



## BITS OF GOLD

**Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)**  
 A Department of the Montana State Library  
 Regional Library of the National Library Service  
 for the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
 (NLS/BPH)

**Volume 108, Number 1**

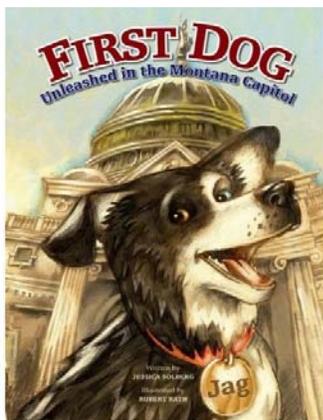
**February 2008**

**LIBRARIAN'S LOG: from the desk of Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian.**



**Delays in U.S.P.S. Book Delivery:** Now that we have a “true Montana winter” to talk about, we are also encountering mail delays in getting your books and machines to you, in addition to receiving those you have returned to us. When trying to track down several book delays with the United States Postal Service, I became familiar with their new nationwide toll free customer service number: 1-800-275-8777. The call was picked up in Washington, D. C. All of the mail delays are stated to be “weather” related.

**The important message I want to impart is this:** please call us if your books are delayed! We may not be able to get them to you any faster, but we can at least reassure you that books have been mailed. While you're on the phone, ask your Readers' Advisor to increase the number of books being sent to you while this weather lasts so you won't run out of books as fast. Thank you for your patience.



**Governor Brian Schweitzer** has graciously recorded the children's book **MCB 925 First Dog: Unleashed in the Montana Capitol** by Jessica Solberg.

Accompanying him in our studio was the featured character, Governor Schweitzer's border collie Jag. Montanans are very familiar with Jag, as he accompanies the governor during many of his official duties. In the book, Jag tells of how he became “First Dog” and found his way among squirrels, pigeons, Democrats and Republicans. The book is a delightful

explanation of state government, the capitol itself, and the many duties of the governor, aided of course, by the First Dog.

**BRaille & AUDIO READING DOWNLOAD (BARD) EXPANDS**

If you would like to participate in the BARD project offered by the National Library Service, please contact: [NLSDownload@loc.gov](mailto:NLSDownload@loc.gov) for details.

**PATRON PICKS:** The following books are patron recommendations.

**RC 61369 Chasing the Rodeo: On wild rides, big dreams...** by W. K. Stratton. (A non-fiction account of a journalist's association with the rodeo culture centering on the 2003 season.)

**RC 63365 America: the last best hope Vol. 1** by William J. Bennett. (Overview of American history with a stress on the positive. Volume 2 is in process.)

**RC 63875 The Lemon Tree** by Sandy Tobin. (Non-fiction dialog between a Palestinian and a young Jewish woman whose family has occupied the Palestinian's home since 1948.)

**MCB 847 Great Montana Bear Stories** by Ben Long. (True stories about grizzly and black bears and the people who encountered them.)

**MACHINES AND BOOKS: GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.** As a Machine

Lending Agency of the National Library Service, a part of the Federal Government's Library of Congress, we are responsible for keeping track of all equipment distributed to talking book patrons. Please be aware that all items, except for correspondence and catalogs, are property of the U. S. Government. If you are no longer using the loaned equipment of the Talking Book service, all books, players and any other equipment such as headphones and talking book markers (TBM's) MUST be returned to MTBL in Helena. If a family member or friend has this responsibility, let him or her know that there is no postage required when returning items "Free Matter" by U. S. mail.



Occasionally when a patron of MTBL is unable to use the service anymore or has passed away, our equipment items are included in donations to Goodwill or other such organizations, are stored away, put in a yard sale or simply tossed away. Please inform a responsible party that your talking book player and the books themselves are loans and to make every effort to get them back to MTBL in Helena. If there is any question about where or how to return items, they can call us (1-800-342-3400), contact any association of the blind, the activity director or supervisor of a facility or the local public library. We really appreciate your attention to this matter!

**READERS DIGEST IN LARGE PRINT:** A reminder to those who subscribe to this magazine. **WE ARE SHORT OF PLASTIC CONTAINERS!!** These copies need to be returned in their plastic containers as soon as you finish reading them. Soon we will be sending these magazines in large envelopes with mailing cards; return the magazine in the same envelope. Others are waiting to receive their copy!

**BOOK TO MOVIE:** If a book has been made into a motion picture, the code “BTM” is added to the notation on our catalog. Obviously, this is not always current as older books can be picked up for dramatization. If this code is in the book’s description, it does indicate a theme that has a wide interest. Below is a sampling of books in our collection that have been made into movies.

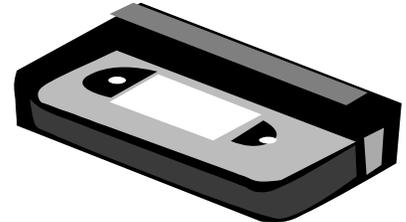


Terms of Endearment (RC 9839)  
Day of the Jackal (RC 10894)  
High Road to China (RC 11152)  
Schindler’s List (RC 20835)

Running with Scissors (RC 54817)  
Somewhere in Time (RC 62109)

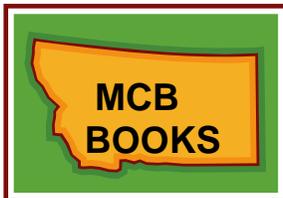
Ordinary People (RC 10149)  
Gorky Park (RC 15831)  
Bourne Identity (RC 15085)  
Prince of Tides (RC 25248)  
Blood Work (RC 45883)

**NEW DESCRIPTIVE VIDEOS:** We are adding some new descriptive videos to our collection. If you are not currently signed up for descriptive videos, call your Readers’ Advisor. To receive these, you need to have been on the talking book service for 6 months, and have access to a VHS player. Eventually, movies will be available on DVD’s but for now, they are only in VHS format. Descriptive videos are standard movies, but have narration to help visually impaired viewers follow the plot and action on the screen. Patrons may only check out one movie at a time, for a period of one week. Below is a list of additions to our collection with MPAA ratings:



<b>DV 310</b> Brokeback Mountain (R)	<b>DV 311</b> Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG)
<b>DV 312</b> Chicken Little (G)	<b>DV 313</b> Date Movie (PG-13)
<b>DV 314</b> Eight Below (PG)	<b>DV 315</b> Finding Neverland (PG)
<b>DV 316</b> Jarhead (R)	<b>DV 317</b> King Kong (PG-13)
<b>DV 318</b> Meet the Fockers (PG-13)	<b>DV 319</b> Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)
<b>DV 320</b> The Producers (PG-13)	<b>DV 321</b> Shark Tale (PG)
<b>DV 322</b> The Wedding Date (PG-13)	<b>DV 323</b> X-Men (PG-13)
<b>DV 324</b> Midnight Ramble: The Story of the Black Film Industry (NR)	

**BRILLE TWIN VISION/TACTILE COLLECTION:** MTBL has Braille TwinVision/Tactile (MBT) books available for checkout. The collection is for juvenile (K-12) readers. There is a small collection of Grade One Braille books available for those working with the Braille alphabet. These books are done with the words in the book completely spelled out word for word -- not using contractions. The rest of the collection is done in Grade Two Braille. These books have the contractions. To order a catalog of the Braille TwinVision/Tactile collection, call the Talking Book Library at 1-800-332-3400.



### **MONTANA CASSETTE BOOKS:**

Recorded from July, 2007 to December, 2007.

**ADULT NON-FICTION:** **MCB 738 Indian Trails and Grizzly Tales** by Bud Cheff, Sr. Bud Cheff recounts his memories of growing up living and hunting in the Mission Mountain area. The short tales range from humorous, to curious, to tragic.

**MCB 843 Trail Drive, A True Narrative of Cowboy Life from Andy Adams' Log of a Cowboy** by Andy Adams and Glen Rounds. A first hand account of Andy Adams life and adventures during an 1880's cattle drive through the open range of the old west from Texas to Montana.

**MCB 872 Penucquem Speaks: A Look at Our World from a Different Culture** by Ronald Thomas West. A memoir by Ronald West, a Caucasian Vietnam veteran who was adopted as a Blackfeet Indian. West brings us back to what Indian culture and history cherished including present day Indian culture, the preservation of nature and everything that "progress" and "civilization" has corrupted. Some strong language.

**MCB 877 Then and Now; or Thirty-six Years in the Rockies** by Robert Vaughn. 1864-1900. Robert Vaughn's first-person accounts of the frontier life in Montana in a series of letters reminiscing to his daughter, Arvonina Elizabeth Vaughn. Some descriptions of violence.

**MCB 882 Motherlode: Legacies of Women's Lives and Labors in Butte, Montana** by Janet L. Finn and Ellen Crain. Motherlode takes readers on a journey through three generations of women's lives and labors in Butte, Montana throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**MCB 883 Memories of Old Montana** by Con Price. Con Price's memoir of a cowboy's life in Montana in the late 1800's.

**MCB 884 Fifty Cents an Hour: The Builders and Boomtowns of the Fort Peck Dam** by Lois Lonquist. A history of the building of Fort Peck dam and spillway construction that took place from 1932-1940. It is an account of the 18-plus boomtowns that sprang up in the project area; the Hi-Line towns that

furnished rock; and the nearby incorporated, also-booming towns of Glasgow and Nashua.

**MCB 897 In a Far Country: The True Story of a Mission, a Marriage, Murder, and the Remarkable Reindeer Rescue of 1898** by John Taliaferro. The true story of Tom and Ellen Lopp, two missionaries living on the Seward Peninsula in Alaska, and their efforts to live with the Eskimos, introduce reindeer to the area, and take part in the rescue of whalers fishing the Arctic region in the 1890's.

**MCB 900 Pioneer Doctor: The Story of a Woman's Work** by Mari Garna. This is the true story of Dr. Mary (Mollie) Babcock Atwater, a medicine woman who accepted a job as doctor to the miners at Bannack, Montana and thus began her adventures as a pioneer doctor, a suffragette, and a crusader for public health reform in the Rocky Mountain West.

**MCB 907 Montana Ghost Stories: Eerie True Tales** by Debra D. Munn. This book is about paranormal experiences that people have had in various towns in Montana, including both ghost towns and major cities.

**ADULT FICTION: MCB 865 From Dust and Ashes: A Story of Liberation** by Tricia Goyer. It is 1945 and a group of American soldiers liberate a Nazi concentration camp. Helene, an abandoned wife of an SS guard, begins to help meet the needs of the survivors in the camp. Through this process, she finds her own liberation-from spiritual bondage, sin, and guilt. Some descriptions of violence.

**MCB 870 The Best of Montana's Short Fiction** by William Kittredge and Allen Morris Jones. From the best writers in the Big Sky Country, here are twenty-one stories from the frontier of our country and the edge of our national imagination. The cast of characters in these stories is as big as the state. Some strong language.

**MCB 873 Growing an Inch** by Stanley Gordon West. Post-War 1949. St. Paul, Minnesota. Donny Cunningham, a physically small boy with a big heart, has made a solemn vow to keep his family together. He meets the challenges head-on through courage and strength, while wrestling with his own sorrows. A companion novel to "Until They Bring the Streetcars Back" (MCB 848) & "Finding Laura Buggs" (MCB 849).

**MCB 881 Blood and Bond** by Kae Cheatham. Eddie CloudRunner is bothered by hallucinations that parallel the area's sudden environmental problems. Is it a Shoshoni Indian curse? Circumstances convince Eddie to accept his long-denied spiritual identity, but while he delves into mysticism, the capricious weather confounds the situation. Strong language and descriptions of sex.

**MCB 901 The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, A Man Called Horse, The Hanging Tree, Lost Sister** by Dorothy M. Johnson. Four stories of the wild west about a man captured by an Indian tribe; a gunfighter; a family whose sister

returns after being raised for years by an Indian tribe; and a mining camp where a doctor falls in love with a disturbed young woman.

**YOUNG ADULT FICTION: MCB 837 Eyes of War** by Janna Nickerson. Three were born on a fateful night when fire was falling from the sky. Two are prophesized to save the world from Evil. One is a Princess, born to privilege, one the son of a poverty stricken farmer. The third one born calls himself the Warlord and swears to the gods he will rule the world in darkness. Now, the Princess and the peasant must join together to gather a force that can rival the Warlord's army for only they can unite the nations to fight against the growing power of Evil. The First book in the Fifth Battle Trilogy. For 11 years and older.

**JUVENILE NON-FICTION: MCB 893 Nature's Yucky! Gross Stuff that Helps Nature Work** by Lee Ann Landstrom & Karen I. Schragg. Did you know that bald eagles eat rotting, dead fish? That hoary marmots don't poop all winter long? Turkey vultures poop on their very own legs? Explore some interesting facts about several birds and mammals and why their behavior is not only OK, but beneficial to nature. Preschool-grade 2.

**MCB 903 M is for Montana** by Gayle Corbett Shirley. Uses brief facts of Montana for each of the letters of the alphabet. Preschool - grade 2.

**MCB 905 B is for Big Sky: A Montana Alphabet** by Sneed B. Collard III. The author uses each letter of the alphabet to describe some animals and parts of Montana and gives an historical explanation for each letter. Preschool-grade 2.

**MCB 909 Her Seven Brothers** by Paul Goble. The Cheyenne legend of the girl who went in search and found her seven brothers in the North, and how they escaped from the Chief of the Buffalo people who wanted to steal her away. This legend tells how the Big Dipper came to be. Preschool-grade 2.

**MCB 910 The Return of the Buffaloes: A Plains Indian Story About Famine and Renewal of the Earth** by Paul Goble. The story of how the Woman of the Buffalo Nation brought the buffalo forth to feed the starving people. Preschool-grade 2.

**JUVENILE FICTION: MCB 904 Big Jinny: The Story of a Grizzly Bear** by Frank B. Linderman. A grizzly bear describes her life in Glacier National Park as a cub, hibernating and learning to survive. When she is grown, as a mother herself, beginning the cycle of life over again. For grades 2-4.

**MCB 906 Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis & Clark** by Patricia Reeder Eubank. Seaman, the Newfoundland dog belonging to Meriwether Lewis, gives a fictional account of the adventures during the Lewis & Clark Expedition.



QWEST COMMUNICATIONS offers assistance for customers with disabilities. Call Qwest Center [1-800-223-3131](tel:1-800-223-3131) for directory assistance service (“411”) for the visually impaired.

**A MUSICAL NOTE:** Many patrons have expressed an interest in receiving tapes with music. While we do not have these in Helena, we are happy to provide a source for you. Contact: **RECORDINGS FOR RECOVERY 1-800-798-1192**. They are open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30-4:00 MST. Annual membership is \$10.00. Their cassette tapes can be played on the C-1 machines by changing the speed control on your player to “1-7/8”. **Recordings for Recovery** offers a wide variety of music and can provide a catalog.



Montana Association of the Blind

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND** will hold its convention in Bozeman September 12-14, 2008. The theme will be “MAB—Sowing the Seeds for Independence.” This year free special workshops for the blind and visually impaired are offered prior to the convention Friday afternoon. For registration information and tentative agenda contact: Donna McCullough, 406-556-7103. Her e-mail is [Krmac6@msn.com](mailto:Krmac6@msn.com). In Helena call Gail Brockbank, 442-9411.

### **LOW VISION MONTANA (LVM)**

LVM is available to promote independence for Montanans with low vision and blindness. It can assist you in locating state and national resources. The Talking Book Library, the Lions Clubs and most agencies or organizations addressing low vision or blind issues are involved in Low Vision Montana. **Contact: 1-800-601-5004**.



**Montana Talking Book Library  
1515 East Sixth Avenue  
PO Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800**

**Free Matter  
for the Blind**

**Address Service Requested**

**This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or visit our website: <http://msl.mt.gov/tbl>**

**LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon-Fri 8am-5pm  
**PHONE NUMBERS:** 1-800-332-3400  
**WEBOPAC:** <http://klasweb.msl.mt.gov>

**PHONE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm  
(in Helena) 406-444-2064  
**WEBBRAILLE:** <http://loc.gov/nls/braille>

**REGIONAL LIBRARIAN:**  
**COORD. VOL /DIR RECORDING SVC:**  
**COLLECTION MANAGER:**  
**MACHINE LENDING AGENT:**  
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