Idaho Commission for Libraries

Connections

Talking Book Service News

Vol. 5 No. 2

Spring 2014

Volunteer Appreciation at the Commission

In 2013, 102 individuals gave over 8,000 hours of their time at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), helping with nearly every program!

We recognized their dedication during Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 6–12, with the theme "Volunteers Light Up Our Days" and refreshments supplied by ICfL staff throughout the week at a beautifully decorated "Volunteer Café." On April 15 we treated the volunteers to a luncheon that included thank-you gifts, service awards, and an inspiring talk by longtime volunteer Fred Riddle, who repairs and maintains Talking Book Service (TBS) machines.

Fred, one of 10 CenturyLink Pioneers who volunteer at the Commission, talked about why he volunteers. He said that the Commission staff believes in the volunteers, which makes their jobs "so much easier," and he added, "This city and state have been so good to us, the least I can do is give back." He brought some in the audience near tears with his heartfelt thanks to his wife for her continuous support of his many hours of service to the community through the years.

Volunteers are a "force multiplier"

Roger Dubois, administrative services manager at the Commission (photo above), said the volunteers are "what the military would call a force multiplier"—a factor that dramatically increases the effectiveness of a group. He said

(cont'd on page 2)

Innovative services and community

Volunteer Appreciation *(cont'd from page 1)*

the volunteers help the Commission reach citizens across the state, from the youngest to the oldest, from early literacy programs to the Talking Book Service. Volunteer coordinator, Sheila Winther, said that ICfL volunteers are a shining example of why Idaho is 3rd in the nation for volunteer hours per capita.

Milestones for our 2013 volunteers:

- **5-year service lapel pins:** Rosemary Ardinger, Colette Cowman, Gloria Hubbert, Deborah Lynch, Cindy McLean, Kris Query
- **10-year service lapel pins:** Sandy Batt, Erma Krishnek, Sharon Krishnek, Truman Stewart
- **20-year service lapel pin:** Norma Ericson, Maryan Stephens
- **5,000-hour longevity award:** Elizabeth Carpenter

Statistics for 2013 include:

- **Digital books recorded:** 39 titles (325 hours of recording time)
- **Magazines recorded:** 29 issues (67 hours of recording time)
- **Books converted from reel to digital:** 54 (156 reels converted)
- **Books and magazines circulated:** 159,000 titles
- **TBS machines cleaned and serviced:** 1,070 (320 cassette, 750 digital)
- **TBS cartridges duplicated:** 2,930
- **TBS cassettes duplicated:** 1,800
- **Jump Start folders assembled:** 15,000
- **Stickers in thousands of books** for school partnerships, Every Child Ready to Read, My First Books, and other early literacy projects

The Commission is grateful to all of our volunteers and we are honored to celebrate their contributions to the services and programs we provide.

Cindy McLean, Sheila Winther, Colette Cowman, and Kris Query

Truman Stewart, Sandy Batt, Erma Krishnek, and Sheila Winther

Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

General Donations

Mary Mae Ahnstedt
Mae Aman
Carol Bashaw
Lois Beno
Bobby & Esther Bopp
Patrick Cunningham
Paul Eastman
Susan Forrester
Viola Gardner
Bud Howard
Kerr Surveying (Faye)
A & S Lambuth Family Trust
Doris Mauk
Riley Maxwell
Ted & Shelley Milton
Juanita Parke
Mary Purdom
Harold Rowley
Billie Shewmaker
John & Jane Vankirk
Lois Waldman
Louise Wallis

Due to a misprint, the following donor names were misspelled in the Winter 2014 newsletter: Dorothea Giannini, Gloria Harder We apologize for the error.

Memorial Donations

Leo Campbell
Lorraine Weberg

Victor Casebolt
Marien Barton

Clarence Woodard
David Woodard

Donations are used to enhance the 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. Please 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 can be made online from the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at http://libraries.idaho.gov by clicking on the ***Donate Here!*** button in the lower left corner of the page. **Thanks to all for your generosity!**

TBS 10^2 (Ten Squared) Club

The newest centenarians joining the Talking Book Service 10^2 Club:

Lily Bloom, Boise, Born 02/09/1914

Helen Williams, Kootenai, Born 07/05/1914

Magazine Corner: Magazines on Cartridge

The transition of Idaho's locally recorded magazines from cassette to digital is complete! With the distribution of *Connections: Talking Book Service News* on cartridge, all magazines recorded in the Idaho Talking Book studios are now available on cartridge and for download via the shelf project. Contact the Talking Book Service (TBS) at 800.458.3271 for instructions on accessing and downloading from the shelf project.

All TBS users were sent a letter in March outlining the transition of the newsletter from cassette to cartridge and were asked to return the letter indicating their preferred way to receive the newsletter: in large print, on cartridge, via email, or online at http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/9174. The newsletter will no longer be distributed on cassette. If you have not responded to the letter, please do so ***as soon as possible***. The newsletter will be sent in large print until other instructions are received.

As in the past, a paper copy of the order form for locally produced books will be inserted with each cartridge. Use the form to request books listed in the newsletter and don't forget to include your name on the form. Please read the newsletter quickly and return it so that others may receive it.

In addition to the newsletter, the following titles are also available on cartridge or by download from the shelf project:

- *Idaho Falls Magazine*
- *Idaho Landscapes*
- *Idaho Magazine*
- *Idaho Yesterdays*
- *Owyhee Outpost*
- *Sandpoint Magazine*

Contact TBS to request any of these titles be added to your magazine subscription list.

Reminder about Service Hours

The Talking Book Service (TBS) staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mountain Daylight Time. When calling or visiting the library, please allow at least 15 minutes for staff to help you. Even quick calls can take longer than anticipated.

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, select the VDB numbers of the titles that you want and mail this pre-addressed Order Form or call 800.458.3271.

To download these and other locally produced digital titles:
1) Go to http://webopac.klas.com/id1aopac.
2) Log in.
3) Click on Browse and select "Locally Produced Shelf Content" for a list of locally produced titles.

Place the Headstones Where They Belong: Thomas Neibaur, WW1 Soldier **(Adult Nonfiction)**

Author: Sherman L. Fleek **Read By: Sue Vap**

This is the story of a young soldier's journey during World War I from Sugar City, Idaho, to the Argonne Forest of France and back. In a remarkable feat of valor, he overcame multiple wounds and single-handedly stopped a German counterattack. Thomas Neibaur consequently received the Medal of Honor and other awards, but after a brief hero's celebrity, his life followed a tragic downward arc.

_____ **(VDB01287) 2008 10 hours 45 minutes**

Sheepeater: To Cry for A Vision **(Juvenile Fiction)**

Author: Joseph L. Dorris **Read By: Sue Robinson**

In the early 1860s, twelve-year-old Erik Larson and his family head west in a wagon train to find a valley in pre-Idaho Territory, with hopes of finding happiness in their new home. Unfortunately, Erik's mother becomes ill and the wagon master pushes ahead to outrace a blizzard. With his sister far ahead in another wagon, Erik is stranded with his parents. After his father takes a fatal fall, Erik and his mother face a brutal winter alone on the prairie. To survive, Eric seeks help from the Sheepeater Indians. A poignant partnership soon unfolds between the Native Americans and a white man intent on reuniting with his sister.

_____ **(VDB01305) 2009 12 hours 15 minutes**

Second Chances: More Tales of Found Dogs **(Adult Nonfiction)**
Author: Elise Lufkin **Read By: Kris Query**
Every year, millions of dogs are abandoned—at animal shelters, racetracks, or on the side of the road. Many end their days without ever knowing a caring human hand, but some are fortunate enough to be given a second chance. And these dogs, often rescued from death's door, seem to have even more than the usual canine capacity for love and loyalty. *Second Chances* is full of wonderful photos and words from people who have adopted dogs—from sleek greyhounds to scruffy mix-breeds—that have become service dogs, protectors, and friends.
_____ **(VDB01309) 2003 6 hours 14 minutes**

The Ferry Woman: A Novel of the Mountain Meadows Massacre
(Adult Fiction)
Author: Gerald Grimmett **Read By: Lyn McCollum**
This book is a work of fiction, cut from the tattered cloth of history. It tells the story of Emeline Buxton, the fictional 16th wife of Jon D. Lee, who ran Lee's Ferry on the Colorado River in the 1870s. The same Lee was the only Mormon convicted in the 1857 Mountain Meadows Massacre, where over 120 defenseless men, women, and children were killed.
_____ **(VDB01311) 2003 12 hours 7 minutes**

Coyote in the Mountains and Other Stories **(Adult Fiction)**
Author: John Rember **Read By: Deborah Lynch**
John Rember takes the reader on several journeys with modern day Coyote—a tongue in cheek reference to the Native American Trickster. Coyote visits various friends including Badger, Lynx, Bear and Rabbit. This collection of short stories is thought-provoking and entertaining.
_____ **(VDB01320) 1991 2 hours 45 minutes**

Dead Owls Flying **(Adult Nonfiction)**
Author: Leon R. Powers **Read By: Lana Thurston**
In an adventure-filled story of a quest for the Great Gray Owl in central Idaho mountains, biologist Leon Powers spirits the reader into

the pungent world of the owl's forest home and the intimate center of its reclusive life. What begins as an unobtrusive study of rare owls in the Long Valley culminates as a benchmark against which one can gauge the ongoing shredding of the owl's habitat and the rampant obliteration of the valley's idyllic past.

_____ **(VDB01322) 2008 5 hours 30 minutes**

Women Helping Women: A Centennial History of the Boise YWCA/WCA
(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Sarah Nash Read By: Debby Queen

Nash takes the reader on a journey that explores the history of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Women's & Children's Alliance (WCA) in Boise, Idaho. Women were essential to the growth of the frontier town, but they needed a safe place to live. The YWCA filled that niche and contributed greatly to Boise's history.

_____ **(VDB01325) 2011 3 hours 6 minutes**

The Brave Cowboy: An Old Tale in a New Time **(Adult Fiction)**

Author: Edward Abbey Read By: Tom Jaramillo

Burns, a loner at odds with modern civilization, rides a feisty chestnut mare across the New West—a once-beautiful land smothered beneath airstrips and superhighways. And he lives by a personal code of ethics that sets him on a collision course with the keepers of law and order, who are hot on his trail. But Burns would rather die than spend even a single night behind bars. And, they have to catch him first.

_____ **(VDB01335) 1956 and 1992 8 hours 11 minutes**

Unsettled Territory **(Adult Fiction)**

Author: Leslie Ann Leek Read By: Debby Queen

Unsettled Territory, the second collection of stories by Leslie Ann Leek, comes from the outback of eastern and central Idaho: the small towns, snow-capped mountain ranges, dry canyons, willow-lined rivers and sagebrush distances that go on forever. Leek grew up in those small towns, wandered those distances and brought back stories about the men and women who share an open-hearted emptiness and desolate, joyous freedom. *Some strong language*

_____ **(VDB01341) 2012 5 hours 40 minutes**

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The TBS newsletter with this order form is available on cartridge 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. To download via the online catalog, search "*Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News*."

Lawmen: The History of Idaho Sheriffs 1863-2000 **(Adult Nonfiction)**
Author: Linda Hopfenbeck **Read By: Rosemary Ardinger**
This history is organized by county, with a short biography of each sheriff who served that Idaho county.
_____ **(VDB01345) 2012 11 hours 6 minutes**

The Wild Mare **(Juvenile Fiction)**
Author: Glenn Balch **Read By: Rosemary Ardinger**
Born among the wild horses of the Owyhee uplands of Idaho, Flax is separated from her band by a twist of fate. She's helped by the kindness of a boy but, when he leaves her side, she runs into an unexpected adventure. Flax joins a new band of horses and learns to run from the rope-swinging cowboys. She'll keep running until she finds a true home.
_____ **(VDB01346) 1967 and 2004 2 hours 45 minutes**

Attention: The Talking Book Service will no longer circulate book and magazine titles on cassette after June 30, 2015. Users are encouraged to request a digital player from the Talking Book Service at 800.458.3271 and enjoy improved sound quality and ease of use.

What are You Reading?

by Sue Vap, Idaho Commission for Libraries volunteer

The author Ivan Doig has been a favorite writer of mine since I first discovered his books in the 1980s. ***This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind*** (1979) was the first book that got me hooked. It is his memoir based on the life he had growing up with his Dad and his Grandmother. His next set of work was fiction but it had a lot of ties to the author's personal life. Ivan Doig was born and raised in Montana, my home state, and his writings have always touched at my love for the magnificent beauty of the 41st state.

I just finished reading ***The Bartender's Tale*** which is set in Gros Ventre, Montana in the famous Two Medicine country. The story is written from the perspective of Rusty, the twelve-year-old son of Tom Harry, who is the owner of the bar called the Medicine Lodge. Lots of reviews said the book was a coming of age story for young Rusty. But it is hardly a typical coming of age story. Rusty and his Dad share a bond, but so many questions from the past haunt their days... some even appear and reappear in their lives so Rusty has plenty of misinformation to let his imagination run wild. And sometimes the truth is even wilder than he imagined.

This novel is a stroll in the summer of 1960. Pull up a bar stool, open a cold one (beer or pop) and settle in with the characters, Zoe—Rusty's best friend who happens to be a girl, Proxy—the taxi dancer from Tom's past with her daughter Francine (is she really Rusty's half-sister?), Delano—sent from the Library of Congress to create an oral history (and perhaps to unravel a few mysteries?!)...the list goes on. You will be so immersed in the cool darkness of the bar, you will soon be a part of the story!!

If this book has piqued your interest you will have plenty of other Doig titles to read. ***Bucking the Sun*** will fill in some of the story line that is covered in *The Bartender's Tale*.

The best summer days call for good reading!!

This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind
Adult Nonfiction: **DB012548**

The Bartender's Tale
Adult Fiction: **DB075428**

Bucking the Sun
Adult Fiction: **DB046175**

Try Idaho Author Kirby Jonas, by Terri King

Idaho author, Kirby Jonas, writes classic westerns in the vein of Louis L'Amour and Max Brand:

- ***Legend of the Tumbleweed*—VDB01163**

Tom McLean is an outlaw, but he is also a hero. After a daring daylight robbery in a Wyoming boomtown, Tom and his young partner are on the run from the sheriff and his posse. Will Tom end up dead or is the woman his ride to freedom?
For high school and adult readers

- ***Lady Winchester*—VDB01150**

When Kate Winchester's husband, Ira, ends up near death on the floor of their Idaho ranch house, it is plain his would-be killers aren't through. Now Kate must choose between her Quaker upbringing and taking up a gun to save Ira's life. It's a race against time to find out who wants Ira dead, and why.
For high school and adult readers

- ***Disciples of the Wind, Legends West, Book 1*—VDB01291**

Brother against brother, a war of races. Jake the ne'er do well. Jason, the idealist. Sandoval Cobra was the shroud of evil that shadowed both. The struggle could end only with the death of one or more of the three. And in Pine Valley, it was legend...San Cobra could not be killed. *Adult readers*

TBS Snapshot Day

Library Snapshot Day is an opportunity for Idaho's libraries to capture one day's activities as an example of the variety of tasks completed and persons served each day.

On April 15, the Talking Book Service (TBS) staff:

- Checked out: 868 books
- Checked in: 477 books
- Received: 27 Calls
- Made: 5 calls
- Enrolled: 8 new users

In addition:

- 1 user visited the library
- 10 volunteers contributed 25 hours, 30 minutes

User comments about TBS service:

- "Thank you. You do such a wonderful job! You have helped me so much in providing this amazing service."

These numbers reflect the efforts staff makes every day to deliver quality service to all TBS users. How are we doing?

Commission staff checking in books

FAQs: Digital transition, what does it mean for me?

An article in the last newsletter stating that circulation of cassettes and the cassette player will end July 1, 2015 prompted many questions about what this means. Following are answers to some of the more common questions.

1. When we transfer completely to digital, will I receive a new player? The digital player that was sent to each user several years ago is the player that will be used exclusively after July 1, 2015. The yellow cassette player that played cassette tapes will be the player that is no longer available.

2. Will everything I want to read be available on digital cartridges? All magazines and the majority of the National Library Service (NLS) book collection and locally recorded titles will be available on cartridge. Those titles that have not been converted from cassette to digital format will continue to be converted over the next few years. The main reason for discontinuing circulation of cassettes is that the players are outdated and very hard to repair. In addition, the sound quality of cassette titles continues to degrade. Simply stated, digital is better.

3. When I search the online catalog, many titles are available for download only. How do I listen to those titles? Not all digital titles are currently available on cartridge. However, the Talking Book Service (TBS) can create a cartridge for those titles. If you want to read a title that is only available for download, reserve it via the online catalog or by contacting TBS. Be sure to use the word "reserve" to indicate you want to read the title as soon as it is available.

4. My digital player's battery does not hold a charge as long as it used to. Can I request a new one? The digital player's battery is not as robust as first thought. Be careful not to completely run down the battery. If you do, it is difficult to recharge. You should leave the player plugged in as much as possible; it will not overcharge. If the player's battery consistently will not hold a charge for at least 10 hours, contact TBS for a replacement.

5. When will there be a new machine or format? There is no new machine or format planned at this time. NLS plans to enhance the digital player's capabilities as well as improve the ways titles can be downloaded. TBS staff will keep you current with planned upgrades and changes. Feel free to contact staff with any questions about your service.

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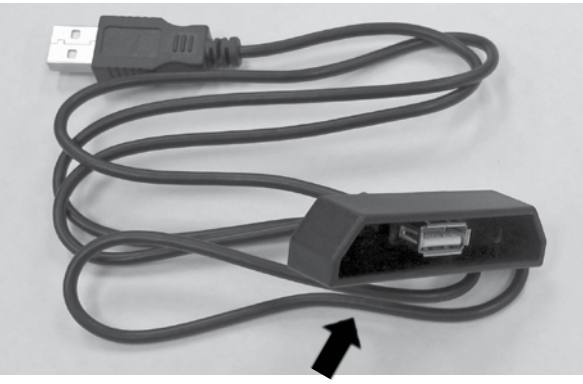
This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Technology Corner: Cable for Cartridges

The National Library Service has developed a new cable for use in downloading titles. One end of the cable fits into the cartridge, which eases the transfer of the title from the computer to the cartridge.



The cable end that fits into the cartridge

But wait-there's more! To encourage users to download, the Talking Book Service (TBS) will lend a cable ***and*** a 1GB cartridge to any user who is registered to use BARD. Depending on the length of the book, a 1GB cartridge will hold approximately 20 hours of books.

Call TBS at 800.458.3271 to request the cable and/or cartridge or for instructions on registering for BARD.

Note: This cable works only with the TBS cartridges and will not be useful for those downloading directly to their I-Phones, I-Pads, or I-Pods using the BARD app.