

Connections

Talking Book Service News

Android App Available

The wait is over! Version 1.0 of the BARD app for Android devices is now available to download from Google Play. This free app allows BARD users to download BARD titles onto their Android-compatible phone or tablet, including some Kindles. The device must be using Android version 4.1 or later to support the app.

Talking Book Service (TBS) user Dave Davenport was one of the beta testers of the app. After using the app for several months, he shares the following pointers:

1. You need a BARD account in order to use the app.
2. Unlike downloading from BARD to a cartridge or thumb drive, items selected from the BARD catalog with the Android app go into your Wish List and are downloaded from there. Alternatively, you can select items from "Recently Added Audio Books" or "Recently



Added Audio Magazines" to download.

3. Before downloading your first title, you need to choose a storage location onto either the phone or tablet main memory or an SD card. Dave recommends using an SD card if you have one.

Contact the Talking Book Service for a written Android App Manual that describes using the app's functions in detail.

Volunteer and ICfL Board Member Larry Weeks

Commissioner Larry Weeks passed away on June 6, 2015. Weeks served on the Idaho Board of Library Commissioners for 19 years and was recently honored for 25 years of volunteer service at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). During that time, Weeks narrated local and regional books for the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS), recording 23 books—including a two-volume, 28-hour recording of the History of Idaho, which took over a year to record. He especially loved reading history books and also recorded many of our local magazines.



Larry Weeks

libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele." He was supportive of the work the Commission does, and never hesitated to praise staff for their contributions. Weeks very much enjoyed the annual fall Board tour and the opportunity to visit a wide variety of libraries in different parts of the state.

Some years ago, when asked what motivated him to volunteer so much time for the benefit of libraries, Weeks told the story of how, as a grade-schooler, he frequented the Twin Falls Public Library. A librarian noticed his advanced reading interests and began suggesting books for him, telling him that if he had questions or didn't like her selection to come back

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Phone: 208.334.2150 or 800.458.3271

and discuss it with her. This reader's advisor instilled in him the value of reading, and he was influenced to pursue an undergraduate degree in English Literature and History as a result of this early reading experience.

Larry Weeks *(continued from page 2)*

Weeks will be remembered with gratitude for his dedication to library services in Idaho, his skill in narrating regional books for TBS, and his friendly sense of humor. He will be greatly missed.

Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

General Donations

Betty Anthony
Eagles Auxiliary #115 (Boise)
Lucy Bean
Lois Beno
Nathan & Doris Blank
N. Bliss
Robert Boyd
Paul & Lonabelle Eastman
Kay Lynne Miley
Juanita Parke
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Memorial Donations

For Carol Campbell
Rick & Penny Campbell
For Kenneth Fallon, Sr.
Kenneth Fallon
For Kitty Guernsey
Marion Barton
For Lois Johnson
Donna Bay
Anne & Robert Johnson
Joan & Michael Moye

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. 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!

Author Pseudonyms

Many authors choose to publish by a pen name. While this decision is prompted by various reasons, sometimes the author may just want to express himself/herself in a completely different genres (type of book). Devoted fans may want to read across genres to follow their favorite authors. Consider the following examples:

- **Agatha Christie: Mary Westmacott**
The English crime writer wrote an impressive 66 detective novels and more than 15 short story collections under her own name, but she also wrote six romance novels under the name Mary Westmacott.
- **Nora Roberts: J.D. Robb**
Roberts is an American bestselling author of romance novels. She also writes romantic suspense and futuristic science fiction titles under the name of J.D. Robb.
- **John Banville: Benjamin Black**
Banville is an Irish award-winning author of mystery and suspense books. Banville has written crime fiction under the pen name Benjamin Black.
- **Donald E. Westlake: Richard Stark**
Westlake is an American writer of both fiction and non-fiction, who specialized in crime fiction and some science fiction. As Richard Stark he writes suspense/crime fiction focusing on psychological aspects and characterization.
- **Jayne Krentz: Jayne Castle: Amanda Quick**
A bestselling American novelist, Jayne Krentz writes romantic-suspense in three different time frames: contemporary (as Jayne Ann Krentz), futuristic (as Jayne Castle), and historical (as Amanda Quick).
- **Ruth Rendell: Barbara Vine**
Rendell was an English author of thrillers and psychological murder mysteries. Books written under the name of Barbara Vine further develop themes of family misunderstandings, secrets, and crimes. Rendell has also injected the social changes of the last 40 years into her work, bringing awareness to such issues as domestic violence and the change in the status of women.

Talking Book Service 10² Club

Centenarians joining the 10² (Ten Squared) Club are:

Edna M. Britton, Caldwell, Born 08/04/1915

Dean Repp, Boise, Born 08/14/1915

Eva B. Wicks, Lewiston, Born 09/15/1915



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 Order Form, select the DBC 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.

Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge

Author: Scott Wyatt

Adult Fiction

Read By: Sue Vap

In Northern Pacific Railroad Camp, Idaho Territory, the body of Sheriff Roger Langston is found beneath the Sand Creek Bridge. Chinese railroad worker Wong Hok-Ling is charged with murder just days after the unexpected arrival of his fiancé, Mei-Yin, who escaped her unscrupulous father and stowed away aboard a ship bound for America. Jason McQuade, the territory's newest lawyer, must defend the accused. But after encountering the beautiful Mei-Yin, how far is he willing to go—what sacrifices will he make—to save his client's life?

_____ **DBC00801 2012**

**Strong Language
18 Hours 30 Minutes**

This is Not the Ivy League: A Memoir

Author: Mary Clearman Blew

Adult Nonfiction

Read By: Rosemary Ardinger

An award-winning Idaho author, Blew's education began at home on a remote cattle ranch in Montana. She graduated to a one-room rural school, then escaped, via scholarship, to the University of Montana. There, still in her teens, she met and married her first husband. This story is her account of what it was like to be that girl, and then that woman—pressured by husband and parents to be the conventional wife of the 1950s. She persisted in her pursuit of an education, trailed by a reluctant husband and small children through graduate school, and finally entering the job market with a PhD in English, only to find a whole new set of pressures and prejudices.

_____ **DBC00803 2011**

**Strong Language
8 hours 30 minutes**

The Land of Sunrise Mountains: Memoirs of Idaho

Adult Nonfiction

Author: Cloah Sebastian Cowling

Read By: Maryan Stephens

100 years after Cloah's father came to Idaho via covered wagon on the Oregon Trail, she begins to write his story. Cloah relates, in intimate detail, the story of her own childhood and recalls the exciting firsthand accounts she heard from her father and other early pioneer settlers.

_____ DBC00806 1956

9 hours 20 minutes

The Deadliest Indian War in the West: The Snake Conflict, 1864-1868

Adult Nonfiction

Author: Gregory Michno

Read By: Lana Thurston

The Snake War is one of the least known of the many clashes of culture that occurred in the American West during the 19th century. This book gives readers the first comprehensive look at the natives, soldiers, and settlers who clashed on the high desert of Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, and northern California in a struggle that, over a four-year period, claimed more lives than any other Western Indian War.

_____ DBC00809 2007

19 hours 40 minutes

When Greed Turns Deadly: A True Story of a Twist in the Law to Arrive at the Truth

Adult Nonfiction

Author: Dixie Murphy

Read By: Kris Query

Idaho Falls, Idaho—July 4, 1989: Two women are brutally executed in their beds. There was no robbery, no sexual motivation. Satanic writings and red candles were found at the scene. Was there an insane maniac on the loose in this peaceful Idaho town? Or, was it all staged to throw off investigators? It seemed an open and shut case but it was not what it appeared. In this true story, Dixie Murphy follows a trail of suspicion and intrigue, and reveals the virtually unprecedented means used to finally bring a murderer to justice.

_____ DBC00821 2009

17 Hours 30 Minutes

Boise: An Illustrated History

Adult Nonfiction

Author: Merle Wells and Arthur A. Hart

Read By: Becky DeSilvia

Merle Wells and Arthur A. Hart have compiled a fast-paced narrative of the rich history of Boise, Idaho. They take the reader on a journey that

begins with Indians, trappers, and emigrants to the urban development in the year 2000. Boise's struggle to become the state capital shaped its history and its people, and that legacy remains with us today.

_____ DBC00825 2000

14 hours 15 minutes

Strata

Adult Fiction

Author: Howard E. Adkins

Read By: Don Evans

James Stanford, a recent college graduate, seeks out an abandoned homestead in the rugged Owyhee country of southwestern Idaho that has recently been scheduled for tax sale. He finds an archeological dig underway there and becomes captivated by millennia of human drama that is suggested by the artifacts.

Strong Language

_____ DBC00826 2009

12 hours

High Desert Promise: The Skinner Family Legacy

Adult Nonfiction

Author: John Sackett Skinner

Read By: Debby Queen

Silas Skinner left the high seas as a mariner, first to become a miner and then to establish a cattle ranch on the high desert plains of Jordan Valley, Oregon and southwestern Idaho. In the ensuing generations, the Skinners would leave an indelible impression on the region—building roads, breeding horses, softening the rough edges of wilderness life with the amenities of culture, and widening horizons through advocacy of education and innovative techniques of farming—as they set examples of environmental responsibility and helped establish land management policies. The family endured the rough times of bitter winters, Indian wars, crooked land agents, the Great Depression, and World Wars with determination and hope, prospering in good times with intelligence, goodwill, and hard work.

_____ DBC00832 2009

11 hours 15 minutes

Who R U Really?

Young Adult Fiction

Author: Margo Kelly

Read By: Lana Thurston

14-year-old Thea lies to everyone she loves and everyone who tries to protect her as she moves deeper and deeper into the world of an online role-playing game. The one who understands is Kit, an older boy obsessed with death and obsessed with Thea. Now, Kit wants Thea to

(Order Form continued on page 8)

FAQ: Why Am I Not Receiving Books?

One of the most frequently asked questions is "Where are my books?" The following tips will help ensure that books and magazines keep coming on a regular basis.

- **Timely return of materials:** For most users, every time a book is returned another one is sent. This makes it important to return books as soon as you are finished with them. There is no cost savings to the Talking Book Service if books are returned at the same time. Also, magazines must be returned in order to receive the next issue. Too many overdue magazines will result in cancellation of that magazine.
- **Type of service:** If your service is based on your request list, it is important that you keep a lengthy list of requests. Remember that books listed in the newsletter or in the most recent Talking Book Topics may be requested by other users, so copies may not be available when requested. If your requests are not available, nothing will be sent to you.
- **Number of books:** If you go through books and have to wait for more, perhaps the number of books you receive needs to be increased. Users can have as many books sent to them as they can read in a 4-week period.
- **User interest:** If your service is based on user-selected genre, subject, and authors, you might

need to expand your preferences. For example, if you only read westerns, and have read all the westerns in the collection, no more will be sent unless you request to read them again.

- **Mailing time:** Idaho is a big state, and the USPS has been closing postal sorting centers. When this happens, additional time may be needed to return and receive books.

Luckily, the solution to most of these issues is simple: contact the Talking Book Service (TBS). Customer Service Representatives can modify your service to better meet your needs. Whether it is increasing the number of books you receive, suggesting additional authors or genres you might enjoy, or changing your service so you can receive your favorite westerns again, they are here to help. They can also instruct you in how to download from BARD, use the iOS or Android apps, or request books through the online catalog. You can contact them at 800.458.3271; talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov; or by mail at 325 West State Street, Boise, ID, 83702.

Note: The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners updated the TBS loan guidelines to reflect the changes resulting from the cessation of loaning cassette materials. The revised guideline is available at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/LoanguidelinesRev20150522Swal.pdf>.

Volunteer Highlight — Mary Ellen Halverson

Mary Ellen Halverson is retiring from the Talking Book Advisory Committee at the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Appointed 11 years ago, Mary Ellen is an avid reader and has appreciated the library services for many years. She wanted to keep up with library issues and help determine future library policies, so she volunteered to be on the committee as a representative for the National Federation of the Blind of Idaho (NFBI). Since that time, she has met quarterly with the committee; shared ideas; participated in making many decisions affecting library services for those using alternatives to print; and helped with various projects, such as the Talking Book Service (TBS) Postal Carrier of the Year Selection.

Mary Ellen has enjoyed working with people on the committee from various organizations and from around the state. She said that the meetings are always so well organized and always on time. She has enjoyed helping determine how to deal with changes, such as the conversion of TBS materials to digital.

Mary Ellen has been a volunteer member of the NFBI for many years. She has been involved with the BELL program (Braille



Talking Book Advisory Committee member Mary Ellen Halverson

Enrichment for Learning and Literacy) and with the Treasure Valley Chapter's Cycle for independence, the organization's main fundraiser for the last few years.

In her spare time, Mary Ellen loves to read. A TBS user herself, her most recent reads include books by Karen Kingsbury and Joanne Fluke. She says that Kingsbury's novels have such depth and are very meaningful, whereas Fluke's murder mysteries, like the *Peach Cobbler Murder*, are lighthearted despite the title, and are cleverly written and fun to read. She also enjoys spending time with her grandchildren—five girls and a boy, including one-year-old twins!

TBS Regional Librarian Sue Walker said, "Mary Ellen is a joy to work
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with! The overall service has benefitted from her insights and guidance. She will be missed, but we are happy she will have more time to spend with friends, family, and of course, reading." As Mary Ellen finishes up her last term

Halverson (*continued from page 10*)

on the Talking Books Advisory Committee she commented, "Over the years I saw many changes in the service and have enjoyed learning more about this important service for Idaho citizens unable to read standard print."

What Are You Reading by Baxter Q. Andrews

In his book *On the Dark Side of the Moon: A Journey Toward Recovery*, Mike Medberry describes Craters of the Moon National Monument: "...fragile beauty and frank brutality, wonder and silence, dryness and wetness, savage heat and crystalline coldness, and it will call me back again and again. The landscape provided a mirror for my charred soul." While visiting Craters, Mike suffers a devastating left-sided stroke. This book is about tapping into his inner strength and absorbing the outer strength the Craters somehow contribute to his recovery. I must admit I did pick this book purely on the title, curious to read how volcanic lava beds in southern Idaho, where nothing grows, could contribute to a journey of growth and recovery.

Mike is a writer, environmentalist, and man with strong opinions—in this order, his order. This book took him 12 years to write and during this time he learned to stand, speak, run, think, see, hear, move, and love.

Mike's curiosity about Craters of the Moon started when he was 12 years old while reading a 1924 National Geographic article, "Among the 'Craters of the Moon': An Account of the First Expeditions Through the Remarkable Volcanic Lava Beds of Southern Idaho," by R.W. Limbert. I stopped listening to the book right then and decided to read the article. The article, with 20 photographs and one map, was a result of one of Limbert's expeditions to the Craters in 1920-1921. The article uses equally captivating descriptions of the unique and bizarre landscape as Mike's book: "lava walls of a vermilion color in the sunlight," "during the month of August...I visited the cave and found it full of ice on the bottom, but without icicles or incrustations on the wall," and "the rocky slopes burned the hand...the water was ice cold—so cold, in fact, it hurt our teeth" Mike mentions this article throughout his book.

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This newsletter 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.*"



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What Are You Reading? *(continued from page 11)*

Mike shared three things about himself after suffering his stroke: 1) he saw childhood as an adult, 2) he saw worlds that he had never imagined, and 3) he found out what hard work really is. He compares his journey to recovery to life: "What would life be like without the fire and ice, unknowable risk and unseen beauties, friendship and passion, the noise and silence...life would be unbearable."

I'm not going to spoil his story and tell you more, but I will encourage, rather, inspire, you to read this book. Here is the final quote from the book I will share, "The value of wild places is not what you can take

from or add to them but what you are given free of charge to learn from them."

My name is Baxter Q. Andrews and I left my career as a litigation paralegal to work at the Idaho Commission for Libraries in December 2014. I co-publish the Idaho Public Library Statistics, make awesome infographics, and play with geographic information system (GIS) mapping. This is my first book review; thanks for being part of it.

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