

Talking Book Times
Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center
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This document is available in Braille, on cassette, or by email. Please let us know if you need a copy in these formats by calling 1-800-426-0709.

NEW ADDRESS FOR THE ILLINOIS ONLINE CATALOG

The Online Catalog for the Talking Book and Braille service has moved to:

<http://www.klas.com/ilbph>

Anyone may browse this catalog, but talking book patrons who want to order books online must have a user ID and password. Contact your reader advisor to get online!

NEW PLAYAWAY TITLES ARE AVAILABLE

We have added several new titles to the collection including children's titles. If you have not yet tried the Playaway and would like to experience listening to a digital audio book, please call your reader advisor. Playaways are small, portable books--no computer expertise needed. A new catalog is available.

OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS

Several new Old Time Radio Shows have been recently added to our collection and an updated catalog is now available. Call your reader advisor to request the catalog. Many classic comedies have been added to the collection. Call us if you need to lighten those long winter days with some laughter.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

National Library Service has created a web page for children called The Kids Zone that allows you to search for children's books in the national collection. It provides reading lists of award winning books and lists popular series such as the Chronicles of Narnia. You will also find information about children's magazines and links to the Library of Congress Kids and Families website. Go to www.loc.gov/nls/children/

HOLIDAY NEWS

The entire staff extends to all of you warm wishes for the holiday season. We truly enjoy what we do and our goal is to provide the best service possible to our patrons. In order to spend time with our families, the Talking Book Center will be closed on the following days:

November 23 and 24

December 25 and 26

January 1 and 2, 2007

It is always a good idea to request more books during the holidays and winter months. Don't worry if they pile up a bit. Our loan period is six weeks and

we would hate to have you snowed in with no reading material. New books are constantly arriving and we would love to empty our shelves. Call today!

DONORS TO TALKING BOOKS

Your donations during the year are much appreciated. We would like to thank the following donors:

In memory of Bernice Neathery:

Jodi & Wade Rowatt, Cindy Lauver, Kenneth Coleman

Other:

Edward & Bonnie Niehus, Barbara Schotts, Jeffrey Weiss, Betty Taylor, Elizabeth Van Allen, Lois Powless, Ramona VanZuiden, Sandra Nagler, Mary Connelly, James and Ada Keith

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

Talking Book readers can now subscribe to this newsletter via e-mail. However, when you ask for an electronic subscription you will receive many other items in addition to this newsletter. All documents produced by The Talking Book and Braille Service in Springfield will be delivered to you including the newsletters of all Talking Book Centers in Illinois, bibliographies, catalogs, etc. Please let us know if you would like to subscribe to this service.

NEW NLS DIGITAL TALKING BOOK CARTRIDGE AND PLAYER

The prototype of the new Digital Talking Book (DTB) cartridge and player was revealed in late September. The new player is charcoal gray, 6 by 9 by 2 inches, and weighs about 2 pounds. The new digital cartridge is the size of a cassette, but with a more complex shape. The digital players will not be available until 2008 with limited quantities manufactured each year. The familiar cassette players will be available for the next 20 years, as well. Call your reader advisor for more information about this new machine.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

We make every effort to send you books that are in good working condition. However, if you find a damaged cassette please put a rubber band around that tape when you return it. Call us to request a replacement copy. We open every book that is returned to us. If you forget to put one of the tapes back in the container, just put it in another book that you are returning. We will find the "orphan" tape and put it where it belongs.

READER ADVISORS RECOMMEND:

Have you read everything we have by your favorite author? Don't know what to read next? Call your reader advisor for help! Here are some suggestions:

Jan Plemons

I recently enjoyed reading two books by Mitch Albom. He writes small, sentimental books about the meaning of life. Five People You Meet in Heaven, RC57004, is a fictional story about an old man whose job is maintaining an amusement park. He dies on his 83rd birthday trying to save a girl's life. In heaven he meets five people who explain his life to him. You won't be able to put this one down.

Tuesdays with Morrie, RC44849, which is mentioned above as Princeton's book, is a non-fiction story. The author visits his terminally ill college

professor some 20 years after graduating. They spend Tuesdays discussing the meaning of life and death.

Watch for Mitch Albom's newest book—not yet available—For One More Day._

Nancy Boucher

Some of the most influential people of today are the news people we see on television everyday. Many of them have written books about their own lives, historical events or commentaries about American life. Tom Brokaw has written three books about "The Greatest Generation." They include articles and memories of people who lived during WW II: RC47490, 49312, and 52102. His biography, *A Long Way From Home*, RC55334, is also available.

Charles Kuralt wrote several books about his travels around the United States. He loved to interview the common man and visit small towns off the busy highways. Try RC41249, 47457, 31988, 22968, or 13965. Charles Osgood, known for his quiet humor on radio and television, has three books available: *Kilroy Was Here*, RC52548, a collection of essays, jokes, and poems from WWII; *The Osgood Files*, RC34593, 98 essays on a wide variety of topics; and *See You On the Radio*, RC50528, selections from his radio programs.

We have books written by David Brinkley, Walter Cronkite, Andy Rooney, Cokie Roberts and many others. These books are enlightening, informative and sometimes very entertaining. If you think of nonfiction books as dry, informational data, one of these authors just might change your mind.

Priscilla Whipp

A loss of eyesight should not prevent one from participating in book discussion groups. Talking book patrons can participate with the use of audio books in their local community-wide (or one book) programs. Some titles that have been used for these programs include:

Bloomington-Normal:

Long Way From Chicago by Richard Peck, RC50305

The Giver by Lois Lowry, RC37689

Montana 1948 by Larry Watson, RC37940

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, RC34963

Jacksonville:

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck, RC51259

Peoria:

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines, RC36694

Pay It Forward by Catherine Ryan Hyde, RC50012

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich, RC52291

Princeton:

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom, RC44849

Rockford:

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer, RC44525

A Place Where the Sea Remembers by Sandra Benitez, RC55916

Springfield:

Plainsong by Kent Haruf, RC49056

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES WITH
MULTI-GENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

What do a museum, a professor and a feedsack have to do with the 75th Anniversary of Talking Books?

Each is a key element in a program that traveled more than 1,600 miles to thirteen libraries, one museum, and one independent living center in Illinois. To date, over 900 people attended the program "Children of the Great Depression." More programs are slated.

The multi-generational program captures the imaginations of 8- to 88-year-olds. During the one-hour event, interaction between generations is encouraged. "The program is paced to elicit personal memories from audience participants," says Karen Bersche, Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center Director. "Audiences combine school classes with senior citizens and talking book clients."

Dr. Sandra Harmon, guest curator of the exhibit, Journey through the Great Depression, at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, Illinois presents a short program. She discusses the favorite toys, games, and pastimes of McLean County residents who were children in the 1930's, as related in oral histories collected by the museum. A video, using sounds and images from the 1930s, sets the mood of the era.

Children of today and children of the 1930's compete for prizes playing "Thirties Trivia." The competition is paced to promote sharing of childhood memories and inter-generational learning.

"We take a talking book display, as well as a 1930's display to each event," says Valerie Brandon, Outreach Administrator at MITBC. "Youth and adults learn from the displays and presentations, as well as from each other. This is true info-tainment!"

And the feedsack? "Of all the 1930's memorabilia in our display, the colorful feedsack cloth elicits the most stories," says Brandon. "Many people in rural Illinois wore clothing made from matching feedsacks during the 1930's, the era when Talking Books began."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH 14, 2007

"Protecting Your Vulnerable

Vision and Joints"

Health Fair

Free glaucoma screenings

Speakers on macular degeneration and cataracts

Nutrition tips to protect your eyesight and joints

Assistive Technology Demonstrations