



**Spring 2009**

**Volume 4 Issue 1**

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

## **PRAIRIE TRAILS NEWSLETTER**

### **Notes from the Director, Dan Boyd**

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I hope that the SD Braille & Talking Book Library has opened many vistas for you with books, magazines, descriptive videos, audio newspapers and more.

I have a special favor to ask of each and every one of you. My experience tells me that well over 90% of you have friends, family and acquaintances with arthritis which makes it uncomfortable to hold a book or who find normal print becoming more difficult to read. Perhaps they are homebound. Even though we try to get the message about our service out to everyone who needs it, the task is a daunting one.

"I didn't know this service existed!" "I don't have to pay for anything?" "Why didn't I hear about this before now?" These are the things I hear on a regular basis. That is where you come in. We know that people who use the Talking Book Library have a fuller and often longer life. We need to share that knowledge with people who need to know. Help us to "Share our vision that all may read. Share our vision that all may learn."

## Important Notice

The South Dakota Braille & Talking Book Library will be moving from the second floor of the State Library Building to the first floor. This move will take place during the month of July. In addition to moving staff with their office equipment and other materials, we will be moving our entire collection of audio books, braille books, and alternative format textbooks for a total of over 80,000 pieces.

Due to the size of our collection and using a new shelving system, it is possible that the library may not be able to mail books for up to one week in late July. If you would like extra books mailed to you in advance of this possible closing please contact your Reader Advisor toll free at 1-800-423-6665.



### City Off Limits to Blind Thief:

On October 6, 2008, the Edinburgh Evening News published the following story:

A blind shoplifter from Glasgow has been banned by a court from entering Edinburgh city center. George Hamilton, forty-nine, reportedly faces being locked up if he is found in any shops, bars, or restaurants in the center of the capital over the next twelve months. The ban was handed down when he made his latest appearance in court for shoplifting and the sheriff heard he had ninety-six previous convictions.

Hamilton, who lost his sight in 1990, relies on his heightened senses of hearing, touch, and smell to carry out his thefts. He said: "I've been banned from Marks & Spencer before for shoplifting, but not a whole city. It's a pity—I liked Edinburgh."

## **Digital Machine Distribution Policy**

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) has developed a new digital talking book player. We hope to begin receiving digital players and books this summer, but it will take a couple of years before we have enough machines for every patron to receive one. Once you receive a digital machine, you may still keep your cassette player to listen to magazines and older books.

You must contact us to be put on the waiting list if you are interested in receiving a digital machine and you must be a patron in good standing to get one. If you have overdue books, are inactive, or have a history of lost or damaged books or machines, your name will be skipped until you have regained good standing. We will provide copies of our Patron in Good Standing Policy upon request. Here is the order in which we will distribute digital talking book players:

1. Registered patrons who are U.S. military veterans—by law they are entitled to receive digital machines first. If you have not yet done so, please notify us of your veteran status. You may be asked to provide proof, such as a copy of your DD-214 form. Family members of veterans do not qualify.
2. Registered patrons with physical disabilities who are unable to use the standard cassette player--your original application must indicate that you qualified for our service due to a physical, not visual, disability. In these cases the digital machine will replace the discontinued E-1 machine.
3. All other patrons will be placed on a waiting list and the list will be arranged according to how long you have been registered with our library. Those who have been patrons the longest will be first in line. Your ID number indicates when you were registered and it cannot be changed.
4. We will contact you when a digital machine is available for

you so you will know to expect it. Please remember that it may take 2-3 years before everyone who wants a digital machine gets one. We will not be able to give you an estimated time when you will receive yours.

5. You are responsible for all materials that are checked out to you. Evidence of negligence, deliberate damage, or disregard of library policies may result in temporary suspension of digital service.

We appreciate your cooperation and your patience during this process.

### **Digital Book Policy**

We expect to begin receiving digital talking books this summer. It will take several years to build up a sizable digital book collection. Many older cassette books will be made into digital books, but a great number will not be. You may wish to keep your cassette player to listen to older books that are only available on cassette. Magazines will continue to be produced on cassette tape for some time.

Digital book numbers will begin with DB. The mailing container will be similar to that of cassette books, except they are blue and approximately half as thick. There will be a limited number of digital books available during the transition process. In most cases we will have only 1 copy of each title. At this time we do not have the ability to make additional copies of digital books.

- You will be limited to only 1 digital book at a time.
- Digital books will be mailed on a turnaround basis. We must receive your previous book before we will send another.
- Digital book circulation will not affect your cassette or Braille circulation. You may continue to receive your regular number of books in those formats.
- You are responsible for all materials that are checked out to you. Do not share books with anyone else, whether or not

they are a registered talking book user. Evidence of negligence, deliberate damage, or disregard of library policies may result in temporary suspension of digital service.

- Those who have a digital player, a computer, and high-speed internet access may download digital talking books and magazines electronically. We will provide more information on this service as we receive training ourselves.

### **Reading Alternative: LibriVox**

LibriVox has existed since 2005 and is progressing towards its goal to record all books in the public domain and make them available for free via the Internet. Volunteers had recorded 2000 titles by the end of 2008, with many more in progress. Formats include books, magazines, government documents, and short pieces—including poems and speeches. No self-published items are recorded. The primary language is English, but other languages are also recorded. Because volunteers do the recording, the quality and consistency is often not as high as in books that are recorded by the National Library Service (NLS). All titles are available digitally for download or via iTunes. The Web site has a catalog, which provides author and title searches, and various RSS feeds to keep current on additions and special programs. Two innovative ideas: 1) LibriVox Books Podcast podcasts a title one chapter at a time, three days per week. 2) LibriVox Community Podcast is a weekly podcast with rotating hosts who design shows on a variety of topics. Both are great ways to share books or topics with friends or family. Although LibriVox is just getting started, it's worth exploring for titles and formats unavailable through traditional resources. Check it out at: [www.librivox.org](http://www.librivox.org).



When returning your books, please remember to flip your mailing card over to the yellow side, and return that card. If we don't have the card, we don't know who had the book so we may have problems checking the book in. Thank you!

## **New Money Has Low Vision Feature**

You may have noticed that the new \$5 bill that entered circulation on March 13, 2008, has an extra feature that's designed to help those with visual limitations to distinguish the denomination. The big, easy-to-read number "5" in the lower right corner on the back of the bill is now enlarged and is printed in high-contrast purple ink. The redesigned bill has other new elements to foil counterfeiters, including two new watermarks and an enhanced security thread that will help businesses and consumers validate the new bills.



Would you like to look through old issues of Talking Book Topics? The issues are available back until 1997 at the following address: <http://www.loc.gov/nls/tbt/>. The cumulative catalogs for the year are also available from 1993 on.



## **Reading on the Decline?**

Not so in the blind and physically handicapped communities!

A study by the National Endowment for the Arts indicated a 10 percent decline in literary reading between 1982 and 2002, a total loss of 20 million readers. Conversely, participants in the Talking Book Program read more than the general population by a significant amount. The average National Library Service customer reads seven times more than most sighted readers, an average of 35 books a year. While LBH customers read more books, their tastes do not differ much from sighted readers, according to the NLS. With more than 40,000 titles in our collection, the library offers something for every bookworm from kids to seniors.

## **From the desk of Mary Sjerven**

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.



### **SD004349 or SDB00611 The 56<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inaugural Official Guide Book**

This historic document includes the event schedule for the 56th inauguration from January 17 to January 20, 2009. It includes a welcome by the Director of the Inaugural Committee, Emmett S. Beliveau, The Mayor of Washington DC, quotes from the President-elect and Vice President-elect, as well as the biography of Barack and Michelle Obama and Joseph and Jill Biden. The document covers the program for these dates and other pertinent information.

To order this book on cassette the number is SD004349, and in Braille format order SDB00611.

### **SD004287 Tragic Blessing by Bret Merkle**

Athletic achievement and physical strength mattered most when a tragic motorcycle accident left Bret Merkle paralyzed and fighting for life. Months of surgery and pain carried him to the depths of despair. Unable to accept paralysis Bret finally gave up hope. Yet God rescued him. Tragic Blessing reveals God's greatest work often comes through tragedy. In reading this story you will journey with Bret to witness the miracle of a transformed heart. This amazing story of victory in tragedy will inspire readers to find hope in their darkest hour. SD004287

### **SD004303 Bones in the Badlands by Jane Kerr Colhoff**

Three murders on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation go primarily unnoticed and unsolved for more than fifty years. In

this contemporary tale of murder, treachery, and intrigue; Hattie Gerald seeks to exonerate her late husband's grandfather of one of the killings. Assisted by FBI Special Agent Alan Wilson and Buffalo Thunder, an elderly Indian man who witnessed one of the murders when he was just a little boy, Hattie persistently digs deeper into the web of silence created by the real killer, a powerful member of Congress. Both she and Buffalo Thunder pay a high price in their fight for justice for the three innocent victims. Gerald, Wilson, and Buffalo Thunder refuse to be intimidated by the tactics of the influential congressman and his cohorts; proving once again that justice delayed is not necessarily justice denied.  
SD004303

**SD004325 Old Black Bass by Albert Benjamin Cunningham**

A preacher's fisherman story of heartbreak, betrayal, and family life. SD004325

**SD004340 The Homecoming by M.C. Merrill**

I was the soldier who loved Tammy. This story traces my dark journey to uncover the truth. This is a story of heartache and rage, of violence and madness. Those responsible for her death have threatened the lives of my friends and family in an attempt to silence me and bury the truth. Their attempts have failed. I give you now ... the homecoming. Written by a South Dakota author. SD004340

**SD004350 The Key-Lock Man by Louis L'Amour**

Behind Matt somebody shouted, and then a smashing blow stuck him in the chest . . . He was hurt, but he had no idea how badly. His chest was numb. There was blood on the rocks.  
SD004350

**SD004351 And Not To Yield : A novel of the life and times of Wild Bill Hickok by Randy Eickhoff**

Wild Bill Hickok made his reputation as a gunfighter

extraordinaire, and his legend has thrilled journalists, novelists, and historians ever since. Starting from his humble upbringing by devout, staunchly Abolitionist parents to his education nourished by Greek and American legends, Hickock's story eventually found him succeeding as a rancher, gambler, Union soldier, Indian fighter, lawman, baseball umpire, merchant, and, marksman nonpareil - and lusty lover of whores, debutantes. But Hickok's many talents could not bring him peace, guided and plagued by phantoms from his past, blessed and cursed with supernatural gifts, Hickok, like his hero, Ulysses, fulfilled his destiny through his travels. From bleak upstate New York to the rugged Badlands, from New York City's Broadway to the Rockies, from the Mississippi riverbanks to the Great Salt Flats, this is the story of a complex hero whose exploits have become part of the lore of the American frontier. SD004351

**SD004356 Friends and Enemies by Stephen Bly**

Robert is not like his father, the legendary Brazos Fortune. Not a businessman like his brother Todd. Not a notorious retired gunslinger like his brother Sam. Nor the social darlings of the Black Hills like little sister, Dacee June. He's a career soldier who no longer has a career. With the discipline of a West Point graduate, and the rock solid faith of his long-departed mother, Robert moves his family to Deadwood to join the rest of the clan. And in Deadwood, Robert finds not only his place as a railroad detective—but a fistful of enemies, all seeking vengeance against him and his family. SD004356

**SD004359 Soft Fur and Iron Men by Aaron Robert Woodardt**

This fascinating study examines the dangers that confronted the American fur trading business and the key role played by Native Americans as fur trade became big business. SD004359

**Reminder**

The Library will be closed on the following holidays:  
May 25—Memorial Day July 3—Independence Day

## Does the Talking Book Library have your alternate contact information?

Our patrons routinely are asked for a contact person or persons during the initial interview. However, as time passes these people may not be appropriate or available. It is possible you were never asked for a contact. This information provides us with a way to contact you when service questions arise and we cannot



get in touch with you personally. If you wish to review your information, mention it the next time you talk with your reader advisor.

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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](mailto:talkbkreq@state.sd.us)



Call: 1-800-423-6665



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