

# The Historacle

*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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### Grant Awarded to THS

The Oregon Heritage Commission awarded Talent Historical Society \$2,545. to develop a new website. We are excited about appealing to a broader audience and saturating the web with information from our research files. Whether one is looking for old photographs of Talent, directions to the Stearns Cemetery, or updates on the Beeson Diary transcriptions, they will be able to find it in by searching our new site. Back issues of the Historacle will be on-line but the current issue will always be exclusive to members. Thanks to Oregon Heritage Commission we look forward to working on the new website and drawing attention to Talent. If you have requests about content or want to help, please call Jan at 512-8838.

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**Oregon Historical Society**

In spite of the Oregon Historical Society's success this year in drawing thousands to Portland with the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Exhibit, the state legislature and county have cut all funding to the Society. Total cuts amounted to about \$ 1,300,000. causing lay offs, drastic cuts in the archives and library, exhibits, oral histories, and publications. The lasting impacts on our ability to look to the past and gather our collective memories can only be guessed at. It is important to express your opinions to your representatives and governor on this matter. **Talent Historical is also facing a complete cut from county funding in the year 2007.** We need your help in letting our county commissioners know that history is worth saving.

# Main Street Homes

Next time you walk down Main Street in Talent, take a second look at these houses featured in our free walking tour pamphlets.

A similar house at 200 W. Main St. proves the popularity of this bungalow style. This house is believed to have been built around 1910 with a distinctive Japanese influence in the cornices and bargeboards. William Carey, a poultry farmer is known to have lived in the house, though it was owned by Albert Alford. Later owners include Stephen Lunak, Floyd and Leta Goin and in the 1960s, D. B. Tibbett.



104 W. Main St. THS photo

Albert & Catherine Alford were nearing the end of their lives when they built this house in 1911. The couple had lived in Talent since 1875 and had owned several properties and houses but this house was where they both died; he in 1921, and she in 1925. Significant remodels have modified the original “footprint” of the house but it remains a nice example of an early home in Talent.



200 W. Main St. THS photo

# Coleman Creek

# Goddard Family

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Matthew Hubbard or “Hub” Coleman and his brother, John, had many adventures from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois before they even came to Oregon. Matthew carried a scar on his face from his service in the Mexican war and wore a beard for the rest of his life to cover his “friendly - fire” wound. He faced ill health and disability in a world without insurance or financial safety nets to assist him.

The urge to get rich quick hit he and John in 1853 so they joined two other bachelors and set out from Illinois for the Oregon mines. They eventually settled in the Rogue River Valley on adjoining claims totaling over 400 acres. One of the only recorded transactions in Jackson County between an Indian and a white person was the sale of 166 acres of land along what is now called Coleman Creek between a Seminole Indian - Oscose -Te-Emath-La , who had gained the land bounty from his Calvary service in the Florida Wars, and John Coleman.

John married Maria Allen in 1861 and Hub married when he was nearly 40 years old, to Sabra Goddard in 1865. Hub’s two-story log cabin was surrounded by oak trees and his place became known as *Eight Oak Farm*. The farm remained in the Coleman family for a long time and the log cabin was replaced in 1897 by a Queen Anne Revival style home that still stands on Coleman Creek Road.

Old timers in Talent may remember Ormy and Edythe Goddard who ran a diary farm on Wagner Creek. The couple were interviewed in 1974 by Kay Atwood for her book, *Jackson County Conversations*.

Ormy was a native son of Wagner Creek, a third generation resident since the first Goddards came to the Valley in 1864 from Missouri. Blin Goddard, his grandfather , was a carpenter and built many of the houses in the area (some of them still standing). In Atwood’s book Ormy and Edythe claimed to be the first Goddards to actually farm the land and live off of the proceeds.

Edythe was born with the last name of Anderson and was the great granddaughter of Gideon Davidson, an early Jackson County doctor. Her roots were even deeper than Ormy’s as her ancestors came to Jackson County in 1853.

When he and Edythe retired in 1962, he spent his time sharing his knowledge of local history with friends and school children. (Perhaps you were one of those lucky children.) He died in 1976 and Edythe died in 1989.

## **Collections Sought**

Talent Historical Society would like to showcase your collection. Do you have some interesting materials for the display case such as bottles, dolls, toys, shoes, hats, salt and pepper shakers, etc? Please share your passion for collecting with THS visitors and perhaps inspire others to do the same. Thank you. Call 512-8838 if you have something you would like to show.

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Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, The *Historacle*,  
by mail or by email to [talenthistory@jeffnet.org](mailto: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**

**Oregon Heritage Commission**

*City of Talent*

**Tark's Market**

Mel Amaro - Computer guy