About a year ago, I completed a Kickstarter campaign to fund a writing project. Since that time, I have written a book with the above title which will be available in September. Those who donated $100 or more to the crowdfunding campaign will receive a free signed copy either in the mail or by picking it up at the Talent Museum. The book will also be on sale at the Talent Historical Society and other outlets and at Lulu.com for on-line book orders. The October Harvest Festival in Talent will be a perfect time to get your copy of the book as well.

Having never written a book of this size before, I found myself in uncharted territory. But with the goodwill and backing of so many kind and generous people, gratitude pushed me forward. I learned by doing and would do it again if I didn’t have to get back to work at a regular job. (I am on the job market so if you know of any openings, let me know.)

With an accumulation of over 20 years-worth of research, I felt a bit like the woman in the Rumpelstiltskin fairy tale who had to spin a roomful of straw into gold. I interviewed Beeson relatives, collected information and photographs from libraries and archives, went on research trips to Illinois and Washington, D.C., found dozens of internet sources, and even consulted with a psychic to help me do justice to John Beeson’s story.

As one of Oregon’s first civil rights activists, Beeson’s career on behalf of the
The Talent Historical Society researches and preserves the history of the Talent area in Southern Oregon. We offer a collection of historical archives to help local residents and visitors become better acquainted with our area’s rich history.

We are members of the Jackson County Heritage Association; a group of heritage nonprofits dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Southern Oregon’s cultural history.

We operate a museum and meeting place located at:

105 North Market Street
Talent, Oregon

The museum is open Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

General Business Address:
P.O. Box 582
Talent, OR 97540

Phone Number: (541) 512-8838
Email: info@talenthistory.org
Web Page: www.talenthistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/talenthistory/

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Editor/layout:
Belinda Klimek Vos

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### Memberships since Last Issue

#### New Members:
- Eric Chavez
- Michael Myers
- Strahl Family
- Charlotte Wilson
- Renewed from Family to Family Lifetime Membership:
  - Jim Bradley & Patricia Remencuis

#### Renewals:
- Pat & Donna Bond
- Cherie Brooks
- Leona Wobbe
- Noni Eaton
- Colleen & Chuck Eccleston
- Jim & Marguerite Schellentrager
- Charles Noble & Louise Downing
- Paula & James Mixson
- Marie Morehead
- Chuck Zickefooze
- Otto King
- Julie Chambers Sweet
- Doris A. Myers
- Grail & Phyllis Douglas
- Willow McCloud & Ryon Nauth

#### Renewing Business Members:
- Umpqua Bank

#### Renewing Business Sponsorships:
- Green Valley Wellness
- Medi-Cap Pharmacy
- Llyod M. Haines

#### Lifetime Memberships:
- Marla Cates & Jan Ritter
- Bud & MaryLouise Gleim
- Edwin McManus & Family
- George Kramer
- Matt & Antoinette Lichtenstein
- Lunette Gleason-Fleming
- John Wahl
- Janice A. Napoleon
- Margay Garrity
- Al Nijenhuis
- Michael Mills
- Jack Latvala
- Wanda Perdue
- Poppie Beveridge
- Brent Thompson

#### Additional Donation:
- Marie Morehead
- Leona Wobbe

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### Albuquerque

#### Honorary Lifetime Memberships
- Bob Casebeer
- Jan Wright
- Susan Moulder
- Katherine Harris
President’s Message
by Ron Medinger

Last issue I ended my message by saying you could volunteer at the Talent Historical Society and make a difference in your town. This issue I want to thank someone who has done just that.

Jan Wright is the current Secretary and Historian for the THS Board of Directors. Jan has worked tirelessly over many years to maintain the historical integrity of our society. She has been a guiding light for many of us who do what we can to protect and support Talent’s historical society. This town is that much the better for Jan’s presence, dedication and effort.

You will read elsewhere in this issue about the fruition of Jan’s latest project, a book on one of Talent’s most interesting and intriguing early citizens, John Beeson. As a matter of fact, John didn’t live to see Talent become the City of Talent, but he certainly left his imprint on local lore and Jan is here to tell his story. Once again, keeping Talent history alive.

We all owe a huge thank you to Jan Wright!

Tuesday Evening at the Museum

The Talent Historical Society continues its series of presentations held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Talent resident, Matt Witt specializes in fine art, nature, and social justice photography and gave a wonderful presentation on July 24th. His photographs were truly breathtaking and showed beautiful images of our area.

On August 28th, Jan Wright gave an interesting presentation on historic buildings in Talent that was enjoyed by all.

We are hosting a unique presentation on Sept. 25th when Maureen Batistella’s talk entitled “Poop, Piss and Spit” - How the Sanitarians Saved Lives in 1927 Southern Oregon” will be given.

And be sure and join us on October 23rd when Jan Wright will entertain us with her experiences writing the new John Beeson book. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at that time, and Jan can personally sign a copy for you.

The program for our November 27th talk will be announced at a later date.

On Dec. 18th we will host our traditional Holiday Social and Annual Meeting. Please note that because of the holiday date, it will be held on the 3rd Tuesday instead of the 4th. More details to come in the December newsletter.

All talks are held at our museum at 105 North Market Street, Talent, unless otherwise noted. The meetings are free and open to the public, and you need not be a member to attend.

Talent Harvest Festival & Open House

Talent’s annual Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, October 6th this year. This popular event showcases the best of Talent and is always a fun day.

As is our tradition, the Talent Historical Society will have an entry in the parade which starts at 10:00 am. After the parade, our museum at 105 N. Market St. will be open. Many of the day’s activities and entertainment are held in an adjacent area.

We would like to invite everyone to stop by and see us and view all the work that has been done on the Museum over the past year. New flooring, signage and a general renovation have improved and updated our facility tremendously.

Also, our own Mr. and Ms. Talent Tomato will be circulating in the crowd after the parade handing out free raffle tickets. Tickets will also be available at the Museum where all tickets need to be turned in. A drawing will be held at 4:00. Books, t-shirts and more will be raffled off.

Also at the Museum, Jan Wright will have her new John Beeson book available and she will be signing copies.

So come on down and join the fun. See our new improvements, enter a free drawing and enjoy an old fashioned Talent festival!!

Photo of our new flooring, paint and updated exhibits.
October 1975

NOTICES

Hallowe’en Carnival
Talent and Phoenix Elementary Schools
Friday, October 31 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Sponsored by PTA. Fish Pond, Dart Game, Wheel of Fortune, Hot Dogs, Cotton Candy, Punch and Popcorn and lots lots more weird old fun time things.

Dissatisfied Taxpayers Association
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Jackson County Courthouse Auditorium
Open to public. All interested persons urged to attend.

Daylight Saving Time Ends Oct. 26
Oct. 25 set your clock back one hour before retiring. At 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time ends. When you get up Sunday morning, the sun will be up, too.

A Warning for Buyers of Cord Wood
A cord contains 128 cubic feet and it measures four feet by four feet by eight feet. Be sure you measure before you pay $40.00 for a cord of wood that’s only half there.

Wet Week End
Both ends of Talent were inundated with water over the Oct. 11 weekend. A leak in the water line on Foss Road sent a broad stream of water across the road. It was repaired Monday but the safety fence is still up to keep motorists out of the hole that is still soft.

Down by the Lithia Drive In on Creel Lane a Calif. Motorist with no insurance and no money according to a city employee hit a fire hydrant in the wee small hours. It broke off and before the water was brought under control the city lost nearly a tank (250,000 gallons) of water. City employees were called the next morning, but since only one was on duty and the rest out of town not much could be done to repair the pipe immediately. But Talent’s leaks have been repaired and hopefully will stay that way.

If You Don’t Like What’s Going On In The Upper Echelon Write

AROUND TOWN with Mal
While cruising the area and discussing local issues, we discovered that Don McKenzie has moved his appliance dept. to a new BLUE bld. Behind the other BLUE building where you can find all kinds of used furniture. Some lovely old furniture and also some newer items... as we wandered down the road, we also met a man, who did not wish to over advertise because he once took out and ad (in another paper I hasten to assure you) and he got so much work, he couldn't do it all and so got into lots of trouble. Which only goes to show that it pays to advertise if you want lots of work.

That day we also met the new owner of the Talent Shell Service, Allan Cotton, who is a nice young man and who we think will be an asset to the town.

Les, the Barber had a roomful of people when we stopped in there to get his ad.

Sybil at the Drive In Market said that Don was still not back at work after undergoing Back surgery.

Nell Culver has been entertaining her uncle Harry Bolen from Wisconsin. Mr. Bolen has been visiting his brother and other relatives in the valley.
Bubbles in Roof

Because of “bubbles” developing in the roofs on the new buildings at Phoenix and Talent Elementary Schools, the board, with the advice of the architects and school attorneys, is withholding $140,000 payment. The fault apparently lies in the material manufacture and not with the installation, according to Supt. Anthony Scafani.

We have a bank in town but it’s only open Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 11 a.m. No working person could get in at that time and few housewives. BY the time a housewife gets the house cleaned up and the kids off for school or vice versa; the bank has closed up and moved out of Talent.

City To Send Out Survey

City has agreed to inclusion of a confidential housing survey sheet in city water bills. R. Soderberg asked that it be taken to meet Land Cons. & Devel. Comm. Goals on housing. The survey, which does not need a signature, asks questions on adequacy of present housing, a description of the housing and income level of the owner.

**********

And it will be a long cold day in some undesignated month before I answer this which is nobody’s business.

Shot in Arm While Hunting

Ricard A. Baker, 35, 236 Old Pacific Hwy, Talent, told deputies Oct. 9, he was shot in the upper left arm about 8:15 a.m. while hunting in the Applegate area.

Backer, who drove himself to Rogue Valley Hospital for treatment, told deputies he was hunting in thick brush when he heard a shot and immediately felt some pain in his arm. He told deputies he couldn’t see anybody else in the area.

Hospitalized

Mrs. Emma Norris is hospitalized with a bad knee. She is a patient at Rogue Valley Memorial Hospital.

Finally We’re Bicentennial

After four rejected applications, Talent has been designated a bicentennial city.

In a letter accompanying the fifth application, City Recorder Jan Anders wrote: “We hope we have not been too great a disappointment to you, however, the American Revolution took place because of too many government decisions. Perhaps there are a few too many in the certification process which defeats the true bicentennial theme.”

The letter was mailed July 21. Either the comment or the application had all its little spaces filled, because the regional American Bicentennial Administration, in Seattle, has decided to include Talent on the bicentennial roster.

COMMENT I wonder how many Am. Revolutionary fighters there would have been if it had taken 5 applications in triplicate to get on the Minuteman roster. Regarding this, I didn’t notice any of the “boys” who served in the armed forces from WWI on having to fill out all these forms to get in. Personally I think any American town is a Bicentennial town.

Visits Mother

Owen Bates, Chico, Calif. Has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Sylvia Bates.
Follow our Facebook page for the latest news and updates from the Talent Historical Society. And thanks to our 349 followers!!!

As always, we share the posts of Welborn Beeson’s diary from 150 years ago (1868).

The summer begins with Welborn having problems with bears attacking his livestock.

June 1st Monday. the Bear’s four in number came down and tore the fence down in a number of places, and scared my hogs very much, and I am afraid caught some them. I went to the Election and was appointed clerk with Frank Merrill. Hoxie, Root, & Oliver Judges, there were 120 votes polled the republicans had about 24 majority, but I don’t care which party gain the day, I have nothing at stake whatever. It is raining very hard, and Hiram Colver passing by called in and eat supper.

June 2nd, Teusday. The old Bear and two cubs came down and run the pigs around but did not catch any of mine. ___ Logan and I & Bob & Sam Robison, Jeff Davis, got on the track and followed it all over the hills up Anderson Creeck and the head of Colman Creak on Coleman praria, but we could not get a shot althoue we run her so close the cubs got very tired, and we had to give it up and come home on account of it being night, but I guess it will not come back to night. we eat our last apples up to day that we will have untill new apples come, which will only be a month or two Nancy A. A. Chapin & her Mother Anderson were over here visiting Katie. It is cold to night. Emma says it is cold enough to freeze the ___ off a brass ox, I expect she ment bull.

Domestic disputes arise as in every family.

June 9th Teusday. another fine day. We hoed and plowed beans etc. It is pleasant to night Orvey Williams called to night to ask Em to attend the Ball at Ashland on the evening of the third of July, and she did not get the dishes washed untill nearly nine oclock and I got mad and scolded Dear Kate Just a little and she feels bad, but Dear Kate you know how hate to have work going on at night when there is no need of it. Dearest Darling I will try and improve.

When Welborn is away, Kate sometimes takes over and writes a bit.

June 16th been fine day Welborn went to Ashland this evening and it is so lone some here to night with out my Dear Welborn at home Oh Dear Welborn you don’t know how we miss you at home so good night Dearest one Dear Katie I have come home

Welborn and Kate’s young son, Emmet continues to prosper and grow.
depart and Katie promised me her sympathy for life, and she loves me yet. It has been a warm day. Logan and I helped Carlos to put up hay. I rode up Ashland to buy some sugar and etc etc.

In July, we learn for the first time of a planned trip to California sometime in the future.

July 15th Wednesday. Logan and I went up the gulch and got two loads of poles. In the evening I went to Ashland to get some things, the girls went up with me. We called at Mr Hulburt to see old Mr & Mrs Nutting, about staying and keeping house for us while we go to California. It is a beautiful day, we got home at dark.

The next entry is a puzzle. Nothing more is said of whatever incident caused Welborn's remarks, and all seems well a few days later. One can only wonder.

July 17th Friday. I went to help Ira thresh so did Logan. He had Mr Pattersons header and threshr we cut and threshed about 15 acres of Oats put the Oats in the bin and the straw up in the barn. I like the thrasher first rate, I got home at 7 o clock, found the girls apparently all right, but I am more convinced than ever of the deceitfulness of women. I believe there is no truth in any of them, for I did think my Kate was.

By the middle of July, summer is in full swing and harvesting has begun. There are many references during this period about different machines used to harvest the crops; some being better than ever. Whatever the machine, it is obvious that it takes several men to accomplish the task, and Welborn is kept busy going from farm to farm to help.

July 18th Saturday. We put up hay and Oats etc. etc. been very warm day. R. T. Baldwin, and some of the children called to take supper My Emmet is ten months old, to day. [the next two lines look like a child wrote them—mostly scribbles] (perhaps he handed the pen to Emmet.) Logan's turkeys have laid and hatched six young ones up the creek, something caught and killed the hen turkey and the gobbler is raising the young ones, himself, poor fellow he seems lonesom in his widowhood.

July 19th Sunday. Very warm day, we staid at home all day Mr Hutchisen came, he took dinner I paid him for five dollars for the use of H Ammerman's horse to Dolly. Mr Thurber called. Em went home she is back to night. Some body has been and left a wagon at our Corral on Friday night. It is warm, to night Kate is well, and Emmet grows so nice.

Aug 6th. The Header has been running night & day we have cut eighty acres and the header left to day at noon, to go to Ammermans, they did not finish mine by about twenty acres. We are all tired out. Em & Kate have done well cooking. The boys have all worked good, I am for bed. I got a letter from Father and one from Wallace they are well. Two years ago and Dear Katie and I were Married. happy and Joyful, are we.

Aug 12th Wednesday. I went to help John Patterson to head his Oats get done at noon, came home and took Snap to the shop got her shod. Katie called at Joe Robisons to see Bazel. He is not very sick but they are in an awful way, have the Doctor Grube to attend him. Logan is at Woolens with the team helping them head, with Myers header. Em has been Ironing, and she Milked the cows, the Bears came down and the hogs are badly frightened. It is dark to night.

The harvest continues at full tilt and everyone pitches in to help.

Aug 13th Thursday. I have been choring around the farm, been warm day. We have corn, blackberries, Ripe peaches, plums and apricots, in abundance. Logan is still helping at Woolens. I had a letter from _ _ _ Brophy they are all well. Kate is up to Howell to night.

Even after two years of marriage, Welborn is sensitive to his wife's lack of attention.

Aug 15th I went early to help George Baily head, we finished cutting at Woolens, been pleasant day. Logan & I came home after dark. It is, late, I am off for bed. Kate is still quite unwell. Em is going to bed. Emmet is asleap and oh how bad I feel, because Kate has gone to bed with out bidding me good night.

Aug 16th. Sunday. I went up to Warm Springs and Coolidges when I come back, I found Kate had gone up to Holtons, with O A Davis I went up after noon, O Coolidge and wife was there. In the evening I went with Coolidge to Dad Liddles got a letter from Mother Brophy, they are all well. We have Peaches, Plums, Apricots and Apples ripe. Blackberries and Currants in abundance, green corn, etc, etc. It is pleasant weather, and the summer passes away awfull fast. I am in hopes to get started to traveling soon.

As summer wanes, the Beeson's start to prepare for their journey south. Stay tuned for the next issue to find where their travels take them.
Indians is well known and covered in the book. I also wanted to explore the personal and sometimes overlooked part of the story—the family he left behind and their tattered relationship, the *Calumet* magazine, John Beeson’s second marriage, Indian performers punctuating Beeson’s lectures, and his travels to Quapaw agency in what is now Oklahoma to visit members of the Modoc tribe, and the price he paid for his single-minded devotion to the Indian cause until his death in 1889.

Though much of what John Beeson did was on a national rather than local stage, he was a unique part of Oregon history during the Indian Wars. Our community was influenced by his brief presence and by his son, Welborn, and wife, Ann, who both remained on their farm along Wagner Creek until they died. All three of them are buried in the Stearns Cemetery just outside of Talent. The Beeson’s taught us the price of activism, the power of sacrifice, and commitment to helping others.

*The new Beeson book will be available on October 6th during the Talent Harvest Festival. Jan will also be giving a talk on October 23rd outlining her experience writing the book at that month’s Tuesday Evening at the Museum presentation. Details can be found on page 3. The book will also be available at the Museum during regular hours and on our online store. Ed.*

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**Oregon Cultural Trust Grant Completed**

Our grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust has been completed, and our museum has been transformed since we started this project last fall. Through the generosity of the City of Talent, we also installed new flooring and repainted the entire museum. On that foundation, we used the OCT grant monies to:

- Organize the collections into categories.
- Shelving for the accessioned items was arranged and separated from all other museum supplies.
- All items were put in acid free boxes or other appropriate containers.
- Archival software - PastPerfect was purchased to enter the collection on the computer which enables us to trace the location of the artifacts. Microsoft Word was also purchased.
- The old office was converted into a collections hub with the new laptop computer. Space was created to process in-coming artifacts.
- New signage was installed on the exhibit side of the museum, and displays now flow more readily from the organized collections.
- A new exhibit case was completed giving us more room to rotate items and add something new to bring more people into the museum.
- Damaging sunlight has been blocked by panels that cover the windows.

We invite you to stop by during regular museum hours or come see all the changes during the Talent Harvest Festival on Oct. 6th.
Accessions

The following items have been donated to us and have been added to the Museum collection:

- 111 postcards from Mary Lee Bagley (wife of Bill Bagley) most written to Eddythe Anderson Goddard. Donated by Curtis Barnes
- Large historic portrait of Prudence Adelia Parsons Neil in domed glass frame donated by Linda McMahan
- Large collection of maps from Bob Casebeer
- Combs family memorabilia and clothing donated by Sandra Bates & Family.

Thanks to all of these folks for thinking of us. We appreciate your donations.

Talent Poker Tour

Thanks to everyone who came out to our last tournament on June 30th, and congratulations to winner Tammy Dalton. Our next tournament will take place on Saturday, Sept. 29th starting at 1:00 pm at the Museum. The tournament is open to THS members only, with a membership level of Family or above.

The No-Limit Texas Hold’em tournament will feature a buy-in of $30.00 with all entry money paid back out as cash prizes. Refreshments and snacks will be available for a modest cost. This is a no alcohol/no smoking event.

Contact info@talenthistory.org or call the museum at 541.512.8838 for additional information.

A.P. Talent House

108 South Front Street  ca. 1880

One of the largest, most elaborate, most historically significant houses, this two-story is thought to be built about 1880 by A.P. Talent who lived there until selling the property to Mary Packard. She sold the parcel in 1896 to George Briner. By 1902 it belonged to V.A. & Laura Dunlap. Mr. Dunlap was Talent’s first mayor. The house retains its intact architectural quality, complete with elaborate screen detail, original siding and windows, and other detail. Various additions to the rear, notably a hipped volume at the SW corner, do seriously detract from the property’s ability to relate its original period of construction.

Taken from our “Walking Tour of Historic Talent” Booklet. The booklet may be purchased at the museum or at our online store: store.talenthistory.org. Purchase price is $3.00 and includes descriptions of 20 properties of significant historic value that are located within the city limits of Talent.

DON’T MISS OUT!!

Would you like timely email reminders about upcoming events at the Talent Historical Society? If so, contact us at: info@talenthistory.org or call and leave a message at (541) 512-8838. Or just drop by the museum and leave us your information. We’ll email notices out including all the information about upcoming events.
These young beauties posed as the bakers of the pear pie for the Pear and Tomato Show in Talent. They were, from left to right, Virginia Allen, Helen Combs, Margaret McDowell, “Queen” Opal Hill, Ella Mae Works, and Lola Conaster. It is doubtful that they actually made the pie and probable that this was the first and only time they got to parade around in their swimming suits on dry land.

From “Images of America - Talent” by Jan Wright of the Talent Historical Society, page 127. This book may be ordered through our online store or purchased directly at the Museum. The price is just $14.95. This must have book documents Talent’s early history through images and text and is published by Arcadia Publishing as part of its Images of America series.
The Talent Historical Society was founded in 1994 as a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of the Talent area in Southern Oregon. By becoming a member of the Society, you provide valuable support of the Society’s ongoing work.

To become a member, please select a membership level, complete the form below, and return the completed form along with your membership payment. All memberships, regardless of level, are greatly appreciated.

Name_______________________________________________________Date_______________________
Phone___________________________________ e-mail______________________________
Mailing/Street Address_________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________________________
Member Type: [ ] New [ ] Renewing
Membership Level: [ ] Junior (12-18) - $10 [ ] Individual - $20 [ ] Lifetime Individual - $200
[ ] Business - $50 [ ] Family - $30 [ ] Lifetime Family - $300
[ ] Individual/Family Sponsorship - $100 or more
[ ] Business Sponsorship - $100 or more
Donation in addition to membership: $_____________________
Amount Enclosed: $____________________
Dues include our quarterly newsletter: The Historacle
Check if you want it sent: electronically by email in lieu of paper. [ ]
or by regular mail via post office [ ]
[ ] If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please check the box, and we will contact you.

Please make checks payable to: Talent Historical Society
Send completed form along with payment to: Talent Historical Society
P.O Box 582
Thank you!
Talent, OR 97540

Talent Historical Society Board of Directors:
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Theodora Blom Treasurer
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Emmalisa Whalley Webmaster
Anthony Abshire Board Member
Bob Casebeer Board Member
Native Storyteller in Residence: Thomas Doty
Upcoming Events

- Sept. 11: THS Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Sept. 25: Tuesday Evening at the Museum 6:30 - 8:00 pm with Maureen Batistella - 1927 Medicine
- Sept. 29: Talent Poker Tour at 1:00 pm
- Oct. 6: Talent Harvest Festival at 10:30 - 5:00 pm
- Oct. 9: THS Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Oct. 23: Tuesday Evening at the Museum 6:30 - 8:00 pm with Jan Wright - Beeson book
- Nov. 13: THS Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Nov. 27: Tuesday Evening at the Museum 6:30 - 8:00 pm with TBA
- Dec. 18: Holiday Social & Annual Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Something YOU can do to help!
If you do any shopping on Amazon.com, use the link below to enter the Amazon website. The price doesn’t change, but the Historical Society receives a donation from each purchase. Any purchases you make will help support the Talent Historical Society and its projects. Thanks!!
https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1125614

Just a reminder that you can check the top, right hand corner of the address label on this issue of the Historicale to see when it’s time for you to renew! The date will tell you when your membership expires.