

MERIS MORRISON

Sound travels

Cassette tapes are one of our most popular items. Many are finding the joys of traveling or commuting while listening to a mystery or espionage thriller, the voice of Alister Cooke, or a reading of Stephen King's "Thinner."

Some large libraries report that 20 percent of their circulation comes from cassette tapes. Use increases as the variety and number of titles increase. The most frequent borrowers are always looking for something new. Many have requested more lectures and instructional tapes, others want unabridged novels. A borrower's Christmas gift of \$100 has allowed us to add 11 unique National Public Radio tapes to our collection.

"Courage To Create" present two hours of Jean-Pierre Rampel, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Jeanne Moreau, George Shering, and others exploring the fine edge between madness and creative inspiration, how to contain and use creative impulses, and the ideas of psychologist Rollo May.

"The Golden Cradle: Immigrant

Woman in the United States" is a saga of brave, dynamic women from all over the world who chose to come to America. Liv Ullman reads from the shipboard diary of a 19th-century woman, and immigrants share stories of hardships and rewards. Russian, Japanese, Cuban and Hungarian women talk about "fitting in" and conflicting identities in a white melting-pot culture.

"New England Almanac: Portraits in Sound of New England Life and Landscape" are seven tapes which take listeners on a sentimental journey through New England - from Lake Camplain to the Maine coast, from the hills of western Connecticut to Beacon Hill in Boston. Sounds of the region's workers, seasons, animals, and industries are combined with the strong New England oral tradition of colorful 17th-century speech.

The journey begins on Lake Camplain, where residents tell tales of Indians, glaciers and the lake monster "Champy." Coziness

contrasts with a darker side of winter in the tales that Vermont, Massachusetts, and Maine residents tell of snowbound days in "Stories From The New England Hearth.

Against the sounds of modern snowmobiles, skis, and snowshoes, New Englanders reminisce about their rural past in "Snowdrifts." Dairymen, maple sugerers, a cider-jelly maker, a sheep farmer, summer people, woodsmen and residents of a small seaside town talk about their everyday lives on these audio adventures through New England.

Brooks library has more than 100 tapes. They circulate briskly. Usually 25 titles are in at any one time. As with all our materials, borrowers can request reserves for cassettes and we will call when they come in. Cassettes are checked out for one week so the turnover is fairly fast. Donations of cassettes or money to purchase them are gratefully received by the library.

Meris Morrison is the director of Brooks Memorial Library.