



Fall 2009

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Editor: Dakota Saukel

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY
BRAILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY**

PRAIRIE TRAILS NEWSLETTER

Notes from the Director, Dan Boyd

Change At the Library

During this past year the SD Braille & Talking Book Library has been in a state of transition. The first part of the transition has been the moving of the library from second floor of the building to the first floor. The second part of the change has been the start of changing from cassette books to digital books and from cassette players to digital players.

In the first part of the change we were required to reduce the size of our collection from over 45,000 titles with almost 100,000 copies to the same number of titles with about 60,000 copies. Then each of the 60,000 copies required a barcode placed on the container, all the barcodes entered into the library system and finally the copy with its barcode has to be attached to a location on the new compact shelving so the book can be found. This process has taken much longer than we expected and during this change the South Dakota Braille & Talking Book Library has not been able to send books out in the mail everyday. I want to thank all of our library patrons for being so understanding during this change. With the help of a very dedicated staff, within the next few days this part of the library change will be completed and book circulation will begin

returning to normal.

The second part of the SD Braille & Talking Book Library change is the beginning of the change from cassette books to digital books. This is a change that will take place over a four to five year period. During this period of time new digital players will become available along with new digital books. The players will be smaller, lighter and much easier to use. The books will feel like a cassette but it will only take one digital chip to hold most any book in the collection. This means that you will not need to change chips or turn chips over to continue listening to a book. Just put the chip in the player and push the play key. The sound quality of the book will be improved greatly from that of a cassette.

The distribution of the digital players and books will begin in September. Veterans will receive the digital players first. If you are a veteran please call the library so that we can get your name on the list.

If any other patrons are interested in receiving a digital player in the next few months please call and talk with your Reader Advisor and get your name on the list.

If you have questions about the digital books and/or players you can call the library at 1-800-423-6665 and speak with your reader advisor.

Braille Football Guide

The Braille Revival League of Alabama offers the 2009 NCAA College Football Guide covering 120 division 1-A teams and most division 1-AA teams in Braille. Also included will be the results of the 2008-2009 bowls, the AP top 25 final polls, the 2009-2010 bowl schedule and much more. Checks covering the \$10 cost should be made out to Allen H. Gillis and sent to him at 302 Schaeffel Rd., Cullman, AL 35055. For more information, contact him at (256) 734-4047 or gill4047@bellsouth.net.

Staff Picks

Here is a list of books our staff members are currently reading. If you are interested in receiving any of these, give us a call!

Dan Boyd: The Keepsake by Tess Gerritsen (RC or DB 67723)

Boston medical examiner Maura Isles and homicide detective Jane Rizzoli team up to investigate modern-day murder victims preserved with ancient Egyptian techniques. Just as Isles and Rizzoli realize that a young archaeologist figures prominently in the case, the archaeologist disappears. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

Karen Duenwald: The Appeal by John Grisham (RC or DB 65629)

After a Mississippi jury returns a guilty verdict against a chemical company that dumped carcinogens into the water supply, the company's owner, Carl Trudeau, appeals to the state's supreme court. During judicial elections Trudeau tries to plant his own justice on the bench. Bestseller. 2008.

Josh Easter: Inkheart by Cornelia Funke (RC 57116)

Twelve-year-old Meggie lives with her father, Mo, a bookbinder. She discovers a terrible secret: nine years ago when Mo read aloud from a book the characters appeared in real life while her mother disappeared into the story. Mo's magic causes still more problems to solve. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 2003.

Marcia Kaup: Fast Track: Revenge of the Sisterhood, Book 9 by Fern Michaels (RC or DB 67433)

After Hokus Pocus (RC 66375), the Sisterhood returns from exile in Spain and relocates to North Carolina. A secret task force for the World Bank hires the Sisterhood to oust the bank president, a political appointee, who is stealing billions from

the organization. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

Nancy Pedersen: The Prodigal by Beverly Lewis (RC 60280)

Leah Ebersol raises siblings Lydiann and Abe and prepares Lydiann for her "rumschprunge," the traditional period of freedom during which teens test their religious commitment. Leah also copes with the return of her shunned sister, Sadie, and a startling revelation about Sadie's baby. Sequel to *The Sacrifice* (RC 59512). 2004.

Dakota Saukel: 1632: Ring of Fire by Eric Flint (RC 66064)

A cosmic disaster transports the entire community of Grantville, West Virginia, back in time to Europe during the Thirty Years' War. The residents, led by union organizer and ex-soldier Mike Stearns, set about introducing American law and order to the war-torn land. Some violence and some strong language. 2000.

Mary Sjerven: Home to Holly Springs by Jan Karon (RC 65431)

Nearly forty years after leaving his childhood home, retired Episcopalian priest Father Tim Kavanagh of Mitford, North Carolina, is beckoned back to Holly Springs, Mississippi. While reuniting with old friends and acquaintances, Father Tim uncovers family secrets and discovers who sent for him. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2007.

Connie Sullivan: False Profits: A Tucker Sinclair Mystery by Patricia Smiley (RC 62129)

Thirty-year-old L.A. financial consultant Tucker Sinclair discovers that she was set up by neurologist Milton Polk to fleece clients. When Polk is murdered, Tucker investigates and fights to clear her name--all while juggling visits from her ex-husband and the attentions of detective Joe Deegan. Some strong language. 2004.

Calling All Machines

If you currently have in your possession more than one Library of Congress cassette machine, we would appreciate your returning the extra unit to us as soon as possible. One cassette machine is allowed for each registered patron. If you need mailing labels to return extra equipment to us, we will gladly send them upon request. Thanks for your cooperation.

Help With Your Service

Would you like some extra in person assistance with the Talking Book service? If so, we have a patron in the Hot Springs area who has graciously volunteered to help anyone in that area. We also have a patron who is willing to give technical assistance over the phone to anyone needing help using BARD. Let us know if you would like some assistance.

Helpful Website

As a visually impaired individual, I have struggled with the massive amount of information available on the Internet. I have constructed a website to stockpile relevant data in one spot for the blind and visually impaired communities. The website is an amalgam of different information. There is a very useful job links page that is constantly being updated. By the way most of these positions are specifically for the blind or visually impaired. The site also has a discussion board that focuses on the topics relevant to our community. I also have an interview page in which I interview noted blind or visually impaired individuals. The resource and vendor links are also very useful tools for those seeking this information. It is my goal to make my website a useful tool for my blind and visually impaired peers.

For more information go to <http://www.visuallyimpairedandtheblind.com>.

Sincerely, Christine Chaikin (Helping the Visually Impaired and the Blind)

New Descriptive DVDs

We have added several descriptive DVDs to our collection. These DVDs are especially for the enjoyment of people who are blind or visually impaired. The DVDs carefully describe the visual elements of the movie—action, characters, locations, costumes, and sets—without interfering with the dialogue or sound effects. To enjoy these DVDs and hear the descriptions, all you need is a regular DVD player and a television.

You may borrow one DVD at a time and put others on your request list. The loan period is one week. We have only one copy of each DVD so please return them promptly so that others have a chance to enjoy them too. We reserve the right to issue a charge for replacement of damaged or unreturned DVDs.

DVD00002 Gunsmoke: Return to Dodge

A violent killer comes to Dodge seeking vengeance on the people who sent him to jail for 12 years: Marshall Dillon and Miss Kitty.

DVD00003 Gunsmoke: To The Last Man

Marshall Matt Dillon tracks cattle rustlers who killed his friend and find himself up against the masked gangs of the historic 1880 Pleasant Valley War.

DVD00004 Gunsmoke: The Long Ride

Marshall Matt Dillon is arrested at his daughter's wedding on trumped up murder charges. With a posse after him, he must stay alive long enough to find the real killer.

DVD00005 Gunsmoke: One Man's Justice

A young man pursues the men who killed his mother in a wagoncoach robbery. Marshall Matt Dillon rides out to stop the youth before the gang can kill him.

Braille and Talking Book Library patron part of Honor Flight guests to WWII Memorial in Washington

Keith Emerson, one of our readers from Philip, was part of a group that traveled to Washington, D.C. on August 28 and 29 as guests of the Honor Flight South Dakota program. This program sends WWII veterans free of charge to see their national memorial in Washington, D.C. There were a total of 114 veterans and volunteers who went on this trip.

Keith thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity. "This thing has a far more reaching effect than just us. Everyone, including tourists, would shake our hands and thank us. This effort is raising the level of patriotism. Volunteer support people were everywhere; they looked out for us. Three buses, which accommodated 50 wheelchairs, were our home for two days."

When the veterans flew out of Rapid City, there was a large send-off in the airport. They were also welcomed back in Philip by representatives of the American Legion. Keith said, "The airport was full of people with a live band and flags. The return was also really something. The trip was very tiring—a bunch of old guys worn to a frazzle and glad they could go. There were doctors and nurses along as part of the guardians, and they were needed. The people got back and were completely exhausted. We saw almost everything scheduled, but the WWII memorial was the crown jewel."

New Magazines

There are two new magazines on cassette available. To order these or any other magazines, or to ask for a complete listing, call your Reader Advisor.

American Legion Magazine—ALM3
VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Magazine—VFW3

New Books in the South Dakota Collection

The following titles have recently been added to the South Dakota collection at the Braille and Talking Book Library. These books are about South Dakota, have been written by

a South Dakota author, or have been requested by other readers and we think they will be of interest to you. To order these titles call your Reader Advisor.



SD004379 The Legacy by Mark Munger

There was no explanation for the murders of two aging men in the rural wilds of Northeastern Minnesota. There seemed to be no motive, no reason to believe anyone would want Adam Budaslavich and Frank Hauptman dead. But as their investigation deepens, St. Louis County Deputies Debra Slater and Dave Swanson realize neither man was who he appeared to be -- each with a past as guarded and terrifying as the atrocities committed at the height of the Nazi and fascist brutality to which they are inexorably tied. **SD004379**

SD004380 Pigs: A Trial Lawyer Story by Mark Munger

Danny Aikins has lived his life in the shadows of the oak forests and rolling hills of Western Minnesota. Born and raised in the sleepy little town of Detroit Lakes, Danny married his high school sweetheart, obtained a law degree, and went to work for his father in the family firm. Now in his late thirties, Daniel's litigation skills are well-toned. His life appears to be ordered, safe, and predictable until he receives a plea for help from a local hog farmer. **SD004380**

SD004381 Blue Springs: A Suspense Novel by Peter Rennebohm

It was suppose to be a special weekend, a time for eleven-year-old Charlie Nash to spend quality time with his father and much loved dog, Taffy. The hunting weekend falls apart immediately as

his drunken father runs another car off the road, has a dangerous confrontation with other hunters, and is arrested on the way home. The weekend is a disaster, a night-mare. It's enough to dishearten any child and forces Charlie to consider running away from all the chaos. Set in 1955 Minnesota, Charlie's journey with Tuffy takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride of action, mystery, and adventure as the boy is pursued by not one, but two separate, killers. **SD004381**

SD004382 Remember the Wind: A Prairie Memoir by William McKissack Chapman

I had never before lived where the sky so dominated life. By day or by night, when you stepped out onto the prairie you find truly that you were standing on the surface of the great Earth on which you lived. I had never lived where the showers of shooting stars in the summer nights made you wonder if there were enough to carry on that kind of extravagance. In the country the rainbows are so vibrant and intense you listen as though you might hear them sizzle. Aside from the frightening winds and blizzards, it is also a country of moonbeams, sunbeams, moving shadows of the prairie grass, by night and by day. Whenever you remembered this country you would think of the wind and the sky. **SD004382**

SD004389 True Stories of Law & Order Special Victims Unit: The Real Crimes Behind the Best Episodes of the Hit TV Show by Kevin Dwyer and Jure Fiorillo

In 1986, Law & Order took prime-time television by storm and is still going strong. Its spin-off, Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, follows the SVU as it serves justice and protects the victims of sexually based crimes. This is the first ever collection of real-life cases that inspired the show's most provocative episodes. **SD004389**

SD004393 Buffalo For the Broken Heart by Dan O'Brien

For twenty years, Dan O'Brien battled drought, overgrazed pastures, and falling cattle prices as he fought to maintain his

cattle ranch, the Broken Heart, nestled at the foot of South Dakota's Black Hills. Forced to face stints as an endangered species biologist, English teacher, and handyman to help pay off his accumulating debts, he questioned the logic of this losing enterprise, though he never lost his fierce love of the Great Plains. But when a neighboring buffalo rancher invited him to lend a hand at the annual buffalo roundup, O'Brien came face-to-face with these mammoth, impressive creatures, and the seeds were planted for converting his own ranch from cattle to buffalo. Starting with thirteen calves, "short-necked, golden balls of wool," O'Brien embarked on a journey that returned buffalo to his land for the first time in more than a century and a half. A South Dakota author. **SD004393**

SD004394 South Dakota Road Guide to Haunted Locations by Chad Lewis and Terry Fisk

Your road guide for finding haunted badlands, banks, bed and breakfasts, bingo halls, brothels, buttes, casinos, castles, cemeteries, coal mines, forts, monuments, museums, parks, restaurants, roads, salons, theaters, towns, and much, much more. South Dakota authors. **SD004394**

SD004406 The Persian Pickle Club by Sandra Dallas

As the crops wither without rain, members of the Persian Pickle Club keep up their spirits by swapping gossip and fabric scraps while quilting. The bonds among the stitch and itch" ladies are tested when a newcomer investigates a murder in the small Kansas town of the 1930's. **SD004406**

SD004407 The Chili Queen by Sandra Dallas

When Emma's prospective husband fails to show, Addie takes her in at her boarding house--The Chili Queen. There Emma meets Welcome, the African American cook, and Ned, an outlaw. Together, they devise a moneymaking scheme. Spur Award. **SD004407**

SD004418 Settlers of the Sod by Adeline Rosenau Hupp

Adeline's memories of her pioneering parents. Adeline and her family lived in their parent's homestead shack, located about twenty miles northwest of Dupree. When old enough, the girls attended classes in a one-room country schoolhouse atop a hill overlooking the rolling hills and prairie grass. In 1936, drought, followed by strong, hot winds that heaped the parched earth as high as the fence posts, forced Ruth and Otto Rosenau to gather their four children, scrawny sheep, half-starved cattle, and a saddle horse and move 250 miles east across the muddy Missouri River. Settling nine miles north of Raymond, we abandoned our prairie homestead forever. **SD004418**

SD004419 The Blessing by Shirley Harrington-Moore

A blue chest of drawers and the blessing it contains touch the lives of fifteen women, giving them the desire of a lifetime. Meet Sarah and Juliette, mother and daughter who share a child; Laurie who owned the chest and then opens her home to a new mother; Aunt Rachel and Uncle Budge, a couple who get a second chance at a family; Maida who rears her granddaughter; and Ed whose mother discovers the blue chest for a second time. A 2001 South Dakota State Fair Literary Competition blue ribbon winner. **SD004419**

SD004420 Visions of the Buffalo People by Linda Little Wolf

Describes the history and culture of the Plains Native Americans, or the Buffalo People, before and after the reintroduction of the horse by Spanish explorers. **SD004420**

SD004428 A Trail to Wounded Knee by Tim Champlin

It is 1876, and Lt. Thaddeus Coyle is stationed with the U.S. Army at Fort Hartsuff, Nebraska. Driven to oppose his commanding officer on a question of honor, Coyle winds up court-martialed and abandoned by his wife and family. For a time he works the mining camps in the Black Hills, becoming a partner to Tom Merritt, known as Swift Hawk on the reservation. Reconciling with his family, Coyle takes a position with the

Bureau of Indian Affairs and is assigned to advise the Indian Agent at the Pine Ridge Agency at Wounded Knee -- where he and Swift Hawk will meet again. **SD004428**

SD004443 Texas Christmas Brides by Cathy Marie Hake and Kathleen Y'Barbo

Mayhem ensues when Peony Potter and Lacey Mather arrive in Cut Corners and find themselves the hapless (but not helpless) victims of matchmaking schemes. No matter what foul plots are afoot, these ladies have minds of their own. How far will the meddlers of Cut Corners go to get these gals hitched by Christmas? **SD004443**

SD004453 Study Guide for the CRC (Certification of Rehabilitation Counselors) Exam by Dr. Linton Hutchinson

The Prairie Trails Newsletter, published quarterly, is our means of communication with our patrons. The Prairie Trails Newsletter is available in Braille, cassette, large print, and is also posted on our website.

If you have any questions or comments that you would like to share with us about the library program or if you would like to request the newsletter in an alternative format, please contact the SD Braille & Talking Book Library.

Write: South Dakota Braille & Talking Book Library
800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501

E-mail: talkbkreq@state.sd.us

Call: 1-800-423-6665

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