

# The Historacle

*The Official newsletter of the*  
**Talent Historical Society**

206 East Main Street • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, OR 97540 • 541-512-8838

## Dewey Talent's birthday

Talent Historical Society and the Jackson County Food & Friends program joined together to help Dewey and Janelle Talent celebrate Dewey's 88th birthday on August 31st. The setting at the Talent Community Center was particularly fitting as Dewey's great grandfather, Aaron P. Talent & father, helped build the Community hall in 1899. Dewey has been a member of THS since it's beginnings and is very proud of his family name. We anticipate a good year ahead for Dewey and his lovely wife and hope to see him again next year.

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### Grand Marshal Helen Seiber

The honor of being the Grand Marshal at the Talent Harvest Festival this year was given to our own beloved board member, Helen Seiber. She was front and center in a 1910 Reo driven by Dick Croly. We are delighted that Helen was so honored and applaud the city in calling attention to her as one of the city's greatest citizens.



# “We are Here” Sculpture in Ashland

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As you drive into Ashland look to your left just before you approach the plaza. There a new sculpture made by a Talent man, Russell Beebe, has been installed. The sculpture was carved from an alder tree that was removed from the plaza and has been given new life to honor the Native American population who survived and recovered from the Oregon version of the Trail of Tears. One of those Native Americans is Agnes Baker Pilgrim an Elder of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. Russell Beebe was inspired by her prayers over the alder tree when it was being cut down and included her likeness in the totem - like sculpture. Funding for the work came from Lloyd Matthew Hines of Ashland.

A dedication of the sculpture and a ceremonial “undoing” of the Trail of Tears of 150 years ago will be held Saturday, September 30th. Speakers and storytellers, drummers, and dancers will be on hand to inform the public about Indian lifeways and celebrate their diversity and accomplishments. Talent Historical Society will set up a table in the old Briscoe school to educate others about John Beeson’s advocacy for the Indians. His book *A Plea for the Indians* will be discussed and quotes from Welborn Beeson’s diary on display. The Society welcomes dialogue with Native Peoples who for thousands of years enjoyed the beauty and abundance of this land. In case you miss the celebration, some of the quotes from the Beeson diary are on page 3 of this newsletter.



Russell Beebe the sculptor with Agnes Baker Pilgrim, his inspiration

# Excerpts from a witness: Welborn Beeson diaries

Here are some of the Beeson quotes used at the sculpture dedication on September 30th at the Briscoe School in Ashland. THS director, Jan Wright will be on hand to enlighten others about the Beeson family mission to speak up for the Indians of their time.

“News came today that the Vollenteers and Indians had a fight down at Rouge River. They killed over 20 Indians and 2 white men and 7 wounded. Maj. Lipton [Lutpon] was one of the killed in the fight yesterday. The Indians killed two or three more. We are in for a winters War now I guess. Everybody is forting up but Mr. Robison’s and us. We intend to try it to night but the neighbors think we shall be killed.

We did not get killed nor hurt last night. **I guess everybody is more skeered than hurt.** There are such a many storys gets around. It is amusing to hear them. The Indians on Rogue River are frightened worse than the whites, so that I do not think there is any danger of their attacking us.” [8-13 Oct 1855 during the height of the Indian Wars in S. Oregon]

“...Stearnes boyes called in as they were passing from school they brought our papers and letters from Father. he is still trying to aid the poor Indian He seems to have full faith that he will accomplish something. Our *Argus* contains an account of a masecre of some poor Emigrants by the Snake River Indians in September out of 44 only 15 escaped and they were nearly starved and had to live on their dead comrades 47 days before assistance came to their relief of course the Indians have abundance of cause to do such things but still It seems hard that Incoent whites should suffer for the mean acts of other whites but It does seem as if the Inocent should suffer for the guilty. yesterday there were some thirty or forty Klamath Lake Indians in Gassburg [Phoenix, OR]. they are Inocent of the Masecre, but yet several of the neighbors advocates killing them all of simply because they are Indians. but such is human nature, and has been from the begining and I suppose will be to the end of the world not with standing my Fathers efforts to the contrary. He says he thinks he will return home on a short visit the coming summer. I hope he will for I do want to see him once more.” [30 Nov 1860]

“...Old LaLake and a few of his people camped down on the big road they have deer skins for sale. LaLake is chief of the Klamaths and is a very fine looking Injun.” [18 Oct 1860]

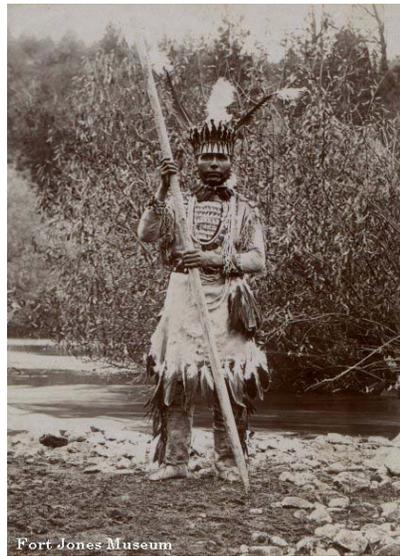
“The Modoc have again come off victorious, having captured three provisions of wagons. **I am actually ashamed that I am an American Citizen,** and have such a farce, such a disgraceful arrangement carried on, out at the Tule Lake. General Sherman is forwarding some thousand more soldiers to join the hundreds that are already out there, to fight only forty –three warriors, all told. It is claimed that twenty Indian warriors have been killed so that leaves only twenty –three, without resources or any means of obtaining ammuniton or provisions. But, such is the human mind. I wonder for what we were created.” [13 May 1873 during the Modoc War]

“A number of the Indians visited camp and I had long talks with some of them in regard to their impressions of the first white men they ever saw. It was greatly interesting to hear them tell how they thought the first white men were evil spirits and how frightened they were.” [3 May 1885]

# They were here first

The following quote and photograph came from an internet site [www.siskiyou.edu]. It is included in this newsletter because the Shasta Indians were those who occupied Ashland and probably the Talent area before the white people came. The whites simply called all the Indians who occupied this land the Rogue River Indians but culturally and linguistically there were three distinct groups - the Shasta, Takelma, and Athabaskans. Sargent Sambo was mentioned specifically by a few of the earliest Ashland settlers, thus his photo is included on this page.

“Sargent Sambo is a Shasta of the Klamath River and a hereditary chief. His father and paternal grandfather were of the Oregon group of Shasta, their home in the Rogue River Valley. Besides being headman of the Oregon group, his grandfather, said Sargent Sambo, was the principal chief for the four Shasta groups, being succeeded by his son, Sargent’s father. Sargent’s paternal grandmother was a Shasta of the Shasta Valley group and his mother was a Karok.”



When you see this picture of Anderson Gap it is not hard to imagine what the area looked like when only the Native Americans lived here. (Photo courtesy of THS)

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## Chautauqua Program Planned

Mark your calendars for Saturday November 18th, for a combined annual meeting and Chautauqua Program titled *Magic Carpet Made of Steel* by Jeni Foster. Jeni has collected and mastered hundreds of folk and popular songs about the great romance Americans had with the railroads. From transcontinental dreaming to composers like Aaron Copland and Woody Guthrie, Jeni offers a sing-along program which helps describe the adventure and opportunity the railroads brought to the American people. The program is graciously sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities.



Jeni Foster from Grants Pass

### **Program & Annual Meeting:**

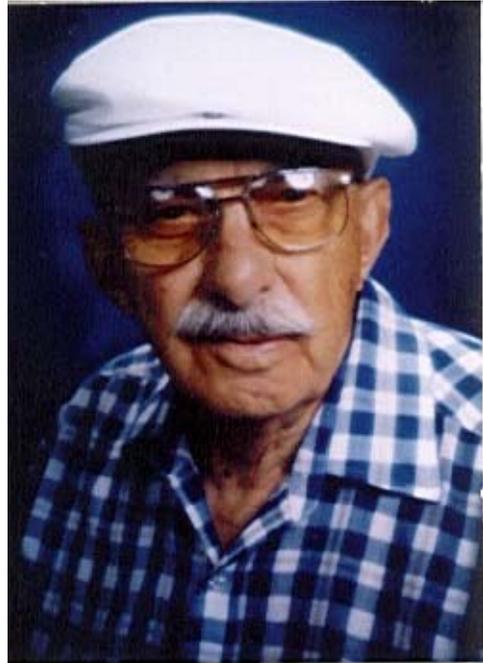
**Saturday, Nov. 18th 2006**

**1:30 - 3:30 P.M..**

**Talent Community Hall**

**206 E. Main St. Talent, OR**

**for info. call 541-512-8838**



We will miss long-time Talent resident, Ed Hanson. He was known for just dropping by the Talent Historical Society office to share his thoughts and sense of humor. Ed was a very lively, friendly, open, and fun-loving guy. He was 90 years of age but young at heart and we thought he ought to live forever. We didn't get to say good bye so we will do it now publicly and wish his family well.

*Talent Historical Society*

206 E. Main St. P. O. Box 582  
Talent, OR 97540  
541-512-8838  
talenthistory@ashlandhome.net

# Membership Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check payable to Talent Historical Society)

\* Individual (\$ 10.) \*Family (\$15.) \* Business Sponsorship (\$50.)

**More Membership Levels:**

Individual Sponsors \$ 20. - \$100.  
E.K. Anderson Society \$100. annually  
John Beeson Society \$250. annually  
Jacob Wagner Society \$500. annually  
Aaron P. Talent Society \$750. annually

(For office use only)

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees are due  
Please use this page to renew your  
membership

The following businesses have donated services or ad space to THS:

## Star Properties

Oregon Heritage Commission

## Camelot Theater

Richard A. Nagel, CPA

## Tark's Market

Dylan Ruediger & Anna Baumstark

## Thomas Doty

*City of Talent*

If you've got a hitch in your get-a-long or a crick in your neck, why put off coming in when you hurt like HECK?

**Dr. Joel Goldman,**  
Talent's first Chiropractor  
115A N. Pacific Hwy  
(at Seiber's Corner next to  
Quality Paperback Books)  
535-3062

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### Board of Directors:

President:	Bob Casebeer
Vice Pres:	Karl Slack
Secretary:	Katherine Harris
Treasurer :	Ralph Hunkins
Directors:	Alice Burnette Joe Cowley Lynn Newbry Bob Wilson William Horton
Alternate:	Helen Seiber

### Museum Staff:

Museum Director :	Jan Wright
Volunteer s:	Ralph Hunkins Alice Burnette Katherine Harris Karen Carr Janice Pacitti Liz Carter Ben Truwe

Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, The *Historacle*, by mail or by email to [talenthistory@ashlandhome.net](mailto:talenthistory@ashlandhome.net). Members of the Society receive the *Historacle* free with membership. Board meetings are at 6:00 pm at the Talent Library on the 2nd Monday of each month. Office is opened from 1-5 Monday - Thursday.

### Bottle Collections on Display

Katherine Harris heeded the call for collections and loaned her old bottles for display. Most of the bottles were found on her property and are definitely from another time. Thank you Katherine! We would like to rotate collections in the display case from time to time and we can always use new ideas. Call Jan at 512-8838 if you have something to loan to the Historical Society.

# New & Renewing Members:

Beryl Banks

Pat Bentley

Liz Carter

Margaret Duggar

Jeffery Johnson

Richard & Yolanda Nagel

Dewey Talent

James Trowbridge

Ron Weinhold

Talent Historical Society

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