

## Talking Book Times

August 2009 Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center 600 High Point Lane East Peoria, IL 61611 To receive this newsletter in Braille, on cassette, or by E-mail; Give us a call at 1-800-426-0709. This newsletter can also be heard on our website; [www.mitbc.org](http://www.mitbc.org). The cassette and online recording are done courtesy of WCBU public radio in Peoria.

Business is Booming! More and more people are using the Talking Book service in Central Illinois. Last month we received an average of 1,000 "green boxes" every day at our East Peoria facility! We are proud to serve such active readers.

Digital Talking Book Machines Arriving. The process for distributing the digital model talking book machine has begun. The first patrons to receive the machines will be our veterans. The change to digital will be lengthy, with distribution scheduled to begin soon, however our current cassette format will be around for many years as we transition. For new titles that are not in the Talking Book Topics catalog yet, contact your reader advisor, and be sure to ask about our new PLAYAWAY titles as well.

Thank You Volunteers! MITBC held a recognition luncheon for our volunteers recently. This edition of Talking book Times honors a group of MITBC's volunteers, the Peoria Pioneers. The Pioneers are retired members of AT&T phone company. They're the wonderful guys who test and repair all of our cassette machines. We thank you Pioneers.

Chellis DeFord heard about the Pioneer volunteers from a friend. Chellis has been volunteering for 20 years. When asked why he volunteers, Chellis said "I like to help people and see my old buddies from work." He has volunteered at hospitals and churches as a member of the American Legion also.

Dick Kuntz has been with the pioneers for 17 years. Before retiring from AT&T, Dick was a cable repairman. Dick enjoys volunteering with his former co-workers, and would like our patrons to know "We do the best we can." In addition to volunteering with the Pioneers, he also helps set up The Festival of Lights; a holiday light show in East Peoria.

David H. Kesner worked for 35 years with AT&T. He's been in the Pioneers for 4 years. His mother used the talking book service for over 20 years. David likes "...doing something good for others, plus I get to visit with friends." When he isn't volunteering, Mr. Kesner tends to his hobbies, which include steam trains, computers and taking photos. To all of the MITBC customers, David says "Enjoy."

George Ashworth worked at AT&T for 36 years, 20 of which he was a manager, before retiring and becoming a Pioneer. George volunteers because he likes "Doing something for people that need it."

Serving You Better. More of our volunteers will be included in our next newsletter. The biographies of Barbara Pokarney, Lynda L. Hamann, Sue Herring, Edna Mae Simon, and Paul Pearson will be highlighted.

Thank You Donors .

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center. Your contributions are greatly appreciated during these economically turbulent times.

New Playaway Titles! Order your copy of the updated PLAYAWAY catalog today .

(PL000210) Keep Travelin' by Louis L'Amour  
(PL000211) Knock Out by Catherine Coulter  
(PL000212) Autumn Lover by Elizabeth Lowell  
(PL000213) Back on Blossom Street Debbie Macomber  
(PL000214) Amazing Grace by Danielle Steel  
(PL000215) On the Grind by Stephen J. Cannell  
(PL000216) Red & Me by Bill Russell and Alan Stein  
(PL000217) Fearless by Diana Palmer  
(PL000218) Angel Creek by Linda Howard  
(PL000219) NPR Funniest Driveway Moments  
(PL000220) Classic Crime Short Stories  
(PL000221) Bone by Bone by Carol O'Connell  
(PL000222) Call of the Canyon by Zane Grey  
(PL000223) Soloist by Steve Lopez  
(PL000224) Boys will be Boys by Jeff Pearlman  
(PL000225) Let's Face It by Kirk Douglas  
(PL000226) Never Hit a Jellyfish with a Spade by Guy Browning  
(PL000227) Faith of Barack Obama by Stephen Mansfield  
(PL 000228) Vanished by Karen Robards  
(PL 000229) Killer View by Ridley Pearson  
(PL 000230) Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle  
(PL 000231) Dead Irish by John Lescroart

Here are a few tips to keep your cassette player in top shape: 1.Avoid getting food or liquid on your machine. This can gum the insides.2.If you want to play the machine unplugged, charge the battery for 12 hours.3.When the machine is not in use, cover it with something like a grocery sack.4.Don't ignore a problem. Contact MITBC machine dept. as soon as possible.

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Holiday Closings Monday September 7 Labor day Wednesday November 11 Veteran's day