use when she brings a periodical to life with just her voice. The other reason Margaret gives her time to the TBS comes from knowing how she would feel if books were not in her life. "I love to read so much, myself," Margaret said, "that I can't imagine not being able to read."

So, the next Idaho adventure you take with the TBS might be with Margaret or one of the other 90 volunteers who donate their time and talents to the ICfL. Without their dedication and hard work, the TBS would be unable to bring so many Idaho titles to our patrons.



**ICfL Volunteer  
Margaret Dimmick**

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## High-Volume Player Now Available

A high-volume version of the digital talking book player is now available for use by hearing impaired patrons. The high-volume player is available as a standard or advanced (DS-1/DA-1) model. When paired with the headset provided with the player, it has an amplified volume up to 120 decibels (dB). The headset/player pairing replaces the amplifier/headset accessory currently in use. This player can only be issued by the National Library Service (NLS) and requires an application signed by an audiologist or physician certifying the user is hearing impaired. Contact the TBS to request an application. Return the completed application to the Talking Book Service to be forwarded to the NLS.

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## Newsletter in Braille Coming Soon!

Connections, the TBS newsletter, is currently available in these formats: large print; audio on cartridge; downloadable from the TBS online catalog at <https://webopac.klas.com/id1aopac/>; and as a PDF or podcast from the Talking Book Service website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/9174>. You may subscribe to be notified of new issues at the URL listed above. Beginning in 2017, this newsletter will also be available in Braille. Contact the TBS at 800.458.3271 or [talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov) to receive the newsletter in Braille or change the format in which you receive it.



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Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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## Idaho Voters' Pamphlet

The fall election is November 8th. This year, Constitutional Amendment HJR 5 will be on the November ballot. State law requires information about ballot issues be shared with all Idahoans to ensure they receive accurate information upon which to base their vote.

Information is included in the Idaho Voters' Pamphlet, which will be mailed to all mailing addresses in October. This pamphlet also contains information about voter registration and absentee voting, accessible voting, and County Clerk Election Department contacts.

The Talking Book Service has recorded this pamphlet and makes it available in several ways. Users may call TBS at 800.458.3271 to request an audio copy on cartridge. A PDF copy is also available on our website (<http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/talking-book-service>), as well as an MP3 copy for download. The audio version may also be downloaded from the online catalog by searching for Idaho Voters' Pamphlet at: <https://webopac.klas.com/id1aopac/>.

The Idaho Voters' Pamphlet is created by the Idaho Secretary of State's office.