

# **The Historacle**

**April 2011**

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



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## **Vanita Daley's 1948 Review of Rogue Valley History**

### **Focused on Small Towns and Early Localities** (written in 1948)

Starting at the southern end of the Rogue River valley below Ashland, we have: Talent. That community was first settled for farming by donation claims extending from just north of Ashland, west to Wagner creek and to the foothills on the opposite side of Bear creek, (first called "Mary's river," then "Stewart creek" and finally "Bear creek.")

The town was first called "Wagner" after Wagner House, built there in 1853 by Jacob Wagner who came to the creek named for him in 1852. among the settlers who came in 1853 were John P. Walker (nearest Ashland), D. P. Brittain, Welborn Beeson, John Holton, and Samuel M. Robison, Later G. H. Lynch (1869), William Patton (1874) and George F. Pennebaker (1879) came. In 1875 A. P. Talent came. The present townsite was platted by Talent in 1880, in honor of whom the name was then changed. The town's development came about 1884 when it became a railroad station.

#### **Phoenix Was Gasburg**

Phoenix, on Bear creek, was early nicknamed "Gasburg." It was settled in the fall of 1851 by Samuel B. Colver who took up 640 acres in a donation landclaim. The following summer his brother, Hiram, came, bringing the families of both and took up another 640 acres adjoining Samuel. In 1852 Samuel D. Van Dyke, Matthew Little, E. E. Gore, O. D. Hoxie, Dr. George Kahler and Edwin Morgan came. In 1853 James Sterling, John and H. M. Coleman, George T. Vining, C. S. Sergent, James P. Burns, W. Lynch, Mathes, Harry and Harvey Oatman, Milton Lindley, James R. and Thomas R. Reames, Louis A. Rose and Stephen Clark Taylor (four miles northeast) settled there. In 1854 Frederick Barneburg came. He had a government recipe for making oxen shoes.

In 1854 the townsite was laid out on Samuel Colver's land. The same year Milton Lindley built a flour mill. In 1855 S. M. Wait built a water-power driven flour mill on land donated by Colver. Later Wait left for Washington, turning his mill property over to E. d. Foudray, who built a new building and dug a mill race. That mill's owners thereafter were: William Hess, James T. Glenn, E. D. Foudray, G. H. Wimer, the Grangers and P. W. Olwell.

**(see continuation on page five)**

## March Was Women's History Month

2

Women's History Month is an annual declared month worldwide that highlights contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. March has been set aside as this month in the United Kingdom and in the United States. In India, this month is celebrated in October and corresponds with the celebration of Persons Day, which is October 18.

The event traces its beginnings back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. In 1981, responding to the growing popularity of the event, the United States Congress passed a resolution recognizing Women's History Week. This week was well received, and soon after, schools across the country began to have their own local celebrations. The next year, leaders from the Sonoma, California group shared their project at the Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants not only became determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, but also agreed to support an effort to have Congress declare a national Women's History Month.

Maryland, Pennsylvania, Alaska, New York, Oregon and other states developed and distributed curriculum materials in all of their public schools, which prompted educational events such as essay contests. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities got on the bandwagon of National Women's History Week. They planned engaging and stimulating programs about women's roles in history and society, with support and encouragement from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

In 1987 Congress expanded the focus to a whole month. In 2001, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland) co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution proclaiming a "Women's History Month". Soon, other state departments of education began to encourage celebrations of National Women's History Week as a way to promote equality among the sexes in the classroom.

### **SPECIAL SHOWING AND PRESENTATION—Iron Jawed Angels**

On Saturday, April 23, 2011, the Talent Historical Society and the Friends of the Talent Library are sponsoring a special showing of the film "The Iron Jawed Angels." The film is based on the historical confrontation between a group of dedicated suffragists and the police of Washington, D. C. in 1917. Picketing in front of the White House for the right of women to vote, the picketers were arrested for "obstructing traffic" and sentenced to the Occoquan Workhouse for 60-day terms where they suffered poor conditions, their hunger strikers were force fed, and physically beaten and mistreated. Dr. Deltra Fergusson, coordinator of the Women's Resource Center at Southern Oregon University, will introduce the 2004 Emmy-winning film. The film received a standing ovation at the Sundance Film Festival. Free-- 2:00 p. m. in the Library 23 March. Light Refreshments available.

## **Other Community Uses of the THS Museum Space--- Association with Camelot Theatre and Talent Food Bank**

For over two years, Camelot Theatre has been using the open floor space in the Talent Historical Society museum as a practice area. When the stage at the Theatre is having a new set built, or when a show is currently in process, the Theatre uses the Society space as its actors and dancers create the next show to be mounted in the theater itself. This arrangement has been highly satisfactory to both parties. Camelot has given the Society about \$200 monthly for the use of the space, and the Society transfers those funds to the lease payment to the City of Talent for the building which the city owns. Some of those funds are also used for the utilities that provide water, sewage, and heat or cooling to the museum itself.

As most of readers of this quarterly are no doubt aware, the historical societies in all of Jackson county, some 13 separate societies, have all been deeply affected by the withdrawal of the tax money that voters in 1948 had dedicated for historical purposes. The most obvious impact of this decision by the county commissioners has fallen on the Southern Oregon Historical Society and the county owned buildings in Jacksonville. However, local community historical societies across Jackson county have also been negatively impacted by the withdrawal of these funds--funds that have sustained historical research and preservation here in Southern Oregon for over 62 years. This action by the county budget committee and the commissioners forced our Society to release our excellent museum director, Jan Wright, to the uncertain employment conditions of Jackson County. Luckily for all of us, she still lives in Talent and has been extremely generous with her volunteer services to the Society.

The museum also houses the Talent Food Bank whose space in the northeast corner of the museum has been dedicated to them by the City of Talent. The Food Bank, through the county-wide Access program, provides food, to Talent area residents who qualify, weekly on Thursdays from 2:00 p. m. to 6:00 p. m. Local residents provide additional food resources. Some local gardeners bring in excess crops, and residents of the Talent area also contribute non-perishable commodities, using a program similar to the one that operates in the city of Ashland. Recent statistics indicate that approximately 35 families use these food resources each week to supplement their diets. However, each person who relies on the food bank can only utilize the Food Bank twelve times a year.

### **Talent Garden Club Seeks More Members**

The current members of the Talent Garden Club, meeting usually at 10:00 A. M. on the first Saturday of each month, are looking for new members. Residents interested in beautification of their homes and gardens are urged to call Sharon Anderson at 541-535-9055 for the next meeting place. Meetings are always open to the public, too.

## *Ray's Market in Talent in 1933*

Ray Schumacher and his wife opened this market in Talent in 1933 at the height of the depression. Ray's efforts to promote his first grocery and butcher shop led him to contact Mae Lowe and ask her to write a news letter called Ray's News Flash. That began Lowe's journalistic career which culminated in the publication of the Talent News Flash, a mimeographed newspaper for Talent that was published from 1934 to 1987. The Talent Historical Society has a nearly complete set of this newspaper in its collection



thanks to the efforts of Alice Burnette, who helped Mae with the publication for years. That donation provides the most complete week by week history of Talent for about fifty three years---a priceless donation for anyone wishing to know more about Talent.

### **First Humans in North America Date Pushed Further Back**

Finds in Oregon and Texas indicate that humans arrived on the North American continent 2500 years earlier than thought. The human coprolite fossils found in a cave near Paisley, Oregon (coprolite is fossilized dung) and artifacts recently unearthed near Salado, Texas, show that humans were in those two places prior to 15,500 years ago--some 2500 years earlier than the famous Clovis culture. (That culture's unique arrowheads have been found as close to us as Ashland.)

So when native American tribal members, like the Klamath, claim they have been in Oregon for over 10,000 years, that claim has a ring of authenticity. Michael Waters, director of the Center for the Study of First Americans at Texas A & M University, says that the recent Texas find has unearthed "...the biggest assemblage of pre-Clovis material, the biggest variety of artifacts..." found to date.

Researchers from Texas A&M have found that the Salado area was almost continuously inhabited for 15,000 years. The researchers uses a luminescence dating technique to determine the date of the artifacts found in the water sediments. Since ice sheets covered Canada at this time, apparently these people came from Asia by water .

Harvey Oatmen built the first hotel. Henry Church and H. B. Oatman were the first merchants. Judge Orange Jacobs was an early juvenile teacher and lawyer. Jephtha Davison settled northwest of the town in 1859, and in 1860 came Samuel Furry, Wallace T. G. Bishop (2 miles north) and C. Kleinhammer.

In February 1861 placer diggings were opened nearby. For a while it threatened to rival Jacksonville's activities. The total yield of the Coleman and Reames mines was \$170,000.

During 1864 Phoenix enjoyed a period of prosperity and progress. It was the home of lawyers, doctors, artisans, and merchants. It had four dry goods stores, one hardware store, three blacksmith shops, two flour mills, a shoe store, a school, three hotels, several boarding houses, four saloons, and a livery stable. A church was begun by the Methodists and Presbyterians jointly in 1862. The population then was about 300, not including a number of miners camped nearby and the military garrison at Camp Baker.

### **Camp Baker**

During the War of the Rebellion {note: called by Confederates The War for Southern Independence} the government made arrangements for the formation of several regiments of troops to garrison the various military posts, even though that affair was far removed from this part of the United States.

Southern Oregon's quota was four companies whose duties were to repress Indian affairs, maintain general law and order, and supervise the building of important military roads {note: Camp Baker's location also allowed the troops to keep an eye on secessionist leaning Jacksonville}. R. F. Maury was commissioned lieutenant colonel with recruiting headquarters in Jacksonville in 1861. He raised the First Regiment of Oregon Volunteer Cavalry.

“The Mountain Rangers.” Company A. First Regiment, First Brigade of the Oregon Militia {note: organized in Ashland} included Captain A. D. Helman, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ivan Applegate; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Welborn Beeson. Others were Wallter Myers, Frank Applegate, Thomas Osburne, Minus Walker, John Grubb and Walter Baldwin {note: apparently Ms. Daley left out Oliver Applegate, for he appears in a photograph of the Mountain Rangers which is in the Talent Historical Society collection of photos.}.

### **Baker Guards Formed**

“The Camp Baker Guards” named in honor of Senator Baker of Oregon included Captain Thomas S. Harris, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Jesse Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant J. W. Hopkins, and others totaling 80 men. They were station at a blockhouse at Camp Baker near Phoenix.

“The Jackson Rangers” with Captain Sewall Truax, did service on the upper Columbia and Snake rivers until their discharge. They were mainly residents of Jackson county {note: some were from Douglas county}.

Lindsay Applegate's company of 42, mounted and armed, patrolled the old Emigrant road district and helped with the construction of the Military road which was

built through rough mountain terrain from Fort Klamath via Four-Mile Lake, 6  
Cat Hill, and down Big Butte creek to Brownsboro, then to the valley and Jacksonville.  
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and down Big Butte creek to Brownsboro, thence to the valley and Jacksonville.

Only short, picturesque sections of this old road surprise the present-day hunters  
and mountaineers who occasionally stumble upon it in darkened, over-grown forests.  
Likewise, all evidence of the existence of Camp Baker is now gone, save the name of  
the present day road leading westward out of Phoenix, along which the Crater Lake  
Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution has placed a small sign and a red-leafed  
plum tree marking the site in a vineyard.

West of Phoenix is Coleman creek, named for the Coleman family, early settlers  
there . Northwest, nearly west of Talent, is Anderson creek, named for the Anderson  
family. East of Phoenix, across Bear creek is Fern valley, named for the Fern family  
who settled there; and the high sandstone rim along that side of the valley is Payne's  
Cliff or Bluff, named for C. T. Payne who located under them in 1868. Prehistoric,  
petrified logs and broken chunks of petrified wood are exposed in the Payne bluff and  
the Beeson cliffs, nearby.

## **Gleanings from a 1915 edition of the Ashland Tidings**

**“Talent Tidings” section. Our photocopy did not have month or date  
however it had to be in early January Comments added appear in parentheses.**

The Talent correspondent was a Miss Alice Vandersluis who then could be  
reached at the Vanderluis & Burgan store in Talent.

The Talent Methodist Church pastor was a Rev. Adams, and the Epworth League  
held a party.

The Talent Theatre was running Creation pictures this week, free of charge to  
the public. Their regular show was displayed prior to the free program.

Note that Talent had a motion picture theatre in 1915.

Will Gleim (whose descendants still live in Talent) was “burned quite badly last  
Monday afternoon while putting a cap in gopher holes. It exploded and  
burned Mr. Gleim's face and arms.

Miss Grace Hanscom (Hanscoms still live here)who was running the Talent  
Bakery closed it down for some unspecified length of time.

On December 31, the Talent Post Office moved from the Luke residence on the  
Pacific Highway (now Talent Avenue) to the Ames building (which was  
located near present Tark's Market) and Charles A. Brown, the local Talent  
druggist, will become the postmaster. Miss Grace Hanscom (the former  
baker) will become his assistant. Continued on the next page

On Thursday and Friday evening, the whole town of Talent (which was lighted by  
electricity in 1915) was darkened due to a fire below Ashland which  
destroyed the power house.

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This scrap of newsprint from the Ashland Tidings certainly indicated how newspaper journalism has changed. The two columns from the Talent correspondent occupied two complete 44 inch columns in the Ashland paper...and in those 88 inches of print over 119 individuals were listed by name and activity. And due to the condition of the page available over seven inches of the 88 inch total could not be read and those missing inches apparently had high school sports teams names mentioned. How different from today!

## **Thousands of Languages Appear Doomed**

Half of the world's almost 7,000 remaining languages may disappear during this century. That means that 3500 rare languages, like our local Takelma tongue, will die out. A language is considered extinct when the last person who learned it as his or her primary language dies. Last month, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched an online atlas of endangered languages.

Hot spots where languages are the most endangered include Siberia, northern Australia, and the North American Pacific Northwest. To find out more about this, computer users can simply google up Atlas of Endangered Languages, and the appropriate UNESCO website will appear on your computer screen.

## **Rural Free Delivery Mail Service Changed Rural America**

On July 1, 1902, after six or so years of limited experimentation, the U. S. Postal Service began nationwide rural free delivery of mail. The postal service standardized the size of roadside mailboxes, and ushered in a whole new world of opportunity for residents of rural America, including Jackson County, Oregon.

For the first time in the nation's history, country folk across the nation had their mail and packages delivered to roadside boxes. The rise of mail order catalog purchasing like that provided by Sears & Roebuck or Montgomery Ward allowed rural residents to buy items much more cheaply than those same items were being sold by local merchants. And there were thousands of more items than those which were provided by the merchants in the thousands of American small towns.

Talent Historical Society just unearthed a tattered copy of a June 1907 Post Card Magazine published by the Northwest Post Card Union, printed by the Hull Printing Company of Medford, Oregon. For besides impacting the purchasing and distribution system of America, rural free delivery increased the number of post offices and spawned the picture post card communication system.

Hull Printing Company created a club which sent and exchanged picture postcards; and the contents of the one magazine THS possesses shows that this local picture cardclub had members from nearly a score of states across the nation. Our one copy lists members from Washington, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Alaska, Oklahoma Territory, and Texas--though most of the members were from from the Southern Oregon area.

Talent Historical Society only has seen one copy of this rare club's booklet. Perhaps there are others floating around or buried in the attics of Jackson County. In any event, THS museum is pleased to have this one copy, but would certainly like to see our copy have a companion.

## **Digging in the Dusty Attics Occasionally Find Gold**

While the Society's Post Card Magazine does not seem particularly valuable, older historical societies occasionally really hit pay dirt. The Berwick Historical Society in Pennsylvania found a dusty, long-ignored copy of Benjamin Franklin's 18<sup>th</sup> century "Poor Richard Almanac" on their shelves a few months ago, and not knowing if it were authentic, decided to find out if it could be an original. It was.

A year ago this past June, the answer came from the famous Sotheby's auction house, where an anonymous bidder paid \$556,500 for the 1733 edition, the second-highest price ever paid for a book in America. Berwick is a town of about 10,000 some 75 miles northwest of Philadelphia where thousands of copies of Poor Richard were first printed. Only three copies of the 1733 publication are known to exist. "We are on our second bottle of champagne," the historical board president said while returning from the auction in New York City.

## **J. W. Briner: The Man Whose Work Named The Brickpile Cabin High in the Siskiyou**

When James W. Briner died on June 30, 1930, the correspondent for Wagner Creek, Mrs. W. R. Lamb, as the correspondent for Wagner Creek, wrote the following lines in her column for the Medford Daily News on July 6, 1930.

"J. W. Briner, more familiarly known as 'Jim' Briner, passed away Monday, June 30, at the Community hospital in Ashland, where he was taken a week ago. He was never married. He followed mining all of his life until the last few years. He would have been 75 years of age October 28, having been born October 28, 1855.

"Mr. Briner came across the plains with his parents at the age of five years, landing in Yreka, California from Iowa, where they lived for one year, coming on to this valley, where he grew to manhood, and followed mining, going to Beaver and Hungry creek for 20 years or more, coming back twice a year for supplies.

"He lived many years at the Sam Robison and E. K. Anderson homes. Later in life he lived at several different homes in this locality, the last three years at the home of his nephew, Everette Beeson.

"He had been in poor health for some time.

"Mr. Briner was a great friend of one of Mrs. Beeson's children whose birthday came in October as his did, which pleased the old gentleman very much.

"The funeral will be held at Wagner Creek Cemetery {now called the Stearns Cemetery}, Saturday, at 2:00 p. m. Conger Funeral Parlors are in charge of the arrangements."

Visitors to the Talent Historical Society Museum will note that there is a picture of Jim Briner in the Brickpile Cabin exhibit. Briner was the man who found a bed of red clay on the Little Applegate river, built a kiln, made bricks, hauled them up by burro back to the Robison/Beeson homestead located at the Cinnebar Trail crossing of the Little Applegate and made a brick fireplace for the new cabin being built there in 1903. It was extra bricks left by the gate to the homestead that caused that new cabin owned by Everette Beeson to be called the Brickpile Cabin.

Years later, after cattlemen, hunters and others carved names and put brands on the door of the cabin located at 3250 in elevation (that is carved into the door, too!), that the door was removed and has been stored in a barn on Foss Road for years. The Brickpile Cabin is long gone, only a memory now, except for pictures; and in this case the Museum in Talent, has the door and a shingle from this storied cabin mounted on exhibit for visitors to inspect.

Come by the museum, and take a look at it, and the pictures of the Brickpile Cabin. We are right between the Community Hall and the Public Library.

### **THS Reference Library: Great Place for Research**

The Talent Historical Society has a Reference Library which focuses on Jackson County history. The Society, located at 105 N. Market Street in Talent, is open Wednesday through Saturday 1:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m.

Some of the more unique items housed in the Society library include copies of the Talent News published from 1892 to 1894; the complete diaries of Welborn Beeson 1851-1893; the Childers and Lacy transcriptions of early Jackson county newspapers; and a nearly complete collection of the biweekly Talent News Flash published from 1934 to 1987.

The Reference Library archives also house Upper Bear Creek Valley family data; a collection of Jackson County vital statistics---marriages, births, divorces; thirty-one boxes of archival documents and articles ranging from local Native American history to mining activity, in addition to Talent area community organizations and businesses. The Society also has a collection of historical photographs of the Talent area (some 3500), and biographies, obituaries and diaries of Upper Bear Creek Valley residents.

Researchers may use the library free of charge. For more information phone: 541-512-8838.

### **Pacific University First Established in 1842**

Oregon's Pacific University is the oldest chartered university in the West. The Oregon Territorial Legislature granted its original charter as the Tualatin Academy on Sept. 26, 1849. The charter predates statehood by 10 years, and was the first formal act of the territorial government. Although the University was officially founded in 1842, it was not chartered until 1849. It created the state's first law school in 1883, and the first school of medicine in 1866-67. It has always been located in Forest Grove, Oregon.

**New and Renewing Memberships:**

<b>Bud &amp; Mary Louise Gleim</b>	<b>Terry Maxson</b>	<b>Carolyn Rutledge</b>
<b>Ron &amp; Stella Medinger</b>	<b>Lilian Fullerton</b>	<b>Dwayne Guthrie</b>
<b>Robert &amp; Darlene Ditsworth</b>	<b>Billy &amp; Ruth Slack</b>	<b>Joan J. Dean</b>
<b>Robert &amp; Carol Delsman</b>	<b>Daniel &amp; Linda Jackson</b>	<b>Steve Issacson</b>

**Business Sponsorships:**

<b>Ralph &amp; Margaret Hunkins</b>	<b>Liz Carter</b>	<b>Gary Rockfellow</b>
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**Donations & Sales this Quarter Totalled \$955.00 We Thank---**

<b>Joan J. Dean</b>	<b>Billy &amp; Ruth Slack</b>	<b>Katherine Harris</b>
<b>Pat Bentley</b>	<b>Robert &amp; Carol Delsman</b>	<b>Kenneth Brew</b>
<b>Carolyn Rutledge</b>	<b>Lynn &amp; Charlotte Newbry</b>	

**Gift Shop Sales totaled \$44.00***Talent Historical Society**105 North Market Street**P. O. Box 582,**Talent, Oregon 97540*

