



Spring 2008

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

Highlighting:

Virginia A. Garrison—CTBL Benefactor

The Colorado Talking Book Library was the lifeline for Virginia A. Garrison, 1913-2007, to her love of traveling, adventure, and learning. Because of macular degeneration, she lost her ability to hop in her aqua blue T-Bird or jump on an airplane to experience new sights and meet new people.

As she became progressively homebound, Virginia would watch her mail for the next book from CTBL. She would sit for hours and listen to the books, always thankful for the ease in receiving and returning the books from her own home.

Virginia was a pioneer among women. At the age of 30, she left home in Ohio and joined the Navy. She carefully researched all branches of the military and finally chose the Navy because she liked the WAVE uniform. The Waves (Women's Auxiliary Volunteer Emergency Services) was just forming when she left for boot camp in July, 1942. Assigned to Naval Intelligence in Washington DC, Virginia kept her pledge to never reveal to anyone what came across her desk in this national security job.

After leaving the Navy, Virginia accepted an assignment, with her employer of forty-two years, Metropolitan Life Insurance, in

continued on page 2

Virginia A. Garrison continued from page 1

Denver. She loved the mountains, dry air and people and never returned to Ohio.

Before she retired in 1972, she planned ahead and saved her retirement 'travel fund.' In addition to traveling, Virginia was an avid bird watcher, loved the symphony and plays and gave generously through volunteering.

Virginia died in March 2007 after an extended stay at the VA Hospital in Denver. She included the Colorado Talking Book Library in her will as a thank you and to assure that others can continue to receive this valuable service.

Patsy Matheny, an Ohio Cousin

From the Director

In May I will be attending the Biennial National Conference for NLS. We hope to learn much more about the digital transition and other news from the network. Stay tuned for more details in the next issue of CTBL News. See page 3 for the current news on digital books.

Debbi

**CTBL will be closed on the following days in 2008:
May 26th, July 4th, July 23rd, and September 1st**

Digital Talking Book Update

There is good news and bad news on this front. The good news is that we now have some information from NLS that will help with our planning. The bad news is that this transition is going to last much longer than originally planned.

NLS anticipated that digital talking book machines, DTBM's, would be coming off the manufacturing lines in March 2008 for a trial starting in April 2008. At this writing the manufacturing contract still has not been signed and the anticipated trial start date is late in 2008. The earliest new machines could be arriving at CTBL is January or February 2009 and it could be later.

Network libraries will be receiving DTBM's on a quota system and we now have that number. CTBL will receive 207 new machines per month. We are required by law to first transition over veterans who want a new machine. This will take about 6 months. So the earliest other patrons will start receiving new machines is late in 2009. How those machines will be distributed is still being decided.

On the book front network libraries are receiving quotas for not only the new digital talking books, DTB's, but for the regular RC books on cassette. The RC quota for CTBL has cut our popular book quantities nearly in half which will mean long waits for books. We anticipated smaller quantities of DTB's in the beginning but the RC quota caught us by surprise.

We have been sending out overdue notices to patrons as a reminder of what library material you have checked out. Patrons need to listen to their books in a timely fashion and send them back so that others may listen to the book. This is going to become critical in the coming

[continued on page 4](#)

Digital Talking Books continued from page 3

months and years. CTBL will continue to send notices after 3 months to help with this process.

What can you do to help the situation? If you do not like the sounds of this or how service is impacted I suggest that you call Kurt Cylke at NLS or your federal legislator. If you call the library we can find legislator's phone numbers for you.

Other currently available digital options include:

- Unabridged—our digital audio book program—you need an MP3 player, the ZenStone is available for \$43.
- BARD, NLS's digital download service—you need to purchase a VictorStream which costs \$350.

For both services you need a broadband connection and for more information on either service, call the library.

Braille Instruction

Another source for Braille instruction was brought to our attention. The Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton holds classes every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am to teach people how to read Braille. There is no charge for the classes. While they are focused on teaching seniors, all ages are welcome. CCB provides one on one support and you can learn as much Braille as you need or want. For more information you can contact CCB directly at 303-778-1130, ext. 218.

Reader Advisors

Catch the Reading Bug is the theme for the 2008 Summer Reading Program at CTBL and we want all young readers to join us.

Students, parents, and teachers will receive information and registration forms this month. If you would like **Catch the Reading Bug** and you did not receive a packet, please call the library to request one.

This year the program will run from June 16 thru August 8, 2008. You will need to call or e-mail a Reader Advisor each week to log your hours. We will have book suggestions for **Catch the Reading Bug** for readers of all ages in Braille, cassettes, and large print material. There is no limit to what you can read. Participants need to read at least 2 hours per week to qualify for prizes. These hours can be read by you or your parent or family member.

For those who reach their goals, gift certificates will be available for a variety of prizes. Come join us for a summer of fun and **Catch the Reading Bug!**

Upcoming Events of Interest

- **Tap into Independence—A Low Vision Resource Fair**
Thursday morning June 26th, 2008
Broomfield Recreation Center, 280 Lamar St Broomfield
For more information call Debra Johnson at 303-442-8662,
ext. 125

Contributors to The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library and The Colorado Talking Book Library

An additional way to contribute to either the Friends or to CTBL is through a charitable bequest as part of a will or through life insurance. You do not have to rewrite your current document but can add a written amendment called a codicil. Such a bequest only becomes irrevocable at your death. Giving to the library helps support the programs and service we provide to our patrons.

Mail Room News

We have received calls concerning defective or incomplete tapes in a mail container when they arrive at your home. CTBL inspects all the books mailed back to us. However, you may occasionally receive a damaged or incomplete book. Here are the suggested guidelines when you receive a box that has a missing or wrong tape in it:

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, check the box marked DAMAGED 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 do not put any strings or rubber bands, etc. on the outside of the mailing containers. This practice causes problems for the postal sorting equipment.

Finally, call a Reader Advisor right away if you receive any defective or incomplete books, to make sure you get a replacement.

Volunteer News

People often ask where we find our Volunteers and Terri has a favorite story that she loves to share: The story actually begins with Margaret's mother who had developed macular degeneration. When Margaret saw how much her mother enjoyed talking books, she thought volunteering would be a good way to fill some "free time"—so she came to the library to help record books.

Then Margaret began developing macular degeneration. She started to use talking books and still continued to volunteer at the library! When her husband, Hank, retired he joined the Telephone Pioneers and learned to repair the talking book machines. He also became Margaret's chauffeur and soon their car had a back seat full of ladies, all of whom had recently begun losing their sight. So they all came to the library to volunteer together. There was Lillian, Hazel, Lou, and many others over the years. They eventually grew into a "Vision Support Group."

One time Margaret and Hank took a bus trip to Branson, Missouri and the unusual machine Margaret was using to listen to books caught the attention of Don who had recently retired from the

[continued on page 8](#)

Volunteer News continued from page 7

A/V department of a large university medical school. Margaret and Hank explained what the machine was and how they listened to the books from the Talking Book Library.

Coincidentally, Don was from Denver, too, and had been driving past the CTBL building wondering what a "Talking Book Library" was. So he stopped in to check it out and found out the library really needed people who understood analog recording. Pretty soon he was volunteering three days a week fixing machines, copying tapes, repairing studio equipment, and even training the staff.

Of course, Don went home and told his wife, Dorothy, about the volunteer work he had found and suggested she might also be able to help. Dorothy started coming to help review the books in the studio and told the other volunteers how happy Don was now that he had found a way to use his lifetime of experience to help other people.

This is the story of Margaret and the many friends who have come to CTBL because of her. Some come to volunteer, some come to be patrons of the library, but they all come to be part of a very good thing. You can, too!

My special thanks to Margaret Hertzog for sharing this story with Terri and allowing her to share it with you.

For more information on this volunteer opportunity, please call Terri Marcotte, Volunteer Coordinator at 303-727-9277.

First Annual Patron Open House

Tuesday, July 22nd, 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Come and visit CTBL, meet all the staff, have a tour, record your story about the library in our studio and enjoy refreshments. It should be fun and an opportunity for the staff to meet our patrons.

Collection News

Listed below are new additions to the library:

- Descriptive Videos:**
- VO289 Blackbeard, the Pirate
 - VO298 Sabotage
 - VO301 The Art of Murder
 - VO306 The Last of the Mohicans
 - VO308 Over the Hill Gang Rides Again

Suggestions from the hundreds of Large Print books:

PR16669

Send Yourself Roses:

Thoughts On My Life, Love, and Leading Roles

Author: Kathleen Turner

Award-winning actress Kathleen Turner delivers a candid account of her life—from her fearless performances to her private struggles. A unique blend of beauty, intelligence, raw sexuality, and drive has propelled Turner's career, from her film debut as the sultry schemer in *Body Heat*, to her recent role as Martha in *Who's Afraid*

[continued on page 10](#)

Collection News continued from page 9

of Virginia Woolf? Now the screen icon reveals the risks she has taken and what she has learned, both personally and professionally.

PR16667

Interred With Their Bones

Author: Jennifer Carrell

On the eve of the *Globe's* production of *Hamlet*, Shakespeare scholar Kate Stanley's eccentric mentor gives her a mysterious box, claiming to have made a groundbreaking discovery. But before she can reveal it to Kate, terrifying echoes of the past break through to the present: The *Globe* burns, and a body is found inside—murdered in the strange manner of *Hamlet's* father. Opening the box, Kate finds the first piece in a Shakespearean puzzle...

Suggestions from the Colorado Collection:

CC8135

MASH

Author: Richard Hooker **Narrated: Mo Devany

Here is where it all began—the novel that made *MASH* a legend and gave life to Hawkeye Pierce, Trapper John, Hot Lips Houlihan, Frank Burns, Radar O'Reilly, and the rest of the gang of the 4077th *MASH*. The doctors who worked in the Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (*MASH*) during the Korean War were well trained but, like many soldiers sent to fight a war, too young for the job. Meet the true-life heroes and lunatics who fought in the Korean War, and experience the martini-laced mornings, marathon hijinks, sexual escapades, and the hard work and skill of the *MASH* in the face of enormous pressure and dangerous odds.

CC8141

The Freedom Writers Diary

Author: The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell

**Narrated: Laverne Rios

In this book, Erin Gruwell and her "unteachable, at-risk" students set out on a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against ignorance, misunderstanding, and the negative forces in their own lives. Beginning with their study of The Diary of Anne Frank and the Holocaust, the Freedom Writers seek out heroes in the wider world, eventually realizing that they need to become their own heroes. With powerful entries from the students' own diaries and a narrative text by Erin Gruwell, **The Freedom Writers Diary** is an uplifting, unforgettable example of how hard work, courage, and the spirit of determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students.

Outreach

Outreach continues at a busy clip with many staff pitching in to cover events. We continue to visit with many vision support groups. CTBL was represented at the Transition Fair in Aurora, the FFB Denver chapter meeting, the Greeley chapter of NFB, a seminar in Fort Collins, many 9Health Fairs including Pueblo. We were also present at library workshops in Grand Junction, Greeley and Pueblo in addition to attending an Accessibility Awareness Day at the Rawlings Public Library in Pueblo. 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 her.

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

This newsletter is a publication of:
Colorado Department of Education
201 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

- Dwight D. Jones, Commissioner
- Eugene Hainer, State Librarian
- Debbi MacLeod, Director, CTBL



The Colorado Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age, in access to, employment in, or provision of any of CDE's programs, benefits, or activities.