

THE SIGHT SEER RADIO READING SERVICE
Brings a Window To The World
for people who are blind or physically disabled
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN **SUMMER - 2008**

THANK YOU! FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS of experiences unparalleled in our lives. Volunteers of all ages, even as young as twelve years old, have brought programs to people who are unable to read printed words. Together we have brought 9,125 days of information, education and inspiration to thousands of disabled people.

YOU are part of "WE" for you have come to read, run the "board", worked in the office, set up the Sight Seer computer system – even covered the cost of replacing it after it was attacked by "hackers" and ruined. YOU helped us when we moved downtown, a great place to be – in the center of things. We are so grateful to have worked these twenty-five years – though "thick and thin" times – and now Sight Seer Programs are heard throughout all of Michigan – and throughout the entire world. We share with our Community, and with the entire world.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.thesightseer.org
Program Schedules are listed
Meet the volunteers – pictured there

**A T & T CHALLENGE REAPS
REWARDS – CAST-A-WAY
COMPUTERS BECOME
LISTENING POSTS AS
"WINDOWS TO THE WORLD"**

Could we really build a radio out of a computer? Would it work for people outside of our radio signal? Yes! Yes! YES! It's ready for distribution throughout Michigan – no keyboard, no mouse, no screen, just two speakers and the receiver (CPU) does the rest. Lions Clubs members in Michigan are reaching out to persons who are blind, visually impaired or physically unable to hold or read printed material. Now they can tune in to THE SIGHT SEER on their Internet Radio wherever they live. There are Internet Radios commercially manufactured – they are expensive – more than \$250.00 – out of reach of most disabled people. The Sight Seer Internet Radios are available for a deposit of \$35.00. The deposit is returned when the radio is no longer needed.

So! How can someone get one?
Call The Sight Seer
616-235-0020
Here's a WIN WIN SITUATION!

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AN ADVENTURE IN HISTORY

U.S. History is on people's minds – there is so much of it.

Heard daily on THE SIGHT SEER throughout the month of July at 9:30AM and 5:30 PM are dramatic presentations of the Revolutionary War – from the Siege of Boston and the Continental Congress through the challenges faced by the new government and the infamous Boston Tea Party, on July 31st, it is an ADVENTURE IN U.S. HISTORY.

How can we know the cost of peace if we don't know the cost of war? This series brings to light the founding of the U.S.A., the ultimate base of our political structure for freedom. This series is being presented in honor our forefathers and all who have given their lives for FREEDOM!

By request, we bring back Effie Leland Wilder's fun to read book OLDER BUT WILDER, beginning on July 25th at 11:00AM and 7:00 PM. The third book in the Peachtree Publications, Betty Robbins reads about Hattie McNair and the residents who make Fair Acres their home. This time around, Hattie and her fellow "inmates" involve themselves

in a couple of money-making schemes in hopes of raising funds to build a swimming pool. A mystery develops when a valued portrait disappears. The plot thickens as Hattie and her housemates look for the solution. Hattie gently pokes fun of growing old while reflecting on the challenges and losses that seniors face, as well as the special wisdom that can be gained from aging.

PROGRAM NOTES:

Bill Martin has joined The Sight Seer to read stories from the Wednesday newspapers. Hear him read on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and again at 6:00 PM.

Janet Simpson brings a new voice to our story tellers library, reading THE GLASS CASTLE by Jeannette Walls, a mystery/thriller, a Scribner publication.

Karen Alexander reads her third book. It's a charmer written by James Herriot called EVERY LIVING THING, published by St. Martin's Griffin. Many of the books we read are old, reclaimed from book sales, attic treasures and garage sales. Kristin Stone and Patti Lacina read CHILDREN'S STORIES each afternoon at 3:00 – again at 11:00PM.

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That seems late to have children's stories read, but we broadcast on the Internet all night long, when it's daytime in other parts of the world. Saturday is OLD TIME RADIO all day. Listen to it! That will remind you how it was in the "good old days" when electronic communication was in its infancy. How far we have come! And there is much more. See the listing on the Internet or the Program Guide.

HOW ABOUT THE NEWS?

David Kramer keeps listeners up to date in SCIENCE WORLD with interesting events and discoveries. Bob Schmidt has a half hour filled with stories on SENIORS, WHAT KEEPS US GOING – He draws from AARP and Legionnaire magazines and other stories of the "senior generation".

NATION'S BUSINESS is read by Duane Rowson – a heads up on the business of the day. Duane also reads the BRAILLE MONITOR, He has read for Sight Seer listeners since 2000. Al Heldt presents the program, PSYCHOLOGY FOR TODAY which he has produced since 1984. His stories are sure to bring a smile to your face, he is a born storyteller with

a twinkle in his eye and a smile in his voice.

FOR WOMEN ONLY has brought a new reader. Joy Wellington Walczak who presents her program and invites "gentlemen, you can listen too, if you wish".

MONEY MATTERS brings subjects of special interests, stories and challenges to people who are confused, interested and have questions concerning their money, it really matters. Charlie Chanter keeps us aware and has since 2000.

Tom Good brings The Sight Seer station ID every hour on the hour. He also reads THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Magazine. His candid descriptions of the pictures keep listeners aware of the many pictures that bring extra interest to the program. Tom has read and announced since 1999.

WHAT KEEPS US COMING!

What we do hear from listeners? More often from their caregivers or families, we hear of interest in the stories. We get requests for books, one often requested is ARNIE and a HOUSEFUL of COMPANY. It would be interesting to hear from listeners, but when you think about it, not many letters or phone calls are

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made to radio broadcasters about programs. We are grateful to callers. For more than twenty five years volunteers have changed print to speech on closed-circuit radio for people who are blind, visually impaired or physically unable to read print material. The Internet opened doors to reach people with disabilities all over the world. It has given our neighbors throughout Michigan and other states information from the printed pages they have not read because of their disability. Diseases of the eye, diabetes, stroke, accidents, birth defects, so many other Causes. There is an increase in the number of patients with Macular Degeneration causing blindness.

We have reached beyond our shores, to give listeners in foreign nations exposure to the English language and to the American way of life. To our military hospitals and the service men and women all over the world, we have offered a taste of home and encouragement and support. Now, we are at a crossroads – again! Our monthly operating expenses of \$2,500 remain the same. Our rent increases in August by \$90.00 a month. Through the AT&T grant we have been able to upgrade all of our equipment, making the cost of utilities less, although they are included in our rent. All our bills are paid, we only have to meet monthly operating costs.

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