

# The Historacle

*The Official newsletter of the*  
Talent Historical Society

---

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

---

## Railroads still romantic

During the annual meeting and Chautauqua Program on November 18th, Jeni Foster's voice filled the old schoolhouse (now Talent Community Hall) with songs of the railroads. Participants were robustly singing along with songs that brought back many memories of the trains passing through. About 50 people attended and enjoyed the musical history which showcased America's on again and off again romance with the railroads.

Volunteers, Karen Carr and Janice Pacitti were honored for their service on the Welborn Beeson diary project and the outgoing Mayor of Talent, Marian Telerski and our own THS secretary, Katherine Harris, were also recognized for their outstanding contributions and support of the Historical Society's mission.

### Inside this Issue.....

G Holdridge	2
New Diggin's	3
Photo Scans	4
Mr. Train's visit	5
Mystery photo	6
Businesses	7

### Next Chautauqua Program

Watch for an announcement of our next program in April. Tom Nash professor at SOU will present *True Stories and Other Fictions in Northwest Oral History*. Nash will facilitate a discussion on where history ends and folklore begins and share materials from Oregon oral histories recorded in the 1930s and 1940s. Talent Historical Society would like to revive its oral history program and will schedule interviews with those who want to participate. The event will be well advertised but if you want details call Jan at 512-8838.

# New Diggin's

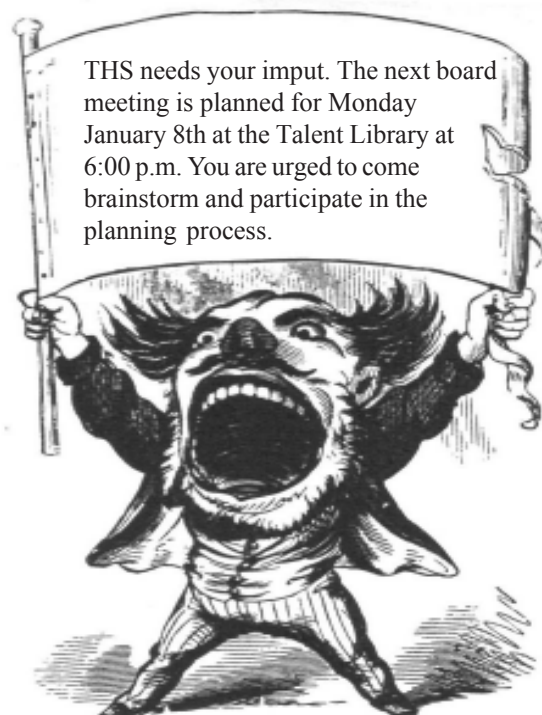
---

In case you haven't heard THS may soon be moving. The City of Talent has generously offered to let us occupy the library space once the present library is vacated. We are very excited to have some room but will need a tremendous amount of help to plan, finance, and create our new diggin's.

The opportunity to have a new space will come about the same time as funding from the county is expected to be cut off. Savings will carry us for a year or so but THS will need more income to continue beyond that. Your membership fees and willingness to volunteer are becoming increasingly important. There are plans in the works for some permanent funding solutions but those plans will not come to fruition for some time nor are they guaranteed to work.

## History of the Future

With the county budget cuts and closing of the libraries, it makes one wonder what the future holds. What will the history of the future look like? How will our children and grandchildren access information about the past? How can we make the story of our town irresistible to the rising generation and to those who have experienced it? If you have ideas in creating the new museum or want to be a part of the plan, heed the announcement below.



# Genevieve Holdridge

has passed away. The collection of photographs and school papers that she donated form the foundation of the THS collection. Genevieve shared her life history, a very interesting reminiscence that covered her life-span, as a young girl, a teacher, a wife and mother, and a retired traveler. She was a shining example of gentleness and giving and will be missed and remembered.

One of the unique things she donated to THS is a couple of large flip charts that the children of Talent made during her tenure at Talent Elementary School. Her classes explored the City of Talent from head to toe and photographed each business and community service from 1956 through the 1970s. Come in and see this wonderful collection of class photos, and town studies compiled by Mrs. Holdridge's students.



This is the first class of students that created the "Our Community" folders donated by Mrs. Holdridge. Students were identified as follows: Betty Sue Pamplin, Linda Clark, Roberta Findlay, Susan Amos, Rosie Kirk, Jeanie Wingert, Becky MacCollister, Margaret Whillock, and Linda Williams. Sitting in front of the girls - Dick Grabher, Bill Dickinson, Jud Roth, Roy Mosser, Sam James, DuWayne Schmelzer, Billy Bagley, Lonnie Miller, Gary Kurz and Albert Rametes.



The centennial year for the City of Talent will be in 2010. We need your photographs, to document the 100 year history of the incorporation of our town. Please consider dropping by to allow us to scan and use your town photos, such as the ones below.



Photo donated to THS by Mark Dreiszus.



This photo may represent some of the first stores in Talent and was taken in the 1880s. Southern Oregon Historical Society #1076

# Photo Scans

Most people don't want to give up their family photos to historical societies. Because of the miracle of scanning, they don't have to. Recently, Bob Jacobs and Dick Allen came in and allowed the director to scan photo after photo from old albums from the Patterson and Jacobs families. Pictured here are two of the interesting photos from that project.

Feel free to do the same. It only takes a few minutes to pick out certain photos and put them on a disk and save it for future generations.



Ed, Mrytle, Mary & Bill Jacobs from Talent, Oregon



Manure spreader in Talent - Patterson family



# Around the World (Including the Rogue Valley)

Another surprise in the Welborn Beeson Diary  
*August 1st 1869 Sunday ....*  
*... last week I had the pleasure to hear George Frances Train, lecture on Incoherent things in general and Womans rights in particular. He is a smart man, and preaches a great many trueisms that the people can not get over with out believing them but the people are so stupid that they can not comprehend, and do not appreciate him at all, but they may be in 1872, when we have him for president and I hope they will."*

As Karen Carr transcribed the above entry in the Diary, she wondered who this George Train could be. What she found may surprise you. Wikipedia encyclopedia states that George Francis Train was the inspiration for Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Train made 3 trips around the world between 1870 and 1892. His shortest trip took 60 days, but the 1870 trip took 80 days. That particular trip was dramatically delayed when he was arrested and thrown into prison in France.



Photo from Google image search of Geroge Francis Train (1829-1904)

THE TRAIN IS COMING Not the Railroad train but Geo. Francis the most popular lecturer and the greatest oratorical genius in the world. He will be here Monday .. and if one half of what the northern papers have said of him be true, the people of this county will have the richest treat they ever enjoyed. Mr. Train can tell you all about railroad matters and about the grand future of Oregon and as he is doing much to advertise the advantages and resources of this State, we are in honor bound to go and hear him. Let everybody come there will be room for all. Tickets 50 cents. *Oregon Sentinel* 24 Jul 1869

What brought Train to the Rogue Valley? Welborn's stated that George came to lecture on Women's Rights, Railroads, and other topics. He was recruited by the suffragettes because he was practically the only man of power who would speak for the women's cause. Train's credentials in the Suffrage movement were impressive, he had toured for months with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton promoting female voting rights and was the financial backer of the Women's Suffrage newspaper, *The Revolution*. When he arrived in Jacksonville, he had just come from Promontory Point, Utah where the last railroad tie had been pounded into place connecting East / West portions of the United States.

The invitation to Train's lecture in the *Oregon Sentinel* sounded good enough and brought people from all over the county into Jacksonville for the lecture, however, in the end, the newspaper was not enthused with Train saying: "He is a mixture of sense and nonsense.. [uses] stale jokes and dry platitudes... idiosyncracies are all very harmless except his Feminism."

Train was obviously unsuccessful in his run for the Presidency in 1872. He died in 1902 in New York.

# Mystery Photos

The location of this house is a mystery. Does anyone remember where the Quackenbush family lived in the Talent district? The 1930 census lists them “outside of Talent” and does not give a street name.



Another view of the same house. (photos courtesy of THS)

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

## Star Properties

Oregon Heritage Commission

## Camelot Theater

Richard A. Nagel, CPA

## Tark's Market

David Vanderlip

Karen Varney & Brian Schick

*City of Talent*

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

The *Historacle* is published quarterly by the  
**Talent Historical Society**  
P O Box 582/ 206 E. Main St.  
Talent, OR 97540  
talenthistory@ashlandhome.net

### Board of Directors:

President:	Bob Casebeer
Vice Pres:	Bill Horton
Secretary:	Katherine Harris
Treasurer :	Ralph Hunkins
Directors:	Alice Burnette Joe Cowley Lynn Newbry Bob Wilson Karl Slack
Alternate:	Helen Seiber

### Museum Staff:

Museum Director : Jan Wright

Volunteer s:	Ralph Hunkins Alice Burnette Katherine Harris Karen Carr Janice Pacitti Liz Carter
--------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, The  
*Historacle*, by mail or by email to:  
talenthistory@ashlandhome.net. Members of the  
Society receive the *Historacle* free with member-  
ship. Board meetings are at 6:00 pm at the Talent  
Library on the 2nd Monday of each month. Office  
is opened from 1-5 Monday - Thursday.

Put your picture  
in this frame  
**Volunteer**  
now to help with our  
newspaper clipping project.

# New & Renewing Members

## Individual:

Beryl Banks\*  
Margaret Duggar \*  
Joel Goldman  
Katherine Harris  
Bert Hill  
Myrna Holden  
Jeffery Johnson  
Connie Miller  
John Morrison  
LaVelle Ricks  
Susan Schloth \*  
Sally Shockley  
Whitfield Smith  
Bruce Snook  
Charlotte Spohn\*  
Dewey Talent  
Charlotte Toon  
Bob Wilson

## John Beeson Society:

George Kramer  
Lynn & Charlotte Newbry

## Family:

Pat Bentley/James Trowbridge  
George & Colleen Baylor  
Joe Cowley  
Bob & Annie Dreiszus  
Chuck & Colleen Eccelston  
Lillian Fullerton  
Dwayne Guthrie  
John & Nancy Miller  
Joe & Lorraine Mussack

## Sponsor:

Liz Carter  
Barbara Haade  
Ralph & Margaret Hunkins  
Richard & Nagel  
Anita Nevison  
Arlene Stricker  
Ron Weinhold\*

\* = New Member

*Thank You!*

Invoices enclosed for past due membership fees

Talent Historical Society

P.O. Box 582 • Talent, OR • 97540

541-512-8838 • [talenthistory@ashlandhome.net](mailto:talenthistory@ashlandhome.net)