

The Historacle JANUARY 2011



The Official Newsletter of the **Talent Historical Society**
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2011 A. D. Marks Two Major Historical Events:

The American Civil War which began in 1861 one hundred and fifty years ago will be marked by its Sesquicentennial, with solemn commemoration in the various States regardless of the side the citizens chose. The second and probably the more significant historical event was the publication of the King James version of the Bible in 1611 exactly 400 years ago. Readers of the Historical can expect to see articles about each of these events to appear in print during the coming year.

Multnomah County Voters Support Oregon Historical Society

Voters in Multnomah County voted to continue supporting the Oregon Historical Society for the next five years. Some 54 percent of those voting in early November elected to keep the Oregon Historical Society museum and library operational. Residents of Multnomah county will pay an extra 5 cents per \$1000 of assessed valuation of their property. This will allow the museum to stay open 40 hours every week, and the library will be in operation 32 of those hours. The voters new fiscal support will also be used to preserve, protect and restore historical documents and artifacts that are kept in the Society's facilities.

The Oregon Historical Society was formed 111 years ago and faced closure after the state treasurer's office cut funding for the educational facility. The museum and library are home to a wide host of historical relics, including over 32,000 books, about 85,000 artifacts, and at least 2.5 million photographs which capture the history, growth and development of Oregon over the last 151 years.

Multnomah county voters felt that since the museum and library are located in the Portland metropolitan area that support of the Oregon Historical Society was both a statewide and certainly a local matter of interest.

What Can Be Seen and Done at the THS Museum

Talent Historical Society's museum space is shared with two local entities: the Talent Food Bank, and Camelot Theatre. The lion's share of the facility at 105 N. Market Street (a building located between the Talent Community Center and the new Talent Library) is used by the Society itself. That space houses about twenty exhibit areas which are filled with various historical artifacts, but it also provides office space for the Society, storage space for boxes of artifacts, and shelving for a small reference

library. In addition the Society maintains archive boxes filled with area family data, businesses that are and have been active in the Talent area, church histories, cemetery data, and maps and pictures. Especially interesting to many residents, is the Society collection of historical photographs which now number about 3500 individual pictures. The Society also houses a small gift shop, a small stage, and seating for about forty individuals, and two bathrooms.

In addition to these physical items, the Society has a website (Just Google Talent Historical Society) and since there is only one [Talent](#) in the United States our website will be first on your screen. We urge those of you with computers to check out our website. A whole variety of historical matters of interest are available to those of you who can access our website. We also publish a newsletter quarterly with an occasional special edition. Old issues can be accessed from the website, and current issues are available either on line or through regular mail depending on each member's personal preference.

Current Exhibits Now Available at the Talent Historical Society Museum

Museums usually have both permanent and changing exhibits. Here are a few of the present exhibits available for viewing at 105 Market Street in Talent:

Brickpile Cabin Door: This door from a 1903 homestead located on a ridgeline above the Little Applegate River came from a cabin used by cattlemen and hunters. The door is heavily marked with names, burned in brands, and bears the elevation of the cabin. Photographs of the cabin and of the man who made the bricks from which the cabin gets its name, and information about the cabin's history are displayed.

The Selma, Alabama Marches to Montgomery: This temporary exhibit will only be available for viewing until the end of January when it will be replaced with a valentine display. The history of the marches and vicious chaos that accompanied this historic effort to pass the voting rights law is presented both in contemporary photographs and with an accompanying text about the Martin Luther King Jr. led march in 1965. This exhibit provides a great opportunity for parents to expose their children to one of the major events in the history of American civil rights.

Talent Centennial History Displays: Talent's centennial year (2010) history and events are still on display at the museum. The present Talent Methodist Episcopal Church which was built in 1912 is featured in one display. Another popular display shows the major historical events in Oregon in 1910, accompanied by a set of illustrated statistics showing how 1910 differed dramatically from today. For example, on display are advertisements from 1910 for children's medicine such as Mrs. Winslow' Soothing Syrup laced with morphine, or Beyer cough suppressant whose main ingredient was heroin (sold without prescription from 1898 to 1910).

Wagner Creek School Stove: The school stove, (now refurbished) that provided hot lunches in the school house up Wagner Creek that was used from 1929 on.

Stories Surrounding the Stearns Cemetery

On Sunday, January 30, 2010, the Society is opening its doors to Jan Wright, historian and author of the recently published Talent pictorial history, and Bud Gleim, the president of the Wagner Creek Cemetery Association, who will share with any who wish more information about the pioneer Stearns Cemetery. The Stearns Cemetery is located on Anderson Creek Road about a mile south of Talent.

Jan Wright will highlight the afternoon social with stories about some of the pioneers who are buried in the Stearns Cemetery, including John Beeson, the early Talent resident who seemingly was Oregon's first civil rights activist. Gleim has been asked to discuss the current operation of the cemetery and how it has provided burial sites for Talent residents since pioneer days.

The Talent Historical Society will provide light refreshments and nibbling goodies to all who choose to attend. The informal gathering will take place at the Museum at 105 Market Street (behind the community hall and next to the new public library) from 2:00 p. m. to 4 :00 p. m on January 30.

Family Data Can Be Found in THS Family Archives

Besides operating a museum with changing exhibits, conducting programs for members of the Society and the general public, maintaining a website on the Internet, publishing a quarterly newsletter, and recently authorizing the publication of Jan Wright's pictorial history of Talent, the Society maintains a research library and a research archive.

In the Archives one set of grey boxes are labeled "Talent Families," a slight misnomer for rightfully the label should read Bear Creek Families. In this issue of the Historacle you will find below the names of the families listed alphabetically about which these Archives have some material. Individuals, who have any documentary or photographic materials, etc., about these families and wish to have those included in our archives are urged to discuss the matter with folks at the museum.

Here are the names of the current families in the Family Archives:

Ammerman, Anderson, Applegate, Arundell.

Bagley, Baldwin (Wallace), Baldwin (Mae), Ball, Barlow/Neal, Baylor, Bacon, Barneburg, Bell, Bish, Bentley, Beeson, Brabbin, Bradley, Brewer, Brittsan, Briner, Brophy, Brower, Burnette, Burns & Williams, Bush.

Carlite, Carlile, Clevenger, Charley, Chase, Clayton, Coleman, Colver, Conner, Crawford, Creel, Cronemiller, and Crum.

Damon, Danforth, Davidson, Dean, DeYoung, Derr, Dingman, Dozier, Duncan, Dunham, Dunn.

Eastman, Eldridge, Erceg, Erickson, Estes.

Fidler, Firestone, Flury, Ford, Foss, Furry.

Ganges, Gardner, Gleim, Goddard, Goin, Gore, Graham, Gray, Gridley, Gimm, Guthmiller.

Hamlin, Hampton, Hanley, Hanscom, Hanson, Harris, Hartley, Haugen, Hawk, Heim, Heiman, Helman, Helms, Hembree, Hendrickson, Herrin, Hewitt, Hill Hollowell, Holton, Holdridge, Hoxie, Hulen, Hummer, Huchinson, Hurley

Inman.

Jacobs, Johnson, Jones, Justus/Justice.

Kane, Kantor, Keays, Kime, Kenyon, Kerby, Krug, Kinser, Kinyon, Klimek/Konecek, Klum, Krulikowski.

Lamb, Lavenberg, Leaming, Lewis, Lowe, Lopspeich, Lubbers, Luna.

Marquess, Marshal, McAbee, McFadden, McColgan, McCord, McKee, McLaughlin, McMahan, Mason, Mathes, Minear, Michalson, Mooney, Morefield, Morrison, Morse, Myers.

Naylor, Netherland, Newbry, Nininger, Niswonger, Nyes.

Ohlund.

Patterson, Payne, Pellett, Powers, Prayton, Price, Pruett.

Quackenbush.

Ragsdale, Ramsey, Rapp, Reames, Redic/Reddick, Renfro, Rhinehart, Rhodes, Riggs, Robbins, Roberts, Robison, Rockfellow, Rodgers, Rogers, Royals Russell.

Saltmarsh, Sanders, Schmidt, Schultz, Schumaker, Scott, Scovotti, Seiber, Settles/Springer, Sherman, Sisley, Slack, Slagle, Smith (Joel/ James B./ Nelson) Sleppy, Snook, Soriano, Spencer (Family/A. L.), Spitzer, Spohn, St. Clair, Stanfield, Stearns, Sterling, Steps, Stenk, Stickler.

Tabor, Talent, Talent, Tanner, Taylor (Herbert/Stephens), Thrash, Thurber, Toon.

Van Blarcom, Vandenberg, Van Dyke, Vining.

Walton, Watson, Webber, Welles, Wells (Edna Beeson/Conger/ William/Wells Family) White, Whitworth, Williams, Wills/Willis, Willets, Walgamott, Walters, Wolff, Woolen, Works, Wrisley, Wyant.

Yap, Yockel.

Individuals who wish to view these materials are invited to visit the museum from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m. (we close at 5:00) Wednesday through Saturday.

Help Wanted! Help Us Identify People in Photographs

The Society has two photographs taken of groups of Talent residents for which we need help with the identification of the individuals.

One is a 1950 something picture of the congregation of the Talent Friends Church. Fifty-two people are pictured standing in front of the church in what appears to be a group photograph of the congregation. Judging from the foliage on the trees and of the clothing on the people, the picture was taken in the summer. One assumes that it was taken right after a meeting for some of the men are wearing suits and ties, but none of

the women are wearing coats, just dresses like they would in the late spring or summer.

The second photograph is of what appears to be the entire student body of the Talent Junior High School. Date 1962-1963. A few of the students have been identified already, but scores of students whose smiling faces appear on the photograph lack known names.

Interestingly enough, the Society has a photograph of the 1898 reunion of Jackson County pioneers, taken in Jacksonville, that has every one of the nearly 200 individuals identified. If any reader can provide names after looking at the two photographs here in the museum, we would be delighted. Open museum hours: 1 to 5 Wednesday to Saturday.

A Few of the Accomplishments of the Society for 2010

About 40 percent of the members of the Talent Historical Society live beyond the mountains that hem in the Rogue River valley. The Society tries to keep the membership informed about the Society with a website (www.talenthistory.org) and with its quarterly newsletter (the Historacle); but even these efforts fail to keep the membership abreast of the activities performed at the Society on their behalf. A list of what was the Society accomplished during 2010 has recently been written and a summary follows:

Website: Since creating a website for the Society, approximately 7,210,000 entries of information about the Talent Historical Society appear on Google. A local firm Wagnercreek.com created the website which is hosted by GoDaddy.

Obituaries: The Reference Library now has four notebooks of Talent area individual obituaries.

Equipment: Secured a new laser printer and a new copier/scanner for less than the cost of repairing an old and broken printer.

Transcription Research: Volunteer transcribers have transcribed into digital format all but one year of the Welborn Beeson diaries. Only the 1893 diary is yet to be transcribed. All of the materials from 1851 to 1892 are housed in the Society Reference Library.

Archives: A. Secured two archivist trainees from the Experience Works program which has increased archival activity to 40 hours weekly at no cost to the Society.

B. Received the original minutes of the Talent Federated Women's Club and its predecessor, the Talent Community Club, dating from 1918 to 2008.

C. Received the 1912 through 1919 diaries of W. J. Dean, from Ben Truwe, who rescued the diaries by purchasing them at a garage sale in Medford. Dean is a significant teacher and member of the Talent area community.

D. Placed photocopies of all known issues of Edward Robison's 1892-1894 Talent News in the Talent Library. The Society has a complete set in its Reference Library.

Reference Library: Arranged books and publications following the advice of a professional librarian, and created both a card file and a computer index for the

materials, and matched cards with the book reference data.

Centennial Activity: A. Created, arranged art work, and secured Centennial Belt Buckles for sale during the 2010 Centennial year at no cost to the Society. Shared the profits with the Boys and Girls Club.

B. Created and sold Centennial T Shirts for the Talent Centennial year. The shirts and belt items were sold both at the Museum and at Tarks' Grocery with all the proceeds returning to the Society.

C. Won first place for the Society float in the Centennial parade held during the Harvest Festival.

Exhibits: Four items: Received and mounted the Brickpile Cabin door; secured the Majestic school stove from Wagner Creek School and refurbished it, creating a permanent exhibit; received on loan a Japanese rifle captured by a Talent relative during World War II on Guam; and finally brought a stored display case to the museum to increase our display capacity.

Personnel: Secured two archivist trainees from Experience Works who each spend 20 hours a week here in the Talent museum. This state program pays the wages for workers over 55, and THS provides archive and accession job training.

Visitors: Welcomed 1218 visitors to the Talent Historical Society Museum this past year from annual meeting to annual meeting.

What Was Going On in Talent 150 Years Ago

Thanks to the literary instincts of pioneer Welborn Beeson, today's residents of Talent can know what happened in January 1861 in this corner of the Rogue River Valley. Beeson's diary is now available here in the Rogue River Valley because the Talent Historical Society secured a grant that brought copies of the Beeson dairies back to Jackson County from the Special Collection at the University of Oregon's Library. Literally scores of small chapbooks had been deposited by the Beeson family with the University of Oregon, and only one year (1853) had ever been available for the average person to read. Today interested Talent residents can see both the handwritten documents and also read printed transcriptions of the dairies at the THS Reference Library.

Following are some of the January events recorded by Welborn Beeson:

January 1861

1: Woodside Farm: Glorious beautiful morning for this time of the year. Mr.

Blackburn and family have moved to Gassburg {Phoenix} so as to send the children to Prof. Roggers school. They live in a little cabin hardly large enough to turn around in...There was a ball at Oatmans last night and a number of the bummers got drunk and cut up considerable.

2: Our wheat is up beautiful and growing nice.

4: I got a Sentential Extra (Jacksonville newspaper) with the President's message.

6: Father...is still on his Indian Mission. Mrs. Hendricks died last night...Mother helped make the shroud.

- 7: I set up all night with Mrs. Hendrix corps {e}....John Robison hauled the coffin and Mr. Hendrix. I followed with the two oldest girls, Lucy and Alice and Mr. and Mrs. Reed. Mr. Holton came next,...we traveled very slow up to Mt. Vernon burial ground. Several buggys {sic} formed the procession, so that by the time we got up to the ground quite a number were present. We buried the remains of Mrs. Hendrix. Mr. Driver, the circuit preacher, sang a hymn and then we returned. Poor Mrs. Hendrix has been sick so long and has suffered so much that they are glad she is out of her misery.
- 13: Mother is now reading the {new} Sentinel. They are having a great Panic in the U. S. Senate about Secession in consequence of the Republican majority in Electing the President Abraham Lincoln. South Carolina has withdrawn from the Union, but I say let her slide. She will soon want to come back.
- 16: ...Little Eugene {neighbor's child} had, during the day, some cork he had broken up into small pieces about the size of a bean and stuck them up his nose. His Mother got two pieces out. While I was there he was taken with a fit of Sneezing, the Dr. {Davis who was visiting} looked and could see a piece of cork away in his nose; he made a pair of tweezers out of one of Alice's hair pins and after some trouble succeeded in extracting a large piece of cork. He then told about his little boy getting a coffee grain in his windpipe and it stayed in for fourteen months. Finally he coughed it up, but it came near strangling him.
- 26: G. Naylor called. I made a bargain with him to saw out our Bill of lumber for a barn . He is to have \$16½ for sawing all the heavy lumber, and \$20 for the wide stuff. He shall want about 17,000 or 18,000 feet.
- 27: We received a Sentinel Extra stating that South Carolina was about to withdraw from the union and Civil War was about to be fire in this once harmonious union. But I guess It will not affect us much away out here.
29. I...went to the Naylor's. Frank is sawing; does pretty well now. I went pass the Eagle Mills to Ashland to see Abe Helman about making out a bill for the barn. He is going to make it out and send it to Gassburg on Friday. Ashland is getting to be quite a nice little village.
30. G. Naylor has been to Ashland. He brought the Barn Bill down that Helman made out . I shall have to go to Ashland tomorrow again.

What is Happening Elsewhere

Greece Aims to Restore the 2500 Year Old Acropolis Theater

The ruined theater under the Acropolis where the classical playwrights had their plays performed will have a partial restoration by 2015. Modern additions to the surviving stone seats will grace the surviving stone seats of the Theater of Dionysos. The theater was first used in the late 6th century B. C. The theater is..."of immense historical significance, as it is here that the great masterpieces of ancient drama were first performed," said architect Constantinos Boletis, the project leader.

Found: 1911 Recipes in Mount Wagner Cook Book

In 1911, the Ladies' Aid Society of the Talent First Methodist Episcopal Church published the Mount Wagner Cook Book. The church organized itself in 1909 and in 1912 erected the present building at 206 West Wagner Street in Talent. One can surmise that the publication of this recipe book was an effort on the part of the ladies of the church to help raise funds for the building.

The Talent Historical Society has an original copy of the Mount Wagner Cook Book and has a photocopy of the entire book placed in its Reference Library. The book has nine sections: Soups (10); Meats (24); Salads (11); Vegetables (9); Bread, Rolls, Etc. (18); Pies; Cakes, Cookies, Puddings (78); Ice Cream and Sherberts (6); Candies (12); and Pickles and Preserves (32).

Altogether the book contains 213 recipes. The number in the parentheses in the preceding paragraph indicates the number of recipes in each section. Periodically, the Historacle will publish one of the recipes. Here is our first one: **Work Hotel Gold Cake**

Ingredients

One half cup butter, 1 cup sugar, yolks of 6 eggs, 2 cups flour, half teaspoon salt, one heaping teaspoon of baking powder, grated rind and strained juice of one large orange.

Directions

Mix dry ingredients, cream the butter and sugar; add well-beaten egg yolks, orange rind and juice and the flour. Bake in shallow pan in moderate oven.

It will be up to the cook to determine "moderate" for these cooks used wood stoves. It will also be up to the cook to determine the amount of time needed to bake the Gold Cake.

Here is a list of the last names of the women whose recipes are included in the rare book: Boardwell, Boyden, Clemmens, Brown, Dayton, Deeter, DuClos, Evans, Fielder, Forbes, Gilkey, Haskins, Heard, Hester, Holdridge, Hungate, Jeffery, Johnson, Jones, Kitching, Lawton, Lemery, Lundsford, Lundy, Luke, Matteson, McPherson, Merriman, Mulit, O'Gara, Price, Rice, Rorer, Smith, Stratton, Tryer, Vopgeli, Way, and Wood.

The Work Hotel also provided several recipes

Individuals who wish to look at the photocopy of the book can do so by using the Reference Library at the Museum.

Incidentally, for those who wish to use our Reference Library here is a bit of info: Use is free. The materials cannot leave the Museum. We now have a card catalog that matches the book numbers, to make finding the books on the shelves relatively easy. Some of the areas covered that seem to attract users are these: Talent History Articles; Mining in Southern Oregon; Talent Obituaries; Jackson County Rebellion 1930s; and the Childers/Lacy Abstracts of Old Jackson County Newspapers.

Photographic Archives Are Growing Quickly

The photographic collection of Talent area photographs that now is housed in the Society computer has grown to more than 3300 donated photos. While the Society does have several scrapbooks of regular photographs, the Board decided some time ago that the collection ought to be digitalized, thereby solving several problems. The first problem solved was that of storage space; the second of photo availability for those who might want copies; and the third provides convenience to those who want to share their precious pictures but want to keep them as family treasures (the owner can keep the originals).

Currently, visitors to the museum can watch a series of historic photographs of greater Talent on a television set located in the main room. Using a disk loaded with the digital photographs and a CD player scores of photographs pop up on the screen. This presentation mode is still being perfected by the Society, for some of the photos lack captions. Eventually that problem will be solved.

Individuals who have old photographs of past activities, reunions, celebrations, athletic teams, family groups, local landscapes, etc. are urged to drop by the museum (105 N. Market Street) and discuss making their photographs part of the historical collection. The museum is open 1 to 5 Wednesdays through Saturdays, but special arrangements are possible at other times by appointment (call 541-512-8838.)

Below is the William Abbot sawmill---one of our stored photographs.



Located five miles up Wagner Creek, this mill cut logs in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Earlier Granville Naylor operated a waterwheel driven mill up Wagner Creek using a vertical saw rather than a circular saw. The Abbott mill was powered by a steam engine. By November 1879 Jackson County had seventeen sawmills which collectively cut 60,000 board feet of lumber daily.

Yup! Today Times Have Indeed Changed in the Lumber World!

Renewing and New Memberships

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Frederick Berger | Joan J. Dean | Mary A. Delsman | Margay Barrity |
| Alicia Moore | Brian Roberts | John Rockfellow | Bruce D. Snook |
| Charlotte Beeson Toon | Ben Truwe | Georgelyn Van Note | |

Family Memberships

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jim Bradley | George & Coleen Baylor | Robert & Carol Delsman |
| Robert & Darlene Ditsworth | Grail & Phyllis Douglas | Chuck & Colleen Eccleston |
| Lillian Fullerton | Bud & Mary Gleim | Cecil & Lysa Gore |
| Dwayne Guthrie | William & Shelia Horton | Steve Isaacson |
| Daniel & Linda Jackson | Ron & Stella Medinger | Dick & Shirl Phillips |

Billy & Ruth Slack

New Baby Memberships

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Karl & Jennifer Carstensen | Kyle & Christina Cousins | Tim & Kara Dougherty |
| Jordan & Maythe Saturen | | |

Business Sponsorships

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Betsey Dial Mills | Ralph & Margaret Hunkins | George Kramer |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|

Several of those renewing their memberships were generous and donated additional dollars to the tightened budget of the Society. Happily, our fiscal world is in the black--which has been a real problem for the 13 Jackson County historical societies and similar organizations since county tax dollars have been withdrawn from the support of historical preservation—a support that had existed since 1948 and that year's vote that dedicated tax revenues for the preservation of Southern Oregon's history.

Talent Historical Society
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Operations Reports Added to Internet Historicals

Members who receive the Historical over the Internet will notice that you will have received an email copy of the monthly Operations Report that is prepared for the members of the Talent Historical Society Board of Directors. While the Historical newsletter provides information about the activities and the interests of the Society, the monthly Operations Report goes into considerable detail about the day to day efforts of the Society to meet its mission “to acquire and to preserve human historical objects and artifacts, real or personal property, material, data and other records of interest to, or in conjunction with, the history of the City of Talent, Oregon, and the surrounding community.”

The Board believes that the more the members of the Society know about what is actually done at the Museum, more local history will be preserved for future generations, and that more individuals will engage in this common and mutual undertaking. Thereby more important items like documents, letters, diaries, oral histories, family histories, photographs and exhibit artifacts will either be given to the Society or loaned for display to the community at large.

If a member, after looking at the Operations Report given to the Board this month, does not wish to receive further monthly issues, just drop us an email and we will no longer send it to you.



Hanscom Hall: former IOOF lodge on missing top floor, old Talent Cafe, post office, antique store, bakery, pottery studio, now Total Picture at 201 Talent Avenue. Built 1906