

**Idaho Commission for Libraries**

Vol. 1 No. 3

Summer 2010

# **Connections**

## **Talking Book Service News**

### **Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 18—24, 2010**

In 2009, 115 volunteers donated 10,258 hours of their time to help with projects and programs at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL). To celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, we began the week with a tour of the newly renovated state Capitol building. The volunteers were thrilled; the guide was great and encouraged lots of questions. Later in the week the Commission hosted an event with the theme "Volunteers Build A Better World," and invited our volunteers to a build-your-own potato bar and a presentation showcasing how their dedication impacts library patrons around the state.

Volunteers enhance ICFL projects such as literacy programs, networking and resource sharing, and the Talking Book Service (TBS)—spending hours preparing Jumpstart Kits, mailing LiLI Unlimited posters, repairing TBS



**Volunteers Amberly and Amanda display their certificates of appreciation**

machines, inspecting TBS tapes, recording Idaho books, and other tasks.

When welcoming the volunteers to the event, State Librarian Ann Joslin said that Sheila Winther (our volunteer coordinator) never has trouble recruiting ICFL staff for the volunteer appreciation committee because everyone recognizes and values the contributions of the volunteers. "We could not do what we do without our volunteers," Joslin emphasized.

*(continued on p. 2)*

**Innovative services and community**

## Volunteers *cont'd from p. 1*

### Other Volunteer Facts for 2009

- **5-year service certificates:**  
Mary Moore, Donald McNarie, and Susan Johnson
- **15-year service certificate:**  
Carla Stern
- **20-year service certificate:**  
Larry Weeks
- **1,000-hour awards:**  
Ruby Weaver and Truman Stewart
- **2,000-hour award:**  
Sue Vap
- **Jumpstart packets assembled and mailed:** 15,000
- **New digital machines checked out to TBS patrons:** 380
- **Books on tape mailed and then received, inspected, and reshelved:** 147,242
- **Books on tape recorded:** 40



Sheila Winther and Ruby Weaver display Ruby's name on the 1,000-hour plaque

## Voting in Idaho

Idaho's general election is Tuesday, November 2, and TBS can make the Constitutional Amendments more accessible for those requiring reading alternatives.

*Idaho Voters' Pamphlet*, published by the Secretary of State, lists the complete wording of each amendment, including rationale for and against each one. The pamphlet is available from TBS in large print, cassette, and cartridge formats. It is also available as a podcast on the TBS website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>.

The TBS site also links to the IdahoVotes website which contains information on registering to vote and accessible voting options available at every polling site in Idaho.



Email: [talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov)  
Website: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>  
Phone: 208-334-2150 or 800-458-3271

## What are you reading?



*To Kill a Mocking Bird* is one of Betty Hoffman's familiar favorites

Betty Hoffman, Office Services Supervisor at ICFL, enjoys reading and re-reading her familiar favorites, like Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* and Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. This spring she was given a copy of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* as part of The Big Read, the National Endowment for the Arts program that encourages people to read for pleasure and enlightenment, and she read this classic for the third time. She recalls reading the book in high school and being intrigued by characters Jem and Scout Finch and Boo Radley and how their lives become intertwined. She doesn't recall appreciating the greater message of racial tension and prejudice until she read the book a second time as an adult. With the third reading this winter, she was reminded of the Pulitzer Prize quality of Lee's writing and some of

the details she had forgotten (the rabid dog that Atticus has to shoot, the tea party that the consummate tomboy Scout has to attend with her Aunt Alexandra, the punishment Jem received for destroying Miss Dubose's rose bushes).

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in the Depression-era South where racial tension and prejudice were commonplace. Scout Finch tells the story of growing up in a small Alabama town with her older brother Jem. The children's curiosity about the reclusive Boo Radley is eclipsed by their attorney father Atticus's attempt to defend a black man against charges of raping a white woman.

### Ordering Information

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is available in the following formats:

**Cassettes:** RC 036414.

**Downloadable-only digital:** DB 036414

**Movie:** DVS 00113 (features Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch and Robert Duvall as Boo Radley)

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

The newest centenarian to join the Talking Book Service 10<sup>2</sup> Club and to be given priority in receiving digital players is:

Ethel Wheeler, Boise  
Born July 7, 1910

## Recent Donations to TBS

### General Donations

Emily Baker	Alice Uhl
Lois Beno	Bill and Betty
Joyce Dodge	Wennstrom
Mabelle English	Clara Znaniecki
Helen Grant	
Gwenlee Reidel	Fraternal Order of
Billie Shewmaker	the Eagles

### Memorial Donations



Darlene Grant

Patricia Storey

Robert Strawn

Sam & Marien Barton

Dorothy May Hutt

Jay & Phyllis McKee

Bernice Wilde

Upper Valley Support Group

Walt Parani

Billie Shewmaker

Alvina Taney

Jean Taney

Jerry Baltazor

Charlene Baltzor

Vera Baltzor

Dennis & Barbara Brunk

Marlene Deminck

Nancy Kein

Chapman B. Leek

Arlin & Theresa Dennis

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 Idaho Commission for Libraries and mail to:

**Idaho Talking Book Service**  
325 West State Street  
Boise, ID 83702

Thank you for your generosity!

## Magazine Corner

In each newsletter, we talk about a few magazines that you can subscribe to on tape or download from the BARD digital website.

Did you know that there are many other magazines available in "Special Media," which includes Braille, Audiocassette, and Large Print? Like the magazines we provide, some are free, but others cost a small fee and are mailed directly to you. Some of the subject interests include The Arts, Business, Current Affairs, Health, History, Music, and Organizational Publications, to mention a few. If you are interested in a *Magazines in Special Media* catalog, please mark the space provided on the Order Form in this newsletter.

## New Books Order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### New Idaho Talking Books From Our Recording Studio

*Locally recorded books are now available on digital cartridges for those using digital players!* Locally recorded books are not yet available for download but they are still available on cassettes. To order, make your selections (VCT for cassette or VDB for digital cartridge) and mail this pre-addressed order form, call 800-458-3271, or order online at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/TBS/CurrentBooks/Summer2010>.

#### *Edith and the Mysterious Stranger: A Family Saga in Bear Lake, Idaho* (Adult Fiction)

Author: Linda Clarke

Read By: Susie Johnson

Volume two of *A Family Saga* finds Melinda and Gilbert happy and expecting their first child. Melinda's Cousin Edith, a nurse, moves to Paris to help and encounters a mysterious stranger who begins to send her wonderful letters.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1133) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1133) 1 Digital Cartridge

#### *Jenny's Dream: A Family Saga of Bear Lake, Idaho* (Adult Fiction)

Author: Linda Clarke

Read By: Susie Johnson

In volume three of *A Family Saga*, Jenny finds herself in the middle of drama, adventure, and romance and she even has a frightening encounter with a legendary 10 foot grizzly bear. Through it all, her faith helps guide her.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1134) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1134) 1 Digital Cartridge

#### *McClure of Idaho* (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: William Smallwood

Read By: Colette Cowman

This extensive biography of James (Jim) McClure, a well-known and well respected Idaho politician, includes his early childhood growing up in Payette, Idaho; his college years at University of Idaho; and his military service as an aviation cadet. McClure was elected to the Idaho State Senate in 1961. Later he served three terms in the Idaho House of Representatives and then moved on to the U.S. Senate in 1973. He voluntarily retired in 1991, at age 66.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1136) 4 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1136) 1 Digital Cartridge

***Debaters and Dynamiters, The Story of the Haywood Trial* (Adult Nonfiction)**

**Author: David Grover**

**Read By: Sue Vap**

The story of Harry Orchard and the killing of Governor Steunenberg. The trial that ensued was as explosive as the dynamite which took the Governor's life. Re-record of VCT 32.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1153) 3 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1153) 1 Digital Cartridge

***Our First Hundred Years: A Biography of the Lower Boise Valley, 1814-1914***

**(Adult Nonfiction)**

**Author: Helen Lowell**

**Read By: Maryan Stephens**

A history of the Lower Boise, which includes Parma, Ten Davis, Apple Valley, Arena Valley, Big Bend and Roswell, Idaho, recording the area during the period of settlement which ended with World War I.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1159) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1159) 1 Digital Cartridge

***Cook's Night Out: An Angie Amalfi Mystery***

**(Adult Fiction)**

**Author: Joanne Pence**

**Read By: Lise Goertz**

In an attempt to do good, Angie gets mixed up with the Random Acts of Kindness Mission but soon finds that the mission serves more than the needy. She manages to put both her and her boyfriend Paavo's life in danger.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1162) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1162) 1 Digital Cartridge

***Barbwire Bards: A Collection of Works From Members of Cowboy Poets of Idaho***

**(Adult Fiction)**

**Author: Cowboy Poets of Idaho**

**Read By: Sue Robinson**

A collection of original tongue-in-cheek cowboy poetry that profiles each poet in a short bio. Fun to listen to and recite—a unique Western tradition.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1166) 1 Cassette

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1166) 1 Digital Cartridge

***To Catch a Cook: An Angie Amalfi Mystery***

**(Adult Fiction)**

**Author: Joanne Pence**

**Read By: Kris Query**

Between her latest "sure fire" foray into video restaurant reviews and concern over boyfriend Paavo's depressed state, Angie's plate is overflowing.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1167) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1167) 1 Digital Cartridge

***They Came to Hunt: Recollections of a Whitetail Guide* (Adult Nonfiction)**

**Author: Jack Skille**

**Read By: Art Latterell**

Skille guided whitetail deer hunters through Idaho's backcountry for over 14 years. This book is full of stories and tips from this avid outdoorsman and includes a great venison recipe section chock full of camp-tested dishes.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1170) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1170) 1 Digital Cartridge

***The Hub of Eastern Idaho: A History of Rigby, ID, 1885-1976* (Adult Nonfiction)**

**Author: Patricia Scott**

**Read By: Colette Cowman**

An informative and entertaining history of Rigby, a small farming community located in the fertile Upper Snake River Valley of Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1182) 1 Cassette

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1182) 1 Digital Cartridge

***The Good Times Are All Gone Now: Life, Death, and Rebirth in an Idaho Mining Town* (Adult Nonfiction)**

**Author: Julie Weston**

**Read By: Carla Stern**

Weston's memoir explores the story of Kellogg, Idaho, its miners, and her family, which goes back five generations.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1185) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1185) 1 Digital Cartridge

***Harkers Island***

**(Adult Fiction)**

**Author: Joyce Lindstrom**

**Read By: Sue Robinson**

Susan Harker has big conflicts between her love for her family and her faith and her relationship with David, a young Mormon man. When David is shot while protecting the Mormon elders, Susan's turmoil escalates.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1187) 2 Cassettes

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1187) 1 Digital Cartridge

***Southern Idaho Ghost Towns***

**(Adult Nonfiction)**

**Author: Wayne Sparling**

**Read By: Ed Rush**

In the mid 1860s, gold and silver ore was discovered in the rugged desert peaks and forested mountains of Southern Idaho. Sparling provides an excellent guide to the remains of 84 of these historical sites.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VCT 1188) 1 Cassette

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1188) 1 Digital Cartridge

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Idaho Talking Book Service  
325 West State Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

**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, PDF, or to subscribe to the newsletter VIA email, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/connections-tbs-news>.

### **New Books Order Form (cont'd from p. 7)**

The following IC book is new from another library and is available on cassette only:

*Big Sky Country*

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Janet Dailey

Read By: Jackie Kilfoyle

Riordan was stubbornly set against his brother's impending marriage to Kerry. But Jill, Kerry's roommate, is equally committed to seeing the marriage happen. Jill is a beautiful woman who knows she can use her wiles to sway a man, but could Riordan turn the tables on her? Descriptions of sex.

\_\_\_\_\_ (IC 369) 1 Cassette

### **Magazines**

If you are interested in receiving the catalog *Magazines in Special Media*, please place a checkmark by the title.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Magazines in Special Media* catalog

## Calendar Announcement

The 2011 TBS calendar will be mailed to all active TBS users the end of October. This large-print calendar includes staff photos, information about TBS, and space for notes. The 2011 theme "And Here We Have Idaho" focuses on locally recorded books on a variety of topics from biographies to history to farming, ranching, and mining. Please contact TBS if you don't receive your calendar by Thanksgiving.



## Biennial Survey

This issue of *Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News* contains the biennial survey (inserted into the center of the newsletter) which asks users how well we are serving them. Please take a few minutes to give honest feedback on what you like about the service and how we can serve you better. You can even remain anonymous if you'd like.

## Digital Player Accessories

Two accessories are now available to make your digital player even more useful:

1. An adaptor has been developed to connect NLS-issued headphones to the digital player. Other headphones will also work; they just need to have a jack that will fit into the headphone receptacle on the side of the player.

2. For BARD users, an adaptor is now available to allow the flash drive to align perpendicularly with the player instead of at a right angle. We hope this will reduce worries about the possibility of damaging the USB port if the flash drive is sticking out and hits something.

Call TBS at 800-458-3271 to request either the headphone or flash drive adaptor.



Top: Adaptor for flash drives

Bottom: Adaptor for NLS-issued headphones

## Digital Talking Book Players are now available for everybody!

In the near future, a digital talking book player will be sent to active readers who do not yet have one. We want you to join the many happy readers who have discovered the wonderful sound quality of digital books, and the simpler operation of a digital player.

Just think of it: your entire book fits on one cartridge! No more changing tapes or turning them over, and no rewinding! No more problems with defective tape cassettes! Just a beautiful, rich tone from a machine that is smaller, lighter, and easier to use. As one user said, "NLS got it right."

There are two ways to receive digital books. As in the past, you can receive them through the United States Postal Service (USPS). The cartridges are the same size as a cassette to handle and will slide easily into your new player.

Another option is to download them from the Internet over a high-speed connection (dial-up service will not work). With the download option you will not need to wait for someone else to return a book or for the postal service to deliver it. You also can keep the downloaded title as long as you want! Over 20,000 books and 50 magazines are available now,

with more books added every month. TBS staff will send you instructions on downloading and is available to troubleshoot if needed.

No books on cassette tapes will be produced after December 2010. Tapes will continue to be available for older titles, but newer titles will only play on the digital player.

The sound quality on the digital player is so good, you may be tempted to return your cassette player. We encourage you to keep your cassette player so you will have access to older titles that may not be available in digital format. Also, you will need your cassette machine to receive NLS-provided magazines on tape for a while longer.

As good as the Digital Player is, some people may just not want one. We understand, but please know that you will be limiting the books that will be available for you to read. If you really do not want to receive this player, contact us at 800- 458-3271 and we will not send you one. You can always change your mind later: no hard feelings!

We are confident that most people will enjoy the ease of use and improved audio quality of the new digital talking book machine! Expect yours in the mail soon!

## Frequently Asked Questions about digital cartridge books

Below are answers to some frequently asked questions about using digital cartridge books. Let us know what your questions are!

### 1. How do I know which books are available on cartridge?

New cartridge titles are listed in *Talking Book Topics Plus* since December 2009. To determine if a title is available in cartridge format at TBS, contact TBS. If you have a digital player, any requested title that is available in cartridge format will automatically be sent to you.

### 2. Why can I only have two books on cartridge for two weeks?

Our current cartridge collection is very small—about 2,800 titles and 7,200 copies for about 1,500 users. These limitations are intended to help everyone have access to the books without a long waiting period. We hope to increase the number of books each user can have as the collection increases in size. In the meantime, please be respectful of other users and return the books on cartridges within two weeks, or call and request a renewal.

### 3. When I try to read my book, I hear "Cartridge error." What's wrong?

This error can occur when the cartridge is removed from the

player before pressing the stop button. To clear the error, remove the cartridge, turn off the player, turn it back on, re-insert the cartridge, and press Play.

### 4. Are the same titles available from the Talking Book Service and on BARD for download?

All titles available on cartridges are available for download from BARD. However, BARD currently has about 20,000 titles for download while only 2,800 are available on cartridge. We encourage users to register for BARD if they have a computer with high-speed internet access and are familiar with downloading. Instructions are available from TBS and often family members or friends can help in the download process.

### 5. How do I know which books are available on BARD?

You can search BARD directly, or search the TBS online catalog and link to the books you want to download in BARD. Because BARD's search options are not as flexible as the online catalog, we recommend you begin with the online catalog at <http://webopac.klas.com/idbph>. Contact TBS if you need instructions for searching the online catalog.

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the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



**The digital player and cartridge**

**The digital format has many advantages including: improved sound quality, a lighter weight, easier to use player, and ability to download books and magazines from a website.**

***We are excited to announce that locally recorded books are now available on digital cartridges for those using digital players!***

**Call to request your player today.**