

# The Historacle

January 2005

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

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

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### Artful Membership Meeting

About 30 members and interested parties viewed the paintings of Bert Hill, William Oatman, Lydia Powers and John Moulton at the Annual Membership meeting. Kathy Love, a daughter of John Moulton, treated us to stories about her father who decided to paint as a form of therapy after his wife died. Though he was in his 60s when he started painting, he completed about 4,000 paintings, making his own frames to boot. Oil and acrylic paint was too expensive so he used house paint by the quart. Moulton gave most of his paintings away to local nursing home residents. Past President of Talent Historical Society, Susan Moulder, loaned her John Moulton collection for display at the meeting. She was able to meet the Moulton family and share stories with them about collecting his paintings. Our own Bert Hill attended and talked about his interest in painting and graciously loaned a few paintings for exhibit. The pastoral landscapes of Lydia Powers all came from

Elanah Whitenight. Elanah was a big help in pulling off the exhibit, by hauling easels to and from the Rogue Gallery in Medford and being useful throughout the meeting. The business portion of the annual meeting was quietly combined with the exhibition. When the meeting adjourned, everybody stayed and talked and looked at paintings; a few brave people even added some brush strokes to a community painting. The meeting definitely sparked an interest in art. If you know of a local artist (preferably historical person or one who depicted local scenes and people) let us know and we might consider displaying their work.

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# More Beeson Diaries to Come to Light

In January director, Jan Wright, plans to travel to the University of Oregon in Eugene where the diaries of Welborn Beeson are stored. The diaries span a 40 year period with only a handful of years currently available for research. The goal is to copy or transcribe as many pages as possible to capture more details about our town. Any number of subjects could be explored including the social life of Wagner Creek, contact with Native Americans, military history, agricultural development, local effects of national politics, courtship and marriage, etc.

As many of you may know, Welborn Beeson was in his teens when he came here with his parents, John and Ann Beeson. After living here for only three years, John left the Valley because of his outspoken disapproval of the treatment of the Indians. Welborn and his mother were left alone with the farm chores on Wagner Creek. Until his death in 1893, Welborn kept an almost daily record of the settlement. His diary allows the reader into his mind and heart while most diaries of the time period record weather and field work and rarely comment on personalities and feelings. Many of the facts not reported in the newspapers of the times can be found in Welborn's diary. He talked of lawsuits, disappointed loves, sorrows, and the religious leanings of his neighbors. He gives great details of the birth of his firstborn and of squabbles with his wife. As you can see, I think this is GOOD STUFF and will let you know what other delights I find in Eugene.

## Update on Talent Album

We hope you have had a chance to stop by the Talent library and view the album. New pages are added from time to time so keep checking to see if your favorite family or town site is included. Suggestions are welcomed and help wanted in putting together more pages. Call 512-8838 in the afternoons if you would like to help. The Rapp and Rockfellow stories in this newsletter are an examples of album pages.

# How Rapp Road Got It's Name



Martha Reames looks ready to take on the world.  
(SOHS # 14264)

Redheaded Martha Reames married a “sporty man” named Mr. Ackley and went up to the northern mines with him. Though she never spoke of what went wrong, she soon came home without her charming partner. Several years later she married a quieter, settled bachelor, Joseph Rapp, twenty three years her senior. He bought the Thornton place on Wagner Creek and had a reputation of being very industrious on his 300 acre farm. Rapp road in Talent is named for this family. Martha and Joseph had two sons, one who died in infancy and Fred who stayed on the home farm and is remembered for chasing off watermelon snatchers from his fields.



Joseph, Martha, and Fred Rapp in front of their home on Rapp Road (SOHS # 1931)

# Talent News

The *Talent News* was a newspaper published in Talent from Jan 1892 - July 1894. The publisher and editor, Eddie Robison created amusing anecdotes and recorded vital information of the events along Wagner Creek and Talent area. Excerpts from the paper will appear in our own *Historacle* newsletter for your interest and enjoyment. To see copies of all the *Talent News* come to THS or read them at the Talent Library.

The first issue states what the editor intended to do:

We shall strive to make the *News* a first class paper - honest, accurate, trustworthy.

To do this of course, we shall find it necessary to imitate great editors. We shall adopt the dietary habits of the *Record* editor, making apples our main article of food and also like him be fearless and independent.

We shall be good looking, polite and conservative, like the editor of the *Tidings*; and a walking interrogation point after the manner of the famous Chas. Nickell.

So our paper is bound to improve, and if nobody else brags on us we will. The *News* will be issued semi-occasionally until further notice.



## **Feb. 15th 1892...**

We have recently seen at the church, hall, and other public places, horses, warm from hard driving, tied to a fence for hours, fully exposed to a bitter, cold wind. That the owners can enjoy themselves while their horses are thus suffering, would indicate that they had never run across the words, 'A merciful man is merciful to his beasts', or that they don't consider the passage inspired.

## **Jan. 1st 1893...**

.. This is the fortieth New Year that the white people have occupied ...Wagner Creek. Of the little band of hardy pioneers that raised their log cabin homes on Wagner Creek at that time, not one remains on the creek to relate the thrilling experiences of that New Year morning forty years ago. But enough is known to be authentic that the snow... covered the ground over two feet deep. The folks began to fear they would be completely snowed under. The wild game came close to the cabins and the settlers were able to obtain enough meat to sustain life. Flour and groceries were almost an unknown quantity and later on when a pack train of mules arrived, loaded with groceries from the Willamette, the settlers were glad to exchange gold dust for salt at an even trade... But fortunately the snow did not continue long and when it disappeared, the grass and flowers soon covered the country with a luxuriant growth and the settlers felt amply rewarded for the hardships they had experienced during the blockade of deep snow.

# From Oral Histories

One of the goals of Talent Historical Society is to gather as many meaningful oral histories as possible. Right now we need more volunteers to help take and transcribe oral histories. The following excerpts are among the many gems in our oral history files.

**Nellie and Paul Creel** arrived in Talent in 1949 to find work in one of the many sawmills around here at that time. Their little girls were only 9 and 3 years old, a son was born here two years later. Neighbors with the last names of Pancake, Tycksen and Denomas lived in the same section of town, but the street had no name. When Mae Lowe, a coauthor of the famous paper *Talent News Flashes*, delivered the newspaper to the Creels, she became frustrated by the lack of a name for the road. Mae didn't want to call it Pancake Lane, so she went down to the county offices and had the name of Creel Road put down on the map. The first time Creels knew there was a road named for them was when the sign went up. They have lived there ever since.

From **Ila Mae Conner** we have the following story:

Ila's parents, Lewis and Melissa Hill had heard about the fruit industry in Oregon. They had been living in Filer, Idaho where business was slow, so they packed their wagon and left for the land of promise with six children in tow. The year was 1922. The mode of transportation was economical but probably caused some stares. Covered wagons had long since been outdated by trains & cars. Nevertheless, in a month's time they arrived in Talent, Oregon. Ila said there were no sleeping bags then so they slept under or beside the wagon at night wrapped in homemade woolen quilts. Lewis Hill got to work right away establishing Hill's Mercantile building on the old site of the Baptist Church. He offered the church a new roof if he could use the site facing Talent Avenue or Pacific Highway and move the church to its present location. The Baptists agreed and Hill's Mercantile building is still in use as Talent Emporium.



The Hill family in 1922 (photo courtesy of Ila Conner)

**Albert Rockfellow married Miss Sarah Myers.** Their marriage was a happy one though five of their seven children died in infancy. On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, Albert wrote a poem to honor their commitment to one another. The poem was published in the *Ashland Tidings* October 24, 1895.

### **The Golden Wedding**

Husband:

Tis fifty years today dear wife,  
Since you and I were wed.  
Just fifty years of married life-  
How fast the time has sped.

Wife:

A half a hundred years? It seems  
Not half so long to me.  
Am I awake, or in my dreams?  
Nay, Nay it cannot be

Husband:

Yes, dear tis fifty years today,  
Since we twain were made one:  
Just fifty years the records say  
And fifty by the sun.

Wife:

And all the children, dear, are grown:  
I guess it must be so:  
How quick the long long years have flown!  
How fast the months go!

Husband:

How many more shall we have here?  
A half a hundred more?  
We will be fortunate my dear,  
To get a half a score.

Wife:

Yes father it is strange indeed.  
But not more strange than true  
Your will has been my only creed  
And mine the law to you

Husband:

Then let us now renew our vows.  
And end our days in bliss  
I'll call you still, my idol, spouse,  
And give the bridegroom's kiss.

Wife:

And I will call thee dearest still  
My only love thou art  
I'll gladly do thy blessed will  
And keep thee near my heart.



Mrs. Sarah Myers Rockfellow, notice the pin on her collar picturing her husband, Albert. SOHS # 6727



## Membership Renewals

### Individual

Kurt Bailey  
Pat Bailey  
Mae Baldwin  
Alice Burnette  
Nancy Cole  
Alta Grimes  
Barbara Haade  
Katherine Harris  
Myrna Holden  
Genevieve Holdridge  
Kathy Jerman  
Diane Lane  
Ron Medinger  
Connie B. Miller  
LaVelle Ricks  
Carolyn Rutledge  
Helen Seiber  
Suzanne Seiber  
Sally Shockley  
Helen Soderback  
Donna Thomas  
Victoria Wade  
Bob Wilson

### New Members :

Craig Gibons  
Bert Hill  
Gifford Lee  
Margaret Milnes  
Ned Wilson  
Chuck Eccleston (Sponsor)

### Family

George & Collen Baylor  
Paul & Nellie Creel  
Bob & Annie Dreiszus  
Robert & Elizabeth Fulton  
Greg & Ann Goebelt  
Dwayne & Kathleen Guthrie  
Joe Hunkins & Kathy Holden  
Martha Joseph  
Gifford & Marilyn Lee  
Boyd & Dorcas Lockwood  
John & Nancy Miller  
Carol & Don Muir  
Joe & Lorraine Mussack  
Richard & Yolanda Nagel  
Betty & Alvin Smith  
Margaret & Ray Van Natta  
Bob & Audrey Casebeer

### Sponsor

Judy Drais  
Al & Natalie Logan  
Poppie Beveridge  
Ralph & Margaret Hunkins  
Albert & Natalie Logan  
Lynn Newbry  
Karl & Helen Slack  
Star Properties  
Pauline Sullivan  
Charlotte Toon  
Tark's Market

## THANKS

to all the new and renewing members! Because of your generous contributions, we will be able to go a long way towards making up for the nearly \$2,000. shortfall in our 2005 - 2006 budget. Share this newsletter with a friend and encourage them to join and support the programs at Talent Historical Society.



# Editorial

## Farewell to John Morrison

Ashland's gain is our loss. In order to devote his time and efforts to the City of Ashland, our Board President, John Morrison has resigned his position. We will miss him a great deal but wish him every success as Mayor of Ashland. His quiet, sometimes unsung service and support for Talent Historical Society has been much appreciated. John attended all the events and programs, made the hardest decisions, and offered support to the entire board and staff at THS. We will remember his good judgement and friendly consideration at the Harvest Festival, the Woman's Day program, the Annual Meetings and especially at the board meetings. Thank you, John and good luck.

## Talent Historical Society

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