



Winter 2005

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

Highlighting the Braille Collection

Two years ago CTBL became a subregional library for Braille and we now have approximately 2700 titles in the collection. We also have 231 print/Braille books for children.

As a reminder to our patrons who receive Braille Book Review, when you send your requests to us, please put your name somewhere on the form! Occasionally there is no name and we can't log the requests.

We also provide patrons with access to NLS's Web Braille site, an internet web-based service. This site now includes 7,000 titles of books, magazines and music scores. Web-Braille files may be read online or downloaded for viewing offline or embossing with a Braille display, Braille-aware notetaker, or Braille embosser. A user name and password is necessary and available on request to CTBL patrons. If you are interested please contact CTBL.

Additionally, at a patron's request we can convert documents from an electronic file to Braille. School requests will be given priority. If the book is already available in Braille and CTBL does not have it, we will request it through interlibrary loan.

From the Director—A Digital Update

In October I attended NLS's orientation and during that time Michael Moody, Deputy Director of NLS, reviewed the progress on the conversion to the digital format. They have been doing lots of work on this transition even though to patrons it may not seem like much is happening. Getting books to patrons is a complex process and NLS determined that more than 126 points in the process need to be changed.

The decision has been made to use flash memory as a replacement for tape. NLS believes this is a robust format and tests supported this decision. Data on the card withstood dunking in coke and coffee, a trip through the washer and dryer and any torture a six year old inflicted. The connector between the card and playback machine will be a USB connection. So for those of you with a computer, you can use a USB cable and read the book on your computer.

The playback machine will be about one quarter the overall size of the current cassette machine. NLS is requesting a way to provide directional speakers so the sound can be directed towards the listener and not upwards towards the ceiling. This will aid patrons who experience hearing loss in the higher frequencies.

NLS has sent out the request for proposal to design the system and includes both the card and the playback machine. Since a potential manufacturer will produce the system, it eliminates the chance of finger pointing between 2 manufacturers if a problem occurs.

NLS anticipates phasing in the new technology in 2008 and have the transition complete by 2012. Patrons will not be forced to make the change so if you want to stick with tape you will be able to do so.

For recording books, NLS made the switch to digital several years ago. As a result, NLS expects to have about 20,000 titles available in the new digital format in 2008.

Debbi

Outreach

During the summer and fall we were very busy with outreach. While preparing our marketing materials, Debbi participated in 2 vision support group meetings. In September & October we sent CTBL's school flyer out in the All School mailing and in packets for new superintendents and principals. We had booths at the People's Fest at Red Rocks Community College and the Low Vision Fairs in Fort Collins and Colorado Springs. While in Colorado Springs Debbi visited with the Colorado School for the Deaf & the Blind, Colorado Instructional Materials and the Visiting Nurses Association.

Debbi had lots of fun attending and speaking at the National Federation of the Blind's state convention. Alex and Michael Jones covered the booth at the Senior Fair in Denver at St Elizabeth's. Our flyers were popular at the State Library's booth at Colorado

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Association of Libraries annual meeting. In November Terri and Debbi covered the booth at Read Colorado held at Invesco Field where 2,500 people attended. And finally Debbi spoke briefly about CTBL's services at the Colorado State Conference on Visual Impairment.

If you would like Debbi to visit a support group, meet with a group or know of an event that CTBL should attend, please contact Debbi.

Reader's Advisors—Questions and Answers

Q: I signed up for automatic shipments of talking books and haven't received any books in a long while. Why not?

A: There could be a variety of reasons, from an incorrect mailing address to your subject choices being exhausted, etc. Please, call us so we may look into your account. We want you to continue enjoying our service and are anxious to help solve any problems you may have.

Q: I heard about a newly published book that seems to be very popular. When will CTBL have it available?

A: Generally speaking, it takes about 6 months to one year before we receive the book.

**CTBL will be closed on the following days in 2005:
January 17th, February 21st, May 30th, July 4th**

Summer Reading Program is Back

CTBL is planning a summer reading program. "Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deed" is this year's theme for participating summer reading programs throughout the country. Prizes will be awarded to participants for reading certain numbers of titles, with everyone receiving some type of prize, and a grand prize (yet to be determined) will be awarded by a drawing with everyone's name in it. We are in the process of soliciting some exciting prizes and developing a fun program.

As always, parents are encouraged to get involved with their children and engage in the wonderful and wondrous world of reading. Watch for more information coming in the mail this spring.

The numbers of available titles in the theme are as follows:

For grades K thru 3:	Braille—304	Print/Braille—231
	Cassette—1,389	Large Print—278
For grades 4 thru 8:	Braille—762	Cassette—7,139
	Large Print—1,186	
For grades 9 thru 12:	Braille—159	Cassette—869
	Large Print—195	

Note: We will have the basic 2004 IRS tax forms in Braille. Please call CTBL to request them.

Volunteer News

“In the arena of human life the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action.” —Aristotle

On December 4th the Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library celebrated the Volunteers who have provided many years of service to CTBL patrons. They assist our staff in nearly every area of the Library. These are just a few of the nearly 200 volunteers who give their time and talent to make books available throughout the year.

Thank you and congratulations, once again, for all the wonderful years of support you have given us.

25 years: Norma Sierota

15 years: Steve Austin, Jack London, Yvonne Naumann

10 years: Ed George, Laverne Rios, Melissa Roberts, Jean Schneider, Betty Yegge

5 years: Alfred Busnardo, David Egdorf, Rosemary Egdorf, Michael Jones, Marilyn Newcomb, Stuart Noyes, Jack Russo, Debra Smith

Tech Talk

We would like to highlight an organization providing various services that might be of interest to our patrons. Bill Estrada, a patron of CTBL, started a company, Estrada Enterprises, to

provide high-tech assistance and quality training not readily available to persons with disabilities.

Their services cover: training from basic computer skills to more advanced procedures, job coaching, job placement and job seeking skills, skill and competency evaluations, workplace evaluations, custom configurations for adaptive hardware and software, adaptive equipment purchase, technical support, and finally, transcription services.

As you can tell, there is not enough space here to go into detail on each of these services. For more information, visit Estrada Enterprises online at www.eeiadaptive.com or contact them at:

Estrada Enterprises
P.O. Box 1321,
Westminster, CO 80036

303-893-2065 (metro Denver)
or 1-888-832-6334 (toll free)

The New Patron Handbook

We have a new Patron Handbook that explains in an A-Z format the workings of the library. If you need information about address changes, cassette machines or school requests, for example, it's in the handbook. We hope it will be useful. All new patrons will automatically receive a copy. For current patrons, we ask that you call CTBL and request a copy in the format that you need. The handbook is available in large print, cassette or Braille.

Collection News

Lots of new large print books are arriving and are too numerous to list here. Please check the online catalog for titles. Below are some highlights of titles in other media added since our last newsletter.

- Descriptive Videos:**
- Battle of the Bulge VO 205
 - Mystic River VO 222
 - Cat in the Hat VO 224
 - Star Trek—The Motion Picture
 - Cheaper by the Dozen VO 223 VO 200
 - Cold Mountain VO 227
 - Vietnam: A Television Series
VO 215-VO 221

Colorado Collection:

CC7812 The Leaning Land

by Rex Burns

Moni Monismith, Narrator

Competing jurisdictions complicate Denver police detective Gabe Wager's life. He is investigating a murder on an Indian reservation, and the evidence he finds is like a ticking time bomb waiting to explode. Wager tries to be a neutral party among the warring investigative agencies, but things don't work out because a local militia group has a great deal of influence in the area.

CC7842 The People of El Valle

by Olibama Lopez-Tushar

Anna Flores, Narrator

The early history of the Southwest with emphasis on the San Luis Valley. Describes the life of early settlers including their homes,

churches, schools, dress and occupations. Also includes a unique selection of folk tales, songs, proverbs and riddles.

CC7865 Born To Be A Cowgirl

by Candace Savage

Jean Amen, Narrator

Fresh air, open prairie, and a galloping horse—what more could a girl want? Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, families headed west to build ranches and start new lives in the cattle business. Their daughters were raised on the range with an independent spirit and horses in their blood.

Mailroom News—What to Do with a Damaged Book

CTBL inspects all of the books mailed back to us. However, you may occasionally receive a damaged or incomplete book.

If you receive a **defective** book, place a rubber band around any damaged cassette. Place the item on top in the mailing container, turn the mailing label over so the address in red shows and the hole punch is in the upper left corner, check the box marked **DAMAGED**, near the hole punch and return the book.

If you receive an **incomplete** book, place all the tapes and a note in the mailing container, turn the mailing label over so the address in red shows and return the book.

Please call a Reader's Advisor if you would like a replacement copy.

Celebrating Our Centenarians

On December 10, 2004, CTBL hosted a festive reception honoring the library's active patrons who are 100 years or older by 12-31-04. Colorado had 46 centenarians and with 5 in attendance we had over 500 years of experience represented! Kurt Cylke from NLS presented certificates of induction into the 10² Talking Book Club. Debbi presented certificates granting "First Choice Status". CTBL is giving our centenarians this status so they don't have to wait for any book they request. We thought it was the least we could do.

Patrons who attended with family and friends were: Rosemary Bardon, Helen Daly, Rowena DeGood, Thelma Low, and Edna Milliken. Although ready to attend, Mabel Lowsma could not and was represented by her daughter Caroline.

Also in attendance was the staff of CTBL, members of the Board of the Friends of CTBL, Jean Moss from NLS, Nancy Bolt, Bonnie McCune and Barbara Goral. We also had members from Talking Book Publishers, an audio book narration



Kurt Cylke (NLS) and Debbi MacLeod (CTBL) speak before presenting certificates.

contractor for NLS. Several narrators that you probably have listened to were there, Kristen Allison, Martha Harmon Pardee, Erik Sandvold, Bill Wallace and Jake Williams. Erik treated the group to a reading of *The Polar Express*.



Left to right: Debbi MacLeod, Rosemary Bardon, Kurt Cylke (NLS), Edna Milliken, Helen Daly, Thelma Low, Rowena DeGoode, and Jean Moss (NLS). Cannon City, Castle Rock, Loveland and Denver were the cities represented.

Those 10² members who could not attend will receive their certificates via the mail. Starting in 2005 CTBL intends to continue this new tradition of granting "First Choice Status" to new centenarians who are active patrons. We hope this is something they can look forward to!

We appreciate the hard work of staff and volunteers that contributed to making the event a success.

Rosemary Bardon and family.



Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Talking Book Library
180 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80226

Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped

How to Reach Us:

Colorado Talking Book Library
180 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80226

303-727-9277—metro Denver
1-800-685-2136—outside Denver

www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl

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