

# Montana Talking Book Library

## November 2004 - January 2005

**TBL Goal 1: To ensure that all eligible clients know about the availability of services from MTBL and to make enrollment and use of the service easy for users.**

MTBL Outreach presentations included 1 in November (Helena) and 3 in December (Helena).

MTBL conducted one internal library tour in November and three in December.

Worked with Montana Association for the Blind, Capital City Chapter, in a collaborative project for the MAB 2005 Public Symposium and Convention to be held in May, 2005 in Helena.

Worked with Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Board on issues affecting our patrons (access to technology software, future of digitalization of NLS books, etc.).

Worked with Montana Blind and Low Vision Great Falls office in planning outreach efforts combining our resources in 2005.

Worked with Deaconess and St. Vincent Hospitals in Billings to develop blind and low vision support groups in 2005.

Additional patron contacts were made to increase awareness and participation in the Lobe Library (Otis player) project.

**TBL Goal 2: MTBL will plan and implement a smooth transition to a digital format to ensure that the potential for expanded services are available to MTBL patrons.**

In November and December, eleven titles were completed at both MTBL recording studios:

Bob Hampton of Placer by Randall Parrish; The Case of the Kippered Corpse by Margaret Scherf; Plants of the Trail of Lewis & Clark by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent; Too Poor to Move But Always Rich by Jim Sargent; Shadow Riders of the Yellowstone by Les Savage Jr.; The American Cowboy by Will James; The Winter War by William Wister Haines; Top of the Mountain by Gladys Costello; Blood Knot Stories by Pete Fromm by Pete Fromm; The Greatest Cattle Drive by Paul I. Wellman; and The Pass by Thomas Savage.

Special Project: Author John Astle from Butte is recording his own book "Only in Butte: Stories off the Hill" and author Norma Beatty Ashby from Great Falls is recording her own book "Movies & Rattlesnakes: The Heyday of Montana Live Television".

A Statistical Comparison for the Recording Studio in Deer Lodge was completed upon request of the Supervisor. In 2003 (Jan-Dec) the prison studio recorded 12 books; in 2004 (Jan-Dec) the prison studio recorded 34 books. Reasons for more production: sent more books from the Montana State Library Montana collection mainly consisting of westerns with the focus deliberately being to complete the Montana collection and so far

over 100 books have been completed; shorter books; easier reading level; larger print and sending books in which they enjoy recording.

**TBL Goal 3: Allow service to the patrons to be provided more efficiently and effectively by providing enough space for the collection.**

Newsletter "Bits of Gold" was mailed to patrons and interested parties in December.

Adjustments to internal policies and procedures were implemented due to the recent move making operations run more smoothly.

**TBL Goal 4: Increase productivity and satisfaction of staff members and volunteers.**

Presented Cheryl Christopher her five-year service pin at December's General Staff meeting.

The Machine Lending Agent completed the Annual Federal Machine Repair Report. This covered the period Oct. 1, 2003 through Sept. 31, 2004. There were a total of 1,303 machines repaired by Telephone Pioneer volunteers and a total of 4,174 cassettes repaired by staff and volunteers.