

## **Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) August 2006 Commission Report**

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.

Outreach Contacts in May totaled 278. This included the Twin Bridges and Dillon Farmers Markets and a booth at the Helena Waterford Senior Health & Fitness Day. June Outreach Contacts totaled 97. This included the Helena Kiwanis Club, a half-day workshop to Montana Activity Directors through the Montana Health Care Association and a day long class taught to newly blind individuals attending the Montana Association for the Blind's Summer Orientation Program on the campus at MSU Bozeman.

The second issue of the "Bits of Gold" Newsletter was mailed in June to 2,886 patrons and interested partners. We received a moderate patron response to return their overdue magazines. Patrons sent a very positive response for our newly completed Montana Cassette Books.

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 May and June, eight book titles and one issue of "The Montana Magazine of Western History" were completed at both MTBL recording studios:

"Cardboard Ponies to Buckin' Broncs" by Claudie Demarest; "The Big Burn" by Jeanette Ingold; "Zemke's Wolfpack: The True Story of Hub Zemke & the 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group" by Roger A. Freeman; "Amos: To Ride a Dead Horse" by Stanley Gordon West; "Cowboy Angst, A Novel" by Jasen Emmons; "The River of the West, The Adventures of Joe Meek, Vol. 2", by Frances Fuller Victor; "Mike Mansfield Majority Leader" by Francis R. Valeo.

Special Projects: Author Libby Langston of Missoula completed the recording of her book "Lookout Cookbook", a book of recipes with history and insights of Montana, Idaho and Oregon Forest Fire Lookouts from 1933-2004.

Special Recognition: The staff and volunteers of the Talking Book Library bid a fond and sad farewell to Lean Blunn who passed away in June. The outstanding contributions she made to Talking Books for 23 years will be an important part of her legacy. Lea recorded over 44 books and monitored many more. In 1994, Governor Racicot dedicated the newly constructed narration booth in Lea's honor. She and Dr. Eileen Finley were the first narrator/monitor team to work in the new Helena Studio. She trained many narrators and monitors. Lea's enjoyment in narrating and her love of Montana books was reflected her recordings.

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

Online Web Xess is progressing well in offering xess titles to other Talking Book Libraries in the Nation.