

Service for the Blind

For many years the State Library has been the depository of reading matter for the blind. Until 1934 the books were those printed in Braille or other kinds of raised type that could be read by touch. To read in this method it was necessary to learn a difficult art and so the number of borrowers was limited, and persons who became blind late in life were not always able to enjoy the books.

But now that the Talking Books are available in quantity and machines with which to listen to the records are furnished without cost, the number of borrowers has grown enormously, until now the State Library has the names of over 900 blind borrowers in its list.

Talking Books are one of the most dramatic developments in service to the blind, and they bring to these persons the great world of books, for either entertainment or study. Imagine the pleasure and satisfaction of being able to listen to a well-trained voice reading to you the type of book that holds your interest and attention.

In many households, members of the family literally do not have time to read aloud to their blind relatives, and these Talking Books can take their place in this respect.

The special machines on-which the records must be used are furnished by the State Commission for the Blind, and, since these are on deposit and not for sale, no cost except that of transportation from Austin, is involved. If you know of a person in your community whose vision is so impaired that he can no longer read print, he can write to the Commission for the Blind and find out the details of how he can obtain one of these machines.

Once a borrower has obtained such a machine, his name is sent to the State Library and he becomes a borrower of Talking Books.

Talking Books are records and are sent to the State Library from the Library of Congress without cost. These records of books are packed in stout containers and the Government carries them through the mails without cost.

The selection of books is excellent and the Bible is included, as well as many of the classics. Some of the very latest books can be found recorded, and the Reader's Digest and Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine are released almost as soon as the monthly issues in print are placed on newsstands.

By means of a unique system of charging these books the borrower is given a special service. Once he has indicated the type of reading in which he is interested, Talking Books are sent him, and as soon as he returns one book, another is mailed. This method keeps the flow of books moving without the need of correspondence.

This is a joint operation of your Federal and State government, and it is something of which all of us can be proud.

For information from the State Commission for the Blind write to Mr. Lon Alsup, the Director, in Austin. For this borrowing of the Talking Books write to either Miss Adele Mitchell or to Miss Emma Harrell, Texas State Library, Austin.

