

ST-4

Mountain Plains Library Association Report - January 12, 2004  
Submitted by Ken Kempcke, MPLA Representative

#### Fort Peck Publishes Books

In September 2001, the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) funded a grant to Fort Peck Tribal Library, Poplar, Montana, to help republish the stories of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes. The Assiniboine and Sioux Enterprise Community further funded the project. The books are *How the Morning and Evening Stars Came to Be and Other Assiniboine Indian Stories*; *How the Summer Season Came and Other Assiniboine Indian Stories*; and *The Turtle Who Went to War and Other Sioux Stories*. The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Portland, Oregon, originally published these stories as individual books in the Indian Reading Series. Every library in Montana will receive a set of these books as part of the grant. If you are interested in purchasing extras at \$24.00 for the set of three or individual books at \$9.95 each, please don't hesitate to contact Fort Peck Tribal Library at 1-866-650-5148. These titles are also available individually from the Montana Historical Society Store at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org).

#### Lewis & Clark Activity Books Available

The Lewis & Clark Task Force is taking orders for Lewis & Clark Activity books at \$2.00 each. To order, email [jhedina@manhattan.k12.mt.us](mailto:jhedina@manhattan.k12.mt.us). All orders come with an invoice. Some libraries have asked what the books are for. The answer is anything you want! They can tie in with school activities, summer reading programs, special library promotions, etc. Some libraries are even selling the books. They purchase from us, then raise the price and sell to patrons. These are not coloring books. They contain word searches, puzzles, crossword puzzles and lots of links to more information. Spread the word and order your books now!

#### Coming Soon: the MLA 2004 Conference!

"It's a Matter of Speech" is the theme for this year's MLA conference April 24-27, 2004 in beautiful Bozeman. The conference planning committee is already hard at work to make this an excellent and memorable experience. The selection of programs was even more difficult this year than in years past because of the overwhelming volume of proposals submitted. The good news is there will be a variety of excellent programs! The conference will be at the Best Western GranTree and the Holiday Inn, adjacent to each other on North Seventh Avenue in Bozeman. Full Conference registration fees for MLA members will be \$60 by March 26th and \$80 after March 26th. For nonmembers, registration will be \$90 by March 26th and \$110 after March 26th. Students, Trustees, and Friends of MLA can register for \$25 by March 26th and \$35 after March 26th. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.mtlib.org/conf/conf2004.html>.

#### IMLS Grant Received

Montana State Library has been awarded a \$206,167 "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Montana project is entitled "Professional Education and Employment for Librarians" (PEEL). This three-year grant will fund a statewide promotion/recruitment campaign designed to attract Montanans to the library profession, with an emphasis on recruiting more Native American librarians. Six Montana residents will receive scholarships to attend graduate library school and will be required to work in a Montana public, school, or tribal library for a minimum of two years following graduation. Stipends will also be awarded to help libraries bring these new graduates into their communities to fill professional level positions.

The first step in the project was the formation of a ten-member PEEL Grant Advisory Committee that will provide guidance with the recruitment campaign and application process. The Committee's initial meeting was December 2. Scholarship applications will be available early in 2004 with awards being made in the spring. The State Library will use Wired-MT and other venues to keep interested Montanans informed about the application process and deadlines.

For more information about the grant, please contact Sue Jackson (sujackson@state.mt.us or 1-800-338-5087) at MSL.

#### Grant Award

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has just notified the Montana State Library that our state will receive \$198,720 from the Foundation's Staying Connected Grant Program. The money will be used to help public libraries purchase new public access computer equipment and fund Internet connectivity upgrades. The grant will also fund training for public library staff on ways to improve and increase public access computing in their communities. All public libraries and branches will be eligible to apply for Staying Connected funds to upgrade equipment and/or connectivity. The application process will probably begin in March. Information about the grants will be available through a mailing to all public libraries in the state and messages posted on Wired-MT. The Networking Task Force, which has provided direction and evaluation of MSL's library services and training for the past six years, will be involved in the screening of grant applications and selection of grant awards. For more information about the grant, please contact Sue Jackson (sujackson@state.mt.us or 1-800-338-5087) at MSL.

#### GET ON BOARD AND READ @ YOUR LIBRARY

The "Get on Board and Read @ Your Library" program, where teens can win a trip to meet pro skateboarder Tony Hawk, officially kicked off in November with the launch of a new web site. Librarians who register on the site will receive access to free materials to help promote the program. This includes downloadable posters and bookmarks, programming ideas and sample press materials. The program runs through the end of April.

Developed by ALA and Morningstar Foods Inc., maker of HERSHEY'S milk, "Get on Board and Read @ Your Library" encourages teens to check out a book from their local library and create an entry about how the book is meaningful to them. Teens may submit a written essay or a creative entry consisting of a poem, painting or video and these may be created individually or as a team. The librarian who sponsors the winning teen or team will also go on the grand prize trip. "Get on Board and Read" is also offering Tony Hawk skateboards as first-place prizes; copies of Hawk's book, "Hawk: Occupation: Skateboarder" as second-place prizes; and a one-month supply of HERSHEY'S milk and milkshakes as third-place prizes.

The program offers librarians the opportunity to win special incentives for the number of teen entries they send in. Libraries that send in 5-14 entries will receive 50 coupons for HERSHEY'S Milk; 15 HERSHEY'S Milk and Milkshake t-shirts for those who submit 15 to 24 entries; and an autographed poster of Tony Hawk and 25 t-shirts for 25 or more entries. Also, librarians who submit a report on how they promoted the program, along with sample publicity materials, will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 bookstore gift certificate.

#### Chouteau County Library Gets Elevator

The Chouteau County Library welcomed its new elevator in an Elevator Dedication Ceremony on October 22, 2003 at the Chouteau County Library in Fort Benton. After nearly ten years and \$90,000 raised, the elevator went into place in June. 75 people were on hand to celebrate the occasion, including former directors Lois Baker, Mary Meissner and Patti McKenzie, architect Marvin Hessler, Tracy Cook from the Montana State Library, media and members of the Board of Trustees, Library Foundation and Friends of the Library. Outgoing Foundation President Pat Jacobsen presented Library Director Jill Wigger with the dedication plaque and spoke of the community effort in accomplishing the goal set by the Foundation nearly ten years ago. The Chouteau County Library is the oldest county library in the state of Montana.

#### 2004 Summer Institute

The Montana State Library Commission approved LSTA funding for a 2004 Summer Institute. This weeklong training is designed for public library directors who do not have a library degree. The institute has been scheduled for the week of June 7, 2004, on the MSU Bozeman campus. An early summer date was selected to avoid conflict

with summer reading programs and staff vacations, and Bozeman was selected as the state university campus closest to the middle part of the state.