

The Historacle

The Official newsletter of the
Talent Historical Society

105 N. Market Street • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, OR 97540 • 541-512-8838

New website a beauty

If you haven't looked yet, please do! [www.talenthistory.org] The new Talent Historical Society website exceeds all expectations. A big thanks goes to the Oregon Heritage Commission and to the web designers, Brian Schick and Karen Varney at wagnercreek.com. If you are in need of web developers, I would recommend them. They were very patient with me and learned a lot of Talent history in the process of putting it all together. It not only looks good, it is packed with historical photos, an index to the pioneers of Jackson County, the past *Historacle* issues, membership forms and information about the Welborn Beeson diary. Memberships can now be handled from on-line forms as can donations and inquiries. Even with our new website, we still welcome real company and invite you to visit our new building.

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New emphasis on fund raising

Talent Historical Society is at a financial cross-roads. In the past we have made due with the small amount we received from the county. With less than \$14,000. a year, we have managed to have a part-time director, transcribe the Beeson diaries, build a new website, conduct research, write grants, publish the newsletter, receive hundreds of visitors a year, participate in the Harvest Festival, have numerous Chautauqua programs and events, collect photographs and oral histories etc. etc. We now have to ask for more from our members and supporters to continue these projects. Please watch for announcements of coming events and fund-raisers in the papers and mailers and tell your friends about us whenever you can. No contribution is considered too small (or too large) to help us carry on with our important mission. Thank you!

History Destroyed & History Saved

*Bob Casebeer found this article on the Internet
and we thought it was worth printing to remind
our readers of its message.*

I was saddened to hear this morning of the suspicious fire that destroyed much of the *Cutty Sark*. The once proud ship is the last remaining tea-clipper, one of what once were hundreds of 19th century ships that used to transport tea from Shangain, China, to the UK. Even sadder, is the realization that this is just one of many examples of the history that is being lost to us every day. Our past is mouldering away in storage rooms, being torn down in the name of “progress” and faces constant threat of destruction from fires, floods, and other natural disasters.

While I completely sympathize with the many people who believe they should be able to access their ancestral information online for free, the reality is that it costs money - and a lot of it - to preserve our heritage. From restoring historic ships, to storing and providing access to records, our history can actually be quite expensive. Yes, our tax dollars pay for some of it. But governments can't and don't save everything. Much of world history is actually saved through the efforts of private organizations. FamilySearch is an excellent example of this. Through the efforts of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, millions of the world's valuable records have been microfilmed, preserving them against potential loss from deterioration, lack of funding, or natural disaster. We're extremely lucky that the church is so generous with the history they've preserved - freely sharing it with the world. But we all can't afford to be so magnanimous. A company or organization which chooses to make money, or at least recoup its expenses, for such efforts is not the bad guy. By charging for access to records which they have worked to preserve or make more freely available to a wider audience, they are making a living. But they are also providing jobs, improving access and, most importantly, saving our history from destruction. This makes the cost (at least to me) much easier to swallow.

Living Without Our Library

Every day I look out the window and see the abandoned public library building next door and wonder how long it will remain that way. THS can never claim to replace the many resources of the library system but until we can work out a compromise to open the library again, we have something to offer if you are researching Jackson County families and history.

On opening some boxes that had been in storage for a long time, I was delighted to see that we have numerous Jackson County resources that I didn't know we had. Jackson County census records from 1850s - 1910 are now on the shelves. We also have numerous books with abstracts from the Medford, Central Point, Ashland, Jacksonville, and Gold Hill newspapers and the volumes containing information from the Donation Land Claim records. Unique to our little collection are the minutes for the Harvest Festival committee, City Council minutes, a 1930 map of Talent and of course, diaries & memoirs of local individuals (Beeson, Thornton, Dean, Tame, and others.) Our books are begging to be utilized. Remember that not all resources are on line or accessed effortlessly. Another big asset that THS can claim is the 19,000 + name database on Jackson County residents. Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Library on Houston Rd. in Phoenix also has many useful resources for family research in Jackson County and elsewhere.

Collections Sought Cross your fingers

Please consider loaning or donating your historical collections to the Talent Historical Society. We have held back for so long because of space limitations that now, when we have the space, we have very few real items to put on display. Larger items such as bottles, ceramics, vintage clothing, toys, hats, etc to put in to our new display cases would be ideal. The cases lock and are secure for showing any objects of interest to the general public. Call 512-8838 if you have questions or items you would like to donate or loan. Jim Bradley has been getting large photos ready for the new museum. We hope to have an interesting temporary display in time for the Talent Harvest Festival.

Ashland Author

Johnny Gruelle, the creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy lived on Granite St. in Ashland, Oregon in 1923 - 1924. Look through your shelves and see if you have any of the old books. Mine is so worn out from reading that it is monetarily worthless but brings back priceless memories. THS has a copy of *Raggedy Andy Stories* copyrighted in 1948. The picture below comes from that book.



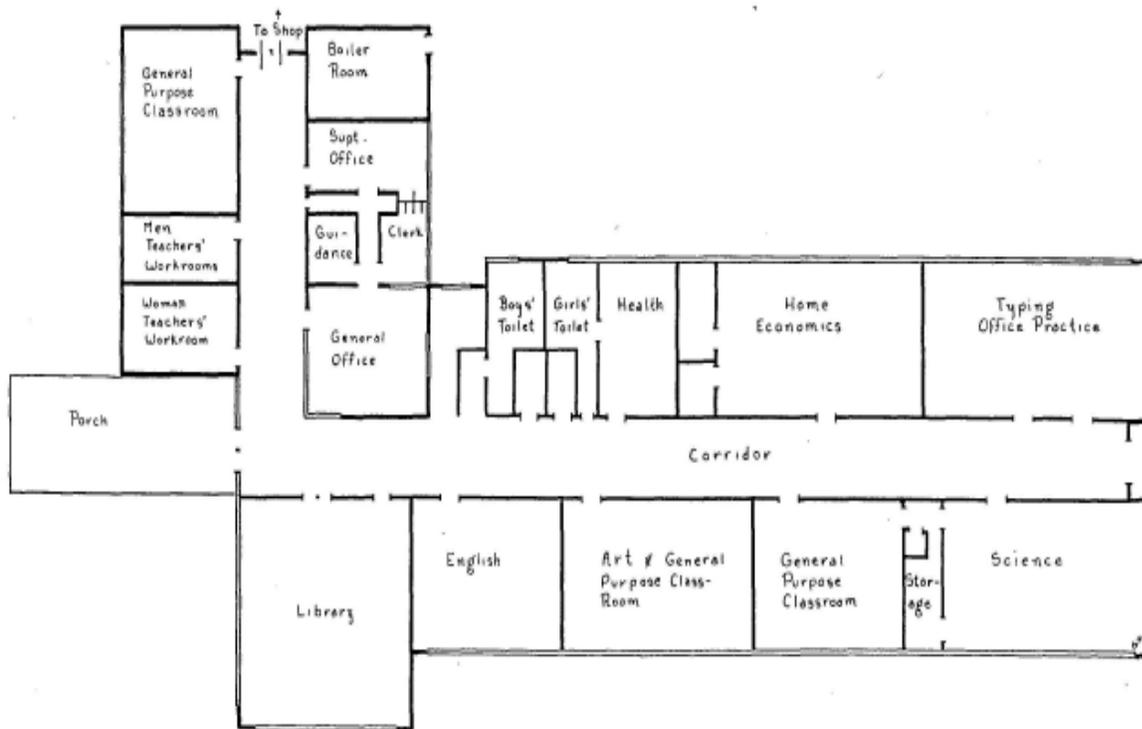
Photo of Lilli Ann Rosenberg in front of one of her creations a number of years ago.

A grant application was submitted to the Oregon Cultural Trust for to have artist Marvin and Lilli Ann Rosenberg create a mosaic mural on the exterior of our new building. The Public Arts Advisory Council agreed that the project was a good one and the City has given a “go ahead” so we are hoping that the Oregon Cultural Trust will grant us the requested funds to complete the mural within the year. A big part of the mural requires community involvement. Community members, including you, will be asked to contribute ideas and labor to help create a historical record on the outside wall. You could be a part of the project and give the city a Centennial gift for the year 2010. Grant awards should be announced by the end of July and we will let you know then how you can be involved.

Please send in your
email address to jan@talenthistory.org
It is much easier to reach
you through email
than regular mail.
Thank you!

Was it Really 50 Years Ago?

The Talent High School class of 1957 recently had a reunion at Emigrant Lake. The THS director got permission to join them and listen to the graduates reminiscence about their High School years. Because of their youth, they seemed surprised that the historical society would be interested in them. This is precisely the point I have been trying to make lately that the recent past is sometimes overlooked and that if we don't preserve now the details and flavor of the 50s and 60s and subsequent decades, the human side of history will be lost. The graduates graciously shared their photos and memories with me and helped me understand the importance of humor, cars, romance, and staying in touch with classmates. I met Ron Weinhold, Ken & Peggy Davis Millard, Jerry Loper & wife, Cora Mae Gleim Seymour, Lianis Burnette Reichstein, Maudalene Marshall Fanolas, Fred Helm and others. Of the 26 graduates 12 had actually gone through grade school and high school together, and all but 4 or 5 attended the reunion.



Floor plan for the new High School found in the 1955 *D'Anjou* yearbook for Talent High. The school is now the Talent Middle School and cost the tax payers \$160,000.00.

News Flashes

Talent is not only noted for its diarist, it also had two different newspapers. One was started in the 1890s and called the *Talent News*. The other was the *News Flashes* mimeographed by Mae Lowe and Alice Burnette from 1934 to the 1980s. Advertisements kept the *Flashes* going through the years. Most of the art work was done by locals including the amusing one below from 1948.



Joe Cowley

We are sad to say that our board member, Joe Cowley has died. Joe had just moved into an assisted care facility when his heart gave out. We miss him and his sense of humor at our board meetings and in our personal lives. Joe was a retired Mail Tribune journalist and had many stories & photographs of the people of Jackson County, some of which are preserved in the society archives.

Visitors to the Museum

All the way from Amarillo, Texas- that's dedication! Pat and Retta Donovan looked us up on the website, flew to Portland, rented a car and drove to Talent. They said they loved our new website and it brought them from Texas to the museum doors! Retta's grandmother was born in Talent in 1908 and moved when she was only a year old. I was able to find bits of information for her from the *Ashland Tidings*, the historic house inventory, and photographs but I think she brought more to us by intelligently using the website and coming all the way to Talent to compliment us about it. She knew about our move, about needing paint, and what photos were on the website. If everyone uses the world wide web in the same way, we will be in luck.

Beeson Reunion and Tour

A branch of the Beeson family has asked THS director, Jan Wright, to give a short talk about John Beeson for their family reunion. This branch descended from two of three brothers who came from England with William Penn and settled in Pennsylvania. The third Beeson brother returned to England and became the ancestor of John Beeson who eventually moved to Wagner Creek. As part of this family reunion they will meet in the old family home (Beeson-Foss house shown below) and have lemonade and cookies.



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

Oregon Heritage Commission

Camelot Theater

Richard A. Nagel, CPA

Thomas Doty

Greg Goebelt

Wagner Creek.com

City of Talent

Bill Mansfield, attorney

WalMart - Talent

Creative Arts, Inc.

Talent Chamber of Commerce



New Members

Colista & Glen Bailey

Carol Samuelson

Carl Shauger

Claire Sommer

Jo Nolte

Jackie Wobbe

Renewing members

Barbara & Dick MacMillen

Star Properties

The *Historacle* is published quarterly by the

Talent Historical Society

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Board of Directors:

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

Museum Staff:

Museum Director : Jan Wright

Volunteers:	Carl Shauger
	Katherine Harris
	Karen Carr
	Janice Pacitti
	Liz Carter
	Stan Morkert

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

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

Thanks to the following fabulous volunteers who helped us move and paint and get settled in our new building. I wish I could give you all a boat load of chocolate... instead I just give you a heartfelt thanks from all of us at the Talent Historical Society.

Joel Goldman

Charlie Hamilton

Carl Shauger

Matt Watson

Dylan Ruediger

Katherine Harris

Brian Schick

City of Talent - Betty Wheeler & Public Works

Karen Varney

Colin May

Thomas Doty

Marla Cates

Talent Chamber of Commerce

Jim Bradley

Chuck Nagel

Anne Billeter - Library System

Greg Goebelt

Public Arts Advisory Council

Pat Bentley

Stan Morkert

Russell Hodgdon at Creative Arts, Inc. Ron Ridgeway

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