



## **NLS Studio Director Visited Idaho TBS**

The National Library Service (NLS), located at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., is the federal braille and talking book library service, as the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) is for the Gem State.

The NLS supplies the TBS players and other equipment, hosts the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), and records the majority of the books for the collection. In Idaho, the books provided by the NLS, along with the locally produced titles, are managed by staff and volunteers of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). In an average week, they process approximately 6,000 cartridges of audio books and magazines for the more than 3,200 patrons of the Idaho TBS.

In April, 2018, NLS Studio Director Celeste Lawson conducted a two-day training workshop for volunteers and staff of the Idaho TBS program. Lawson explored the three primary production duties of an audio book recording, which are narrator, monitor, and reviewer. Lawson has held each of those roles during her tenure with the NLS, which began in 1991 after a career that included actor, waitress, would-be economist, and voice-over artist.

Lawson said, "A narrator should be natural, unaffected, and have someone really specific you're talking to." In regard to the monitor role, Lawson pointed out, "A monitor is the first set of ears to hear this story." She added, "You should be really open with the narrator about how the story is striking you." Lawson advised reviewers to not "get too fixated on little noises, breaths, and ticks" unless they "take the listener out of the story." Lawson said, "For all three jobs, telling the best story is the goal."

(Continued on page 2.)

## NLS Studio Director Visited Idaho TBS

(Continued from the cover page.)

National Library Service Studio Director Celeste Lawson encouraged the workshop participants to role-play as they collaborated to perfect new techniques, tips, and best practices for their work as narrators, monitors, and reviewers.



From left: Lawson, ICfL Volunteer Coord. Colleen Schowalter, and State Librarian Ann Joslin



ICfL Volunteers (from left): Becky DeSilvia, Ruby Weaver, and Petra Britton



NLS Studio Director, Celeste Lawson

Part of the workshop was held in the Idaho TBS production studio, where books and magazines of Idaho interest are recorded. As the studio is primarily where the participants do their work for the ICfL and the patrons of the Talking Book Service, they were excited to receive feedback from Lawson about their narrating skills and other topics.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) provides audio books and magazines to the 3,200 patrons of the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS).

ICfL staff and volunteers process an average of 1,200 audio cartridges each day -- about 600 returned from patrons and another 600 sent out to eager readers.

They work hard to ensure that the more than 96,000 titles in the Idaho TBS collection are available and ready to be mailed out to patrons.



TBS audio cartridges

## Idaho TBS Celebrates 45 Years

Since 1973, the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS), which is managed by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), has provided free library service to Idahoans who are unable to read standard print due to a physical disability.

Audio books and magazines are mailed directly to and from patrons' homes, at no cost to them. The content is also available for download. With more than 96,000 titles in the collection, patrons have a wide variety of books and magazines from which to choose. Plus, dedicated customer service representatives (CSRs) are only a phone call away. The CSRs answer questions, provide assistance, order specific titles, and offer suggestions to patrons about books they may enjoy.

The CSRs are available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., MT, excluding State of Idaho holidays and, typically, two training days per year. Representatives may be reached at: 1-800-458-3271.

The Idaho Talking Book Service returns the joy of reading to more than 3,200 Idahoans unable to read standard print, including the visually impaired and those who are physically unable to hold a book.

Current TBS patrons and their family members know the value of the Talking Book Service, but there are likely many Idahoans who could utilize the service -- if they knew it existed.

**Share your story about the Idaho Talking Book Service with people you know -- it could help someone you don't.**

To request TBS brochures to share, please call 1-800-458-3271 or visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/talking-book-service>.



ICfL Customer Service Rep. Rachel Welker and Volunteer Truman Stewart process audio book cartridges for patrons of the Idaho Talking Book Service.

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## **Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service**

### **General Donations:**

Alta Christiansen	Margaret Mortensen
Pat Curtis	Patricia Myklebust
Paul & Lonabell Eastman	Marian Niece
David Fitch	Hazel Pace
Dorothy Griffiths	Juanita Parke
Christine Louise Haggerty	Judy Purdom
Neal & Dianna Hemmert	Margaret Rigby
Melvin & Delores Kemper	Lyle Samuel
Doris & Charles Kinn	Agnes Wolf
Norman Langdahl	Rita Wood
Shirley Leoni	Pearl Zilk
Dick & Deaun Messersmith	

### **Memorial Donations:**

Roxie Fager in memory of Barbara Jean Anderson

Kenneth Fallon in memory of Kenneth Fallon Sr.

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 W. 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.

**Our sincere thanks to all who give so generously.**

## TBS Order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

To order any of the books from this newsletter, write your name and address in the space indicated above, and mark on the line(s) next to the identification number of the title(s) you want.

Then, mail the form (pages 5 through 8). Postage is not required.

These titles are also available for download from BARD.

To register for BARD, call the Talking Book Service at 1-800-458-3271 or visit: <http://NLSbard.loc.gov>.

### “Country Editor”

### Adult Fiction

**Author:** Grace Edington Jordan

**Read By:** Maryan Stephens

Charles Campbell had arrived at a belief: that a country newspaper, if honest and reflective, could influence local and state politics. Charles Campbell’s life was to be influenced far more than he expected by a young woman arriving from Ohio on this June day in 1899. For high school and adult readers. This title has recently been converted to cartridge.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DBC07324**

**1976**

**11 hours, 40 minutes**

(Continued on page 6.)

## TBS Order Form

(Continued from page 5.)

### **"Yaqui Gold"**

**Adult Fiction**

**Authors:** Clint Walker and Kirby Jonas

**Read By:** Don Evans

He had more enemies than any man had a right to. Too many enemies, and too few friends -- and the friends were nowhere to be found. If Sam Coffey lived to crawl out of the Mexican desert, it would be nothing short of a miracle. Some strong language. This book was recently recorded in the production studio of the Idaho Talking Book Service.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DBC00903**

**2003**

**11 hours, 39 minutes**

### **The following books are some favorites of our TBS Customer Service Representatives:**

### **"Is Idaho in Iowa? The Dumbfounding Confusion"**

**Adult**

**Nonfiction**

**Author:** Tim Woodward

**Read By:** Edith Bond

Why a book about Iowa, Idaho? With respects to people who climb mountains, "because it's there!" Mix-ups between these two states are so common as to be almost unbelievable, which is why it seemed reasonable to document some of the confusion and get it between covers. Believe it! It's real!

\_\_\_\_\_ **DBC07406**

**1992**

**1 hour, 57 minutes**

### **"As Long As Life"**

**Adult Nonfiction**

**Authors:** Mary Canaga Rowland and  
F.A. Loomis

**Read By:** Jeanne Alzola

The memoirs of a frontier woman doctor.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DBC07328**

**1994**

**7 hours, 14 minutes**

(Continued on page 7.)

## TBS Order Form

(Continued from page 6.)

### **"Outlaw Tales of Idaho: True Stories of the Gem State's Most Infamous Crooks, Culprits, and Cutthroats"**      **Adult Nonfiction**

**Author:** Randy Stapilus

**Read By:** Amie Dryden

Massacres, mayhem, and mischief fill the pages of this tale, which takes you on a ride with horse thieves and cattle rustlers, and stagecoach and train robbers. Prepare to duck the bullets of murderers, plot strategies with con artists, and hiss at lawmen turned outlaws. This tale is a refreshing new perspective on some of the Rocky Mountain's most infamous reprobates.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DBC00827**                      **2008**                      **3 hours, 43 minutes**

### **"On the Trail of Bronco Billy"**

**Adult Nonfiction**

**Authors:** Sandra Dee Kreshner and  
Bonnie J. Fitzpatrick

**Read By:** Kathy Yribar

In 1980, Clint Eastwood and a film crew came to Idaho's Treasure Valley to film the movie "Bronco Billy." Many local Idahoans were hired as extras or provided services to the film crew. More than 30 years later, some of their cherished memories were captured in the pages of this book.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DBC00800**                      **2011**                      **6 hours, 5 minutes**

### **"100 Years: Idaho and Its Parks"**

**Adult Nonfiction**

**Authors:** Rick Just

**Read By:** Lyn McCollum and Janice Pori

This book celebrates 100 years of state parks in Idaho and captures what makes each park special. For high school and adult readers.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DBC00887**                      **2008**                      **10 hours, 1 minute**

(Continued on page 8.)

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

**FREE MATTER for the  
BLIND or HANDICAPPED**



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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 catalogue, search: "Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News."

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## **New to the Crew**

Samantha ("Sam") Hansen recently joined the Idaho Commission for Libraries as a customer service representative for the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS). Sam brings her retail experience, along with a strong love of theater, to her role of helping TBS patrons.

## Volunteers Help It Happen at the ICfL

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) manages and operates the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) for the Gem State. In addition to ICfL staff, the TBS program is also supported by volunteers, who contribute their time and talents to various areas of the program. Some of the tasks the TBS volunteers undertake include: repairing the talking book machines; processing the incoming and outgoing digital cartridges; narrating the locally produced books and magazines; serving as the monitor during the audio recording process; and editing the audio recordings of the locally produced material, so the final audio book sounds as perfect as possible.

Each spring, the ICfL staff show their appreciation to the volunteers who help make their work happen. This year, the ICfL volunteers were treated to a catered lunch and awards ceremony, an outing to The Peregrine Fund (birds of prey), and a week-long "Volunteer Café," where staff provided goodies each day.



ICfL volunteer luncheon, April 2018



ICfL  
volunteer  
event,  
Peregrine  
Fund



(Continued  
on  
page 10.)

## Volunteers Help It Happen at the ICfL

(Continued from page 9.)

During the luncheon, several volunteers were recognized for their many years of service to the ICfL, including Maryan Stephens, who reached her 25-year milestone. Maryan narrated one of the books profiled in this edition of the Connections Newsletter. The title is "Country Editor," and it is listed on page 5.



ICfL volunteers honored with a milestone award. 1st row, from left: Patricia Kelley, Melody Lynch, Nancy Bunch, Truman Stewart, Donna Onn, Liz Carpenter (wearing the gray hoodie), and Maryan Stephens  
2nd row, from left: Barry Estes, Becky Blake, Colette Cowman, Cindy McLean, and ICfL Volunteer Services Coord. Colleen Schowalter

The ICfL boasted 111 volunteers in 2017, who gave 6,172 hours of service to the Commission. In addition to the TBS program, the volunteers support the ICfL's many other initiatives, including the far-reaching Read To Me early literacy program.

ICfL Volunteer Services Coordinator Colleen Schowalter said, "We are extremely fortunate to have so many talented, dedicated people who consistently volunteer with our agency. They are as committed as our staff is to the TBS patrons and ICfL's mission of building the capacity of Idaho's 850 libraries."

## Who Can Help

At the Idaho Talking Book Service, patron accounts are divided among the customer service representatives (CSRs) by the first letter of the patron's last name.

Although any CSR can assist any patron, the accounts are assigned:

### Patron's Last Name Begins With:

### TBS Customer Service Representative:

**A - D**

**Rachel**

**E - J**

**Sam** (The newest CSR.)

**K - Q**

**Judy**

**R - Z**

**Karen**

Talking Book Service

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

Our centenarians joining the Ten-Squared Club are:

### **Mary Bennett,**

who was born April 24, 1918, and joined the TBS program last year.  
Welcome, Mary!

### **Hazel Hibbard,**

who was born April 13, 1918.  
Hazel has read 2,465 books since joining the program in 2004.

### **Elida Pearson,**

who was born March 24, 1918.  
Elida has read 170 books since joining the program in 2011.

### **Roslyn Snow,**

who was born June 20, 1918.  
Roslyn has read 1,610 books since joining the program in 2008.  
Roslyn said the TBS audio books have been a lifesaver for her!





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To request this newsletter on cartridge or in braille, call 1-800-458-3271. For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to the newsletter via email, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/connections-tbs-news>.

To download the newsletter via the online catalog, search "Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News." If you have comments and/or questions about this newsletter, please call **1-800-458-3271**.



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



**All Summer!!**



Do you want to meet new people, visit different places, and experience great adventures? If so, your next exciting escapade could be as close as your nearest public library. Most of Idaho's public libraries offer activities linked to their summer reading programs, and many offer cool prizes, too.

And the Talking Book Service (TBS) has both audio and braille titles that will let you read in the format that is most comfortable for you. For more information about a library near you or to join the TBS, call 1-800-458-3271. But hurry; like summer, your next adventure awaits.