

Connections

Talking Book Service News

Buhl Postal Carrier Recognized as the Year's Best

You know the saying . . . "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Although the U.S. Postal Service does not actually have an official motto, the popular belief that it does is a tribute to our country's postal workers.

Idaho's postal carriers significantly contribute to the success of the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) by ensuring that those little plastic cartridges filled with new adventures are delivered to TBS patrons -- no matter what. Each year, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) recognizes one Idaho postal carrier as being the very best, based on nominations submitted by TBS patrons.

For 2016, Buhl postal carrier Tina Whited was chosen as the Postal Carrier of the Year. Whited provided such exceptional customer service that she earned nominations from three TBS patrons. Whited was nominated by Susan Rainey, Catherine Carroll, and Glenn Colley. One of the nominators praised Whited for clearing more than 18 inches of snow from their front door so it could be opened.



From left: Glenn Colley, Tina Whited, Sue Walker, Janet Franklin (ICfL board member), & Ann Lively, Buhl post master.

Whited, who has been a postal carrier for nine years, was surprised by the award. She said, "I try to take care of the people on my route the best I can. I'm just amazed by this."

The ICfL's Talking Book Service Librarian Sue Walker said, "We are proud to bring the TBS to eligible Idahoans, and this recognition showcases the vital role all Idaho postal carriers play in serving our clients' unique needs."

TBS Advisory Committee Spotlight on Dana Ard

by Deputy State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) has an eight-member Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly and is comprised of members who represent TBS users and agencies and organizations that serve potential users. The purpose of the committee is to advise TBS staff on issues that are important to users, to promote the service to eligible users, and to keep current users abreast of new or changed services offered by the TBS.

One member of the committee is longtime TBS user Dana Ard, who is also the current President of the Idaho affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. Dana has used the TBS service since she was three years old.

"I've always loved to read and could spend hours listening to my books," Dana said. "I used to play a story over and over until I remembered most of it. When I was in kindergarten, I was sharing a story with my class, and the teacher said I was out of time. I told her I was only at the end of side one, because back then we received books on big records, and I wasn't finished telling the memorized story. You couldn't get very far in the books without turning the record over."

Dana remembers that after big LP records came the smaller 16 2/3 rpm records, and then the ones at 8 1/3 rpm. (Records of 45 rpm and 78 rpm were never part of the Talking Book Service.) She said, "Cassettes were a big improvement over the records and 'flexi-disc' formats, but the current digital records and the ability to download books directly from the BARD catalog have really been great improvements. The fact that there's no charge to get all of this is a real gift. I have sighted friends who are a bit jealous."



Dana Ard & her guided dog, Ernest

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TBS Advisory Committee Spotlight on Dana Ard

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Dana is particularly happy with the sleep feature on the new machines. She also enjoys the fact that recent arrangements with publishers allow for quick access to the newest bestsellers and so many more choices of titles than were available in the past. Dana said, "I have friends who read a lot, and it's great to be able to talk together about the same books we've read." Dana estimates she reads about 60 books per year and enjoys a broad range of subject areas, both fiction and non-fiction.

Dana retired from her position as a vocational rehabilitation counselor at the Idaho Commission for the Blind in 2014, but she seems to be working just as many hours in her role as President for NFB Idaho. Dana said, "There's so much work still to be done to make life better for blind people, now and in the future. Blindness does not hold people back if they have access to proper training and opportunities." Dana is excited about the positive changes that have occurred due to technology and improved public perception of what people who are blind are capable of doing. She is a strong believer in proving that attitudes and the way people think can make the biggest differences in what people are able to accomplish. She said, "There's a saying that goes 'If you think you can or think you can't, you're right,' and I firmly believe that we only need the opportunity to prove that we can, and we will do whatever we want."

She said the Idaho NFB affiliate will advocate for funding for the Talking Book Service during the upcoming legislative session. Dana said, "We've been quite successful in sharing information with legislators in past years, and we need to let them know this is such an important service."

When she's not working on advocacy or in an advisory capacity, Dana also sings in two choirs, is learning how to play the flute, is a member of Toastmasters, and enjoys a variety of other activities -- in what little free time she has left.

The staff at the Commission for Libraries is appreciative of the hard work Dana Ard puts into the TBS Advisory Committee and the inspiration she provides to all of us.

The Choice is Yours

If you've already read Anthony Doerr's *All the Light You Cannot See* (DB079182) and are hankering for "more Doerr!," or maybe you just want a morsel of his words to see what all the buzz is about, check out **Choice Magazine Listening**. This free audio magazine has featured Mr. Doerr's work in nine of their quarterly issues, such as the Winter 2015 Issue #309, which included his essay, "Thing With Feathers that Perches in the Soul." This 24 minute gem is about history, hope, and Idaho. Download it from BARD today and hear why one Talking Book Service patron calls CML, "One of the great joys of my life."

Choice Magazine Listening (CML) is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Four times a year, listeners receive 12 hours of great writing, chosen by CML's team of editors from more than 100 of the finest magazines. These quarterly issues feature stories, poems, and articles from publications such as *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's*, *Smithsonian*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Southern Living*, *Oxford American*, and *Texas Monthly*. All CML's selections are wonderfully read by some of America's top audiobook narrators.

For more than 50 years, CML has proudly served adults with conditions that make it difficult for them to read standard print or to hold a magazine. CML's tens of thousands of subscribers include those with conditions such as low vision, macular degeneration, blindness, MS, diabetes, cerebral palsy, ALS, dyslexia, and Parkinson's. Listeners love the mix of interesting, entertaining, and amusing pieces they receive as a download or on a digital cartridge (easily returnable in the postage-free mailer it arrived in). This quarterly service is completely free of charge due to the support of a charitable foundation established to ensure that all Americans can enjoy the best writing from leading magazines.

If someone you know would enjoy this free audio magazine service, please call 1-888-724-6423 to find out more. Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Eastern Time, your call will be answered by a friendly person, happy to help – not a machine. Further information is available on CML's website, too. Please visit: www.choicemagazinelistening.org.

TBS Order Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

A new locally recorded book is available on digital cartridge, along with several books that have recently been converted to cartridge.

To order, write your name and address in the space indicated (above) on this TBS Order Form, and mark on the line(s) next to the number of the title(s) you want, and mail the form (postage is not required).

These titles are also available for download from BARD. Call the Talking Book Service at 800-458-3271 to register for BARD.

The Lost Letters

(Adult Non-Fiction)

Author: Agnes Just Reid

Read By: Norma Ericson

The Lost Letters, by Agnes Just Reid, is the story of her mother's early life that was not included in Reid's popular book, *Letters of Long Ago*. Resurrected from the last surviving carbon of the manuscript, this book completes the inspiring story of Emma Thompson Just, one of the earliest pioneers in Idaho Territory.

_____ (DBC07330) 2000

1 hour, 11 minutes

This Bloody Deed, The Magruder Incident

(Adult Non-Fiction)

Author: Ladd Hamilton

Read By: Kenneth Cooper

Ladd Hamilton's vivid prose brings to life the infamous murder of Lewiston merchant Lloyd Magruder in the Bitterroot Mountains during the 1860's Idaho gold rush. Contains violence.

_____ (DBC07332) 1994

9 hours, 28 minutes

Order Form continued on page 6.

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Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America (Adult Non-Fiction)

Author: Jack Nisbet **Read By: Bob Stevenson**
From 1784 to 1812, David Thompson explored western North America, and his field journals provide the earliest written accounts of the natural history and indigenous cultures of the Inland Northwest. Thompson was the first person to chart the entire length of the Columbia River, and his wilderness expeditions have become the stuff of legend. An Idaho interest book.

_____ (DBC07317) 1994 9 hours, 12 minutes

Behold the Shining Mountains (Adult Fiction)

Author: Gary Wiles **Read By: Maryan Stephens**
After word got out that Bill Sublette had taken wagons from Missouri to the Rockies in 1830, fascinating people from all over the world came looking for him -- each with their own dream and destiny. This book weaves their true stories into a fiery tapestry. Clashes between the Mountain Men, Missionaries, and Monopolists shaped our heritage and left a legacy of previous lessons for us today.

_____ (DBC07331) 1996 12 hours, 31 minutes

Strangers in the Forest (Adult Fiction)

Author: Carol Ryrie Brink **Read By: Joyce Delana**
Set in the white pine timberland of the Idaho panhandle in 1908, the story explores the early efforts of the new U.S. Forest Service to instill a sense of conservation -- a new concept in Idaho's seemingly inexhaustible forests. The Forest Service's Bundy Jones heads west to investigate people taking timber homesteads in the north Idaho woods, suspecting that their real intention is to sell out for profit to lumber companies. Jones befriends the homesteaders, but when his connection with the Forest Service is revealed, most of the homesteaders turn against him. The inferno of a north Idaho forest fire once again unites Jones and the timber settlers.

_____ (DBC07316) 1990 11 hours, 7 minutes

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Surviving Minidoka: The Legacy of WWII Japanese American Incarceration (Adult Non-Fiction)
(Newly Recorded Book)

Author: Russell Mark Tremayne **Read By: Susie Johnson**
Surviving Minidoka preserves the legacy of Japanese Americans unjustly imprisoned at Minidoka, Idaho during the Second World War. The book confronts enduring questions of patriotic compliance and constitutional rights. At Minidoka and nine other War Relocation Authority camps, the wrongful imprisonment stole the lives and vitality of the (immigrant generation) Issei. The denial of citizenship crushed the optimism and spirit of the (second generation) Nisei. The theft of the Issei legacy -- the property and businesses that should have been passed down through families -- disinherited the (third generation) Sansei. Given a similar set of circumstances, who is to say it could not happen again?

_____ (DBC00879) 2013 3 hours, 22 minutes

The Cabin on Sawmill Creek: A Western Walden (Young Adult Non-Fiction)

Author: Mary Jo Churchwell **Read By: Carla Stern**
Mary Jo and Stew Churchwell fled Southern California to get away from the rat race. They settled in a little cabin on a tiny stream called Sawmill Creek, high in the Idaho Rockies. Mary Jo details what it's like to live on \$2,500 a year, 15 miles from the nearest power pole, in a canyon where summer often lasts only a month. This book is must reading for those who dream of dropping out and moving to live off the land. For high school and adult readers.

_____ (DBC07314) 1997 7 hours, 14 minutes

My Home Town (Adult Non-Fiction)

Author: Annie Laurie Bird **Read By: Edith Bond**
Historical description of Nampa, Idaho from 1885 to 1968.

_____ (DBC07315) 1996 15 hours, 19 minutes

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Idaho Commission for Libraries
325 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83702-6055

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For assistance, or to comment about the Idaho Talking Book Service, please call 1-800-458-3271, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., MT.

To order this newsletter on cartridge:

_____ Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News on cartridge

To order this newsletter in Braille:

_____ Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News in Braille

For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to this newsletter via email, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/connections-tbs-news>. To download this newsletter via the online catalog, search: "Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News."

To order the book from the "What Are You Reading" article on page 11:

_____ (DB080680) *Funny Girl*, by Nick Hornby

2018 TBS Calendar is Coming!

The 2018 large-print TBS calendar will be mailed out in late October. If you haven't received yours by mid-November, please call us at 1-800-458-3271. Or if you no longer wish to receive a TBS calendar, please call to have your name removed from the mailing list.

We at the Idaho Talking Book Service would like to thank all of our patrons for using the TBS and for telling their friends and family about it. We wish you all the best in the coming new year and look forward to continuing to serve you and yours in 2018.

Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

General Donations:

Barbara Belknap
Leta Carlson
Christine Haggerty
H.L. Hawkins
Neal Hemmert
Larue & Martin Humphries
Kay Miley
Patricia Myklebust
Dorothy Outzs
Irene Thomson

Memorial Donations:

For Jack Bowman
The Christian Family

For Kenneth Fallon, Sr.
Kenneth Fallon, Jr.

For Helen Potter
Nancy & Kathy Potter

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 the 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>. Click on the "Donate Here!" button in the lower left corner of the page.

Our sincere thanks to all who give so generously.

Talking Book Service **10² Club**

Our centenarians joining the Ten Squared Club are:

Dorothy Carpenter

who was born November 1, 1917.

Dorothy has read 653 books since 2013.

Geraldine Shaw

who was born October 5, 1917.

Geraldine has read 609 books since 2009.



Retirements at TBS

Three Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) have recently retired from the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) -- the state agency that administers the TBS program -- including **Terri King**. Terri joined the ICfL in 1989 and began in the machine lending area of the Talking Book Service. Terri performed other duties at the ICfL before returning to the TBS as a CSR, which is work she greatly enjoyed. When asked what she would miss after retirement, Terri said, "All of our fantastic patrons. And the comradery among the staff. We have been together so long that it is almost like a family." There are only two things that Terri (emphatically) will not miss -- getting up at 5 a.m. and winter driving. As far as her future plans are concerned, Terri doesn't have many. She said, "I'm looking forward to not having to do this or that -- to just having the freedom to play it by ear."

Steve Bailey joined the ICfL after a 25-year career at Hewlett Packard. The last five years of his 14-year tenure at the ICfL were spent as a CSR for the TBS. In addition to helping patrons, Steve also became adept at the behind-the-scenes technical work the program necessitates, such as reporting, labeling, and helping to ensure the correct processing of TBS cartridges. Steve is looking forward to spending time with his four grandchildren, two of whom recently moved to Idaho from England. Steve also has travel on his retirement roster -- with Hawaii being near the top of the "to do" list.

For five years, **Sue Robinson** was a volunteer narrator for the TBS before joining the ICfL staff as a CSR in 2013. Like the other retirees, Sue will miss her patrons most of all. She said, "I have developed some wonderful relationships with my patrons, and I am going to miss them terribly." But Sue does agree with the common retirement theme of not missing the 5 a.m. alarm clock. Sue and her husband will be undertaking a two-year mission for their church, and then Sue will likely devote many of her retirement days to volunteer work. (Just nothing that starts too early.)

New to the Crew

The first voice you've heard recently when calling the TBS belongs to **Tiffany Duke**, the ICfL's (relatively) new receptionist. She came to Boise for a two-week vacation -- and decided to stay. But soon Tiffany will move to a different role at the ICfL, after distinguishing herself so well in only a short time.

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New to the Crew

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Karen Ortiz is a new CSR for the TBS. A talented cook and trainer, Karen decided to try a different career path -- and is happy she did. Karen said, "I didn't know what to expect, but it is way better. I really like the TBS program and the patrons are so friendly." She added, "One patron wished me a happy birthday. And when I said that it wasn't my birthday, he asked when it was. I told him June, and he said he was sorry to have missed it. That just made my day." On the home front, Karen's husband, five-year-old son, two cats, and Siberian Husky dog keep her busy -- but Karen still finds time to whip up fantastic meals for her family.

Rachel Welker is also a new CSR. A Boise native, Rachel returned to the area after a 20-year hiatus in Seattle, where she worked for the country's largest cooperative grocery store chain. Rachel managed the logistics of a cooking class program, including scheduling, purchasing, and customer service. When asked what attracted her to the role, Rachel said, "It is important to me that I spend my time doing something I believe in. Also, I've always been a big reader and patron of the library." Rachel added, "When I first started helping the TBS patrons, they were so nice and patient with me being new and slow." In addition to reading and movies, Rachel loves dogs. She said, "I've always found a 'gently used' -- older -- dog who is the one who needs me."

What Are You Reading?

Colleen Schowalter is the ICfL's new Volunteer Services Coordinator. Learning the intricacies of a new job prompted her to pick up an "easy read" to relax with in the evenings. Colleen is enjoying the adventures of young, provincial Sophie Straw as she navigates the television scene in 1960's London in Nick Hornby's *Funny Girl*. Colleen said, "The book follows an endearing cast of characters who are funny and flawed."

Colleen assumed her position at the ICfL after Sheila Winther's retirement. Colleen said, "Sheila did an amazing job of setting me up with the resources, information, and tools for success already in place. I have never stepped into a new role with that level of detail to draw upon." Colleen added, "And working with the amazing people who volunteer at the ICfL has been another wonderful part of this job. Like many of the staff, the volunteers have years of experience under their belts, and they are so generous to share their knowledge with me. Whether I need to learn the software in the recording studio, or have a question about the TBS program, the volunteers are right there with the answers."



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This project was made possible, in part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



White Cane Safety Day is October 15

Since 1964, October 15 has been designated as White Cane Safety Day, to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired, and to showcase an important symbol of their independence -- the white cane. The mission of White Cane Day is to educate the world about blindness and how the blind and visually impaired live and work independently, while giving back to their communities. For more information, visit the website of the National Federation of the Blind at: <https://nfb.org/white-cane-safety-day>.

Let's Talk About It (LTAI)

If you live near one of the following libraries, enjoy an upcoming Let's Talk About It (LTAI) scholar-led book discussion this fall:

Camas County Public Library, Fairfield	Mountain Home Public Library
DeMary Memorial Library, Rupert	Twin Falls Public Library

The following libraries will hold book discussions beginning **January 2018**:

Coeur d'Alene Public Library	Kimberly Public Library
Eastern Owyhee Co. Library, Grandview	Larsen-Sant Public Library, Preston
Grangeville Centennial Library	McCall Public Library
Idaho Falls Public Library	Salmon Public Library

Contact the Talking Book Service for a list of books to be discussed and to request a copy of the books be sent to you.