

The Historacle

The Official newsletter of the
Talent Historical Society

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

Civil War Program

Over 60 people attended the Jeff LaLande Civil War Program at the Talent Community Hall on Saturday, March 11th. Jeff said he was not a Civil War expert but he could have fooled anyone there with his memorable speech titled *“Rebels in the Rogue River Valley? The Murky Course and Character of Southern Oregon’s Civil War.”* Welborn Beeson’s diary spiced up Jeff’s talk with first hand observations of what happened in Jackson County during the war years. A few Civil War items from the Southern Oregon Historical Society were on display to help create an atmosphere of the 1860s, including a pocket sized Emancipation Proclamation, a Union uniform coat, & letters from the battlefields.

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New Grant Sought

We stand for old-fashioned things most of the time but will lose a generation of history buffs if we don’t step into the modern world and create a website. The Talent Historical Society will be asking the Oregon Heritage Commission for a small grant to kick start a new website. Any one who would like to help with expertise and maintaining the website is welcome. Call Jan at 512-8838 Mon.- Thur. 1 - 5 PM.

Orson Stearn's debut

Another young man, Orson Stearns, who lived on Wagner Creek needed a little help when it came to girls and gives here his own account of his introduction to the social scene :

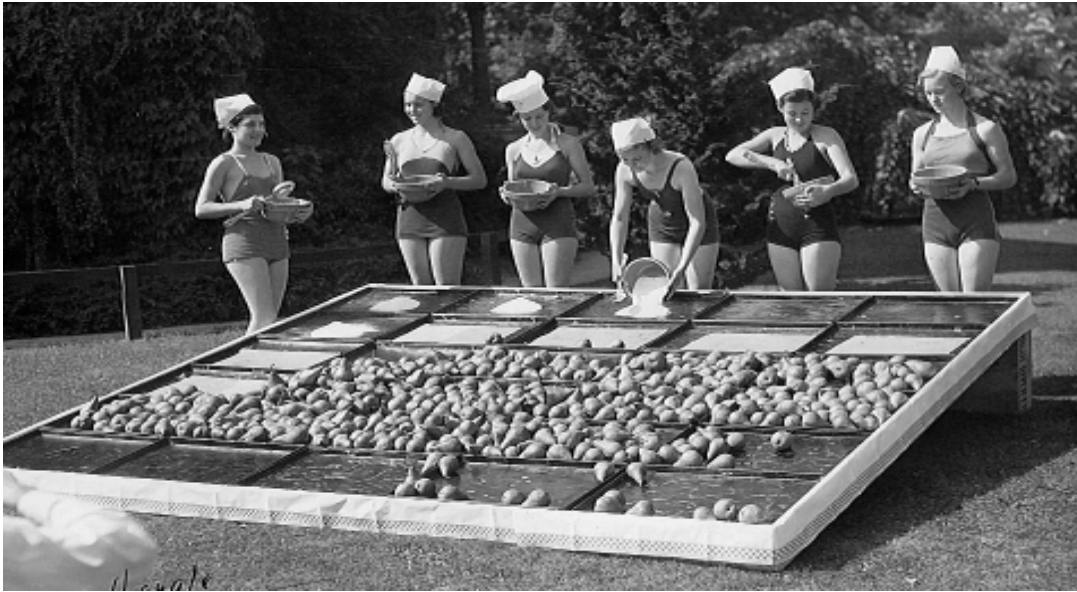
“ The few budding young women were so entirely monopolized by the bachelors of various ages and qualities, that the growing boys and young men would have been entirely left out in the cold had not the matrons taken pity on our forlorn condition and sought us out as partners in the dances, where we usually congregated to nash our teeth in impotent fury at the bearded men who were swinging our girl sweethearts around as though they belonged to them.

I remember very distinctly the first time I ventured onto the ballroom floor to dance. I was fifteen years old and as bashful and self conscious as a lad of that age ever was, and was ever hanging around where a public dance was being held, not to dance, I was too timid to venture on the floor, but to nourish my jealous feelings over seeing the girl, on whom my puppy hood love had been fixed, but who had informed me after three years of constant devotion that I was too young for her any longer, that ‘she was a grown woman’. But yet, not having recovered sufficiently to look for, and love another I was watching through a green haze to see some other fellows usurp her favors.

There was a coalition being formed, when Hannah McCumber, a matron of 35 or 40 and quite buxom came to where I was standing caught me by the arm and pulled me out on the floor saying, “ I know you want to dance but you never will unless some one drags you out” . After looking around I found the three other ladies on the floor were matrons of my acquaintance, and as they all assured me that they would see me safe around, my stage fright in a manner left me and by the time we had went through the first figure, my assurance began to return, and after the three figures were danced, I was confident that I could go through all right. The matrons who assisted through my maiden dance were Aunt Huldah Colver, Mrs. Estes, Mrs. Burns and Aunt Hannah McCumber.”

At thirteen & fourteen
Girls are a courting
At fifteen & sixteen
Girls are a fixing
At seventeen & eighteen
Girls are a waiting
At nineteen & twenty
Girls are a plenty

The above poem was found in the
Welborn Beeson Diary on Nov.19th, 1864.
Title and author unknown.



Recently Mrs. Helen Grisby donated several photos of the 1936 **Pear and Tomato** show in Talent. Bathing beauties were photographed in front of the old Brick School baking pies and posing with piles of pears. Mrs. Grisby's father was Ray Schumacher who served as secretary in the Talent Chamber of Commerce in the 1930s.



Queries:

Kris Vincent from Friday Harbor, WA asked if anyone has any information about **Arthur Kelly** who lived in Talent in 1926. Mr. Kelly served in the Navy during WWI as a fireman and was the son of Lawrence and Lizzie Kelly of Washington State. Please contact Jan at the THS office 512-8838 if you have any information.

Tom Doty is celebrating his 25th year as a story teller by performing a one-person show on the life of John Beeson. He will present a program, *Two Ghosts* some time in the fall. Look for more information as the event approaches.

If you've got a hitch in your get-a-long or a crick in your neck, why put off coming in when you hurt like HECK?

Dr. Joel Goldman,
Talent's first Chiropractor
115A N. Pacific Hwy
(at Seiber's Corner next to
Quality Paperback Books)
535-3062

Wimer Covered Bridge Still Down

On July 6, 2003, the old historic covered bridge at Wimer, Oregon, seven miles north of the city of Rogue River, collapsed and fell into Evans Creek, it was the only covered bridge that still allowed vehicular traffic.

The county estimates that it will cost \$887,000 to reconstruct the bridge. The local Wimer community has been attempting to raise \$204,000 in the community as their portion of the cost of reconstruction. To help them out contact chairperson, Dan Roberts. Click on the "contact us" portion of the www.wimercoveredbridge.org website. The site offers calendars and T-shirts and information about the bridge.

The *Historacle* is published quarterly by the

Talent Historical Society

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Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, The *Historacle*, by mail or by email to talenthistory@jeffnet.org. Members of the Society receive the *Historacle* free with membership. Board meetings are at 6:00 pm at the Talent Library on the 2nd Monday of each month.

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

Star Properties

Camelot Theater

Southern Oregon Historical Society
Oregon Heritage Commission

City of Talent