

This newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Texas Talking Book Program for recording studio volunteers and staff. If you have comments or suggestions, please email Ruth Wedergren, TBP Public Awareness Coordinator at rwedergren@tsl.state.tx.us.

Calendar

Studio closings:
Independence Day:
July 4, 5, 6

Studio Statistics

- 260 Mar hours
- 38 Mar active volunteers
- 251 April hours
- 35 April active volunteers

Studio Hours

Mon - 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Thurs

Fri 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sat 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Talking Book Program
Texas State Library & Archives
Commission
P.O. Box 12927
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Volunteer Recording Studio News

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Welcome New Studio Volunteers

The Talking Book Program welcomes our new Recording Studio Volunteer, Louise Mann, who began in April 2013. Welcome aboard! ■

A Look at the Recording Library of West Texas

The Recording Library of West Texas (RLWT) is celebrating its 50th year making audio recordings for persons with visual, physical and reading disabilities in the Midland-Odessa area. Since the late 1980s, RLWT has produced audio books and the magazine *Texas Monthly* for distribution to TBP patrons. RLWT's reach goes far beyond its studios.

In addition to materials recorded for TBP, RLWT has three other areas of focus, according to Executive Director, Trish Speight: custom recordings, Telephone Reader and RLWT Radio and podcasts. "We do custom recordings such as Sunday School lessons, textbooks, manuals for the workplace, and patron requests," she says. Examples of

special requests include a Biology textbook, auto mechanic training manuals, and a set of obscure books about Elvis Presley. Like TBP, volunteers record these materials.

RLWT also operates Telephone Reader, a free phone service featuring recordings of newspapers, grocery ads, magazines, and other publications. Patrons of RLWT use their touch-tone phone to select and move through various publications. The call is free within the Midland-Odessa metropolitan area.

In June 2011, the library launched RLWT Radio, a radio station for the blind. "Ten hours are produced here in Midland," says Speight, "including the Texas Book Hour and the Western Magazine Hour." Other programs come from Program Share, a free syndication service of the International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS).

The station is broadcast on a frequency that can only be received with a special radio--available on free loan from RLWT--and within a 50-mile radius of Midland-Odessa. About 300 people in the area use these radios.

The station also streams on the internet. With the launch of the radio station, locally-recorded programs became available via podcast on the RLWT website www.recordinglibrary.org.

Speight said that RLWT has been in its current location since the late 1990s, and has grown enough to warrant discussions of moving.

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"We can't grow without expanding our space," she says. "We're looking at our options."

The program was started in 1963 by Mayme Martin after she was diagnosed with macular degeneration. ■



Volunteer Narrator Mary Jane Prall, 1922 - 2013

TBP received notice that longtime volunteer narrator Mary Jane Prall died on April 28 at the age of 90. A memorial service was held on May 18 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Prall volunteered with the studio for nearly 20 years. She is listed as narrator on 106 studio titles. One of those titles, the play "On Golden Pond," was recently made available on digital cartridge.

Former Studio Director Patsy Alvarez noted that Prall was "one of our best narrators. She knew the language and never had to look up words in the dictionary. She could read cold without pre-reading."

Alvarez said that she would always give Prall the "hard stuff" like the Voters' Guide. "We gave her the TxDOT driving manuals and she did that cold without studying it."

Prall was also the consummate environmentalist. Alvarez said that when they shared lunch, Prall would take the plastic utensils and cups and wash everything so it could be used again. "She'd sneak away to the bathroom across the hall. She

New/Digitized Books Completed and Circulating

The Texas Talking Book Program's Volunteer Recording Studio and Audio Operations department have just completed producing the entire Lucy Hatch Novel series for duplication onto digital flash cartridge. This is the first complete series we have made available in digital format.

Second Coming of Lucy Hatch—Narrator: Dianna Dorman; Monitors: Judy MacKenzie, Sue Bilich, Miles Lewis, Kerry Pivonka.
Last of the Honky-tonk Angels—Narrator: Dianna Dorman; Monitor: Judy MacKenzie.
Heartbreak Town—Narrator: Dianna Dorman; Monitor: Judy MacKenzie.
Return of the Stardust Cowgirl—Narrators: Bill McLean and Timothy Englert; Monitors: Janice Jones, Hillary Anderson, Leanna Englert.

Darling Dahlias and the Naked Ladies—Narrator: Leslie Rogers; Monitor: Stephanie Childs.
Death Splits a Hair: A Judge Jackson Crain Mystery—Narrator: Carolyn Larson; Monitor: Becky Smith.
The Fall of Eagles—Narrator: Frances Lopez Morillas; Monitor: Linda Pedro.
Flying With Iron Angels: The Diaries and Memories of Navy Carrier Pilots Fighting the Pacific War in 1944—Narrator: Ev Lunning Jr.; Monitors: Jeannie Pinkman, SMiles Lewis.
Hank the Cowdog #57: The Disappearance of Drover—Narrator: Sonya Aycok; Monitor: Stephanie Childs.
Hard Luck—Narrator: Ed Farrell; Monitor: Paul Klemperer.
James Bowie: Fighting Man—Narrator: Jack Huff; Monitor: Jack Gazzale.
The Jewish Texans—Narrator: Hazel Kiley; Monitor: Annabeth Merrel.
Long Gone Daddy—Narrator: Ruth Borinstein; Monitors: Carol Swartz, Gary Devries, Janice Jones.
Mr. Moto Is So Sorry—Narrator: Therese East; Monitors: Janice Lathin, Joel Rudd.
Murder by Sacrilege—Narrator: Dorothy Blair; Monitor: Becky Smith.
Nine Hundred Miles on the Butterfield Trail—Narrator: Ev Lunning Jr.; Monitor: Brent Holcomb.
On Golden Pond—Narrator: Mary Jane Prall; Monitor: Carolyn Randall.
Palo Duro Shootout—Narrator: Orin Wade; Monitor: Trish Speight.
Singularity—Narrator: Janice Langlinais; Monitor: Ted Geist.
The Sweet and the Dead—Narrator: Timothy Englert; Monitor: Leanne Englert.
White Bread Competition—Narrator: Julie Shuey; Monitor: John Wood.

was a wonderful person and very kind."
According to her obituary, Mary Jane Prall also volunteered for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, the Capital Area Food

Bank, the U.S. China People's Friendship Association and a literacy program for adults. She and her husband were world travelers, visiting 200 countries and all seven continents. ■