

Apr 2007

The Historacle

The Official newsletter of the
Talent Historical Society

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

150 Years of Statehood

The Oregon State Archives Division is planning a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Constitutional Convention. Sixty delegates from all over the Oregon Territory convened in Salem during August and September 1857 to draft a constitution. As part of gallery exhibit and web site exhibit the Archives staff is looking for additional information regarding each delegate. Descendants of the delegates are asked to contact the Archives if they have any records, photographs, or artifacts that they would like to share as part of the exhibit. Contact Layne Sawyer at (503) 378-5198 or layne.g.sawyer@state.or.us if you have items or information that you would like to share. A complete list of delegates can be found at: <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/news/exhibits/pioneer.html>

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Chautauqua Program

Please plan on joining us for the very entertaining program by Tom Nash, SOU professor, titled *True Stories and other Fictions in Northwest Oral History*. This free program is funded in part, by Oregon Council for the Humanities and should prove interesting. As always, there will be time afterwards for questions and refreshments.

SUNDAY APRIL 1st
TALENT COMMUNITY HALL
206 E. MAIN ST.
TALENT, OR **2:00 p.m.**

Vision for the New Museum

We are still in the planning stages for the move to the old Talent library. We are taking the building “as is” and need your help to fix, clean, paint, and ready it for occupation. Our overall plan is to create a space for collecting history, for meetings and presentations, an office, a research library, and an exhibit and storage area. Please contact Jan at 512-8838 if you want to volunteer to help and watch for announcements for work days in April.

The new space gives us the opportunity to provide one central place to actively collect the memories, photos, and objects of our town. It has the potential of becoming an evolving archive that tells the story of who we are and how we got here. What those in the past have done to leave evidence of their existence, we must continue to do in our own time so that future generations will have a clearer picture of what was important to us and how we lived.

Too often museums are seen as moldy repositories of the ancient past because they overlook the present residents and search only for those beyond our memories. Talent Historical Society wants to be at the epicenter of using modern technology for recording history and to encourage the living to participate in documenting our town as it is now and as it relates to those who came before us and those who will come after.

Some people may think we are crazy for proceeding with such plans without secure funding for the future. Even though our county funds have ended, we are choosing to go forward like the character in the *Field of Dreams*. We will build it (with your help) and they will come. We believe that knowledge of history is vital to a democracy and that we are all infused with a never-ending curiosity about living on this earth. THS is dedicated to engaging in a process of unfolding our history as its contribution to the community of Talent.



The poetry of history lies in the quasi-miraculous fact that once on this earth, on this familiar spot of ground walked other men and women as actual as we are today, thinking their own thoughts, swayed by their own passions but now all gone, vanishing after another, gone as utterly as we ourselves shall be gone like ghosts at cockcrow.
- G. M. Trevelyan

Long Lost Photos Uncovered



Welborn Beeson, author
of the diaries

Just as we were contemplating getting the Welborn Beeson diaries published in time for the Oregon Sesquicentennial celebration, this photo was discovered in an envelope packed away in a box. Other photos were also uncovered which will help illustrate the diaries. James Fox, director of the U of O Special Collections and Liz Carter, Historic Preservationist at the U of O are helping THS draft a request to the Sesquicentennial committee to fund the publishing costs by 2009. We believe the diaries have significance that the entire state can enjoy and we would like to share them with as many readers as possible. THS wants to thank Janice Pacitti, Karen Carr, Ben Truwe, and Liz Carter for all their help transcribing and proofreading and the Oregon Heritage Commission and members of the Beeson family for funding the first phase of the project.

The Sesquicentennial celebration will begin Feb 14, 2009 and last through the fall of 2009. To prepare for Oregon's 150th birthday, the Governor created Oregon 150, a nonprofit organization, led by 30 motivated citizens from across the state who serve as its Board of Directors. The goal of this volunteer Board is to inspire people across the state to remember, experience, and celebrate Oregon and together, create a robust and sustainable future. The Board's mission statement is supported by a strong set of values, including ensuring that Oregonians across the state of every age, income, and ethnic background participate in the sesquicentennial, and that it will contribute to the welfare of Oregon through sustainable legacies in our communities. For more information or to offer your suggestions visit the website www.oregon150.org

Bill Weber's Story

In 1998 Bill Weber sat with Yvonne Reynolds, a THS representative, to tell the story of his life. Bill was known for his work at M.C. Lininger's, a sand and gravel company that continues to this day under the name of LTM. Bill's friendship with Lininger's son, Raymond, developed into a lifelong career with the company. Raymond and Bill would make after school deliveries and even before Bill was old enough to drive, he was shoveling gravel into the trucks. He worked so well, that the company would call Bill out of the high school for special jobs. The Ashland High School principal finally said "Hey, you're spending so much time down there that you might as well stay down there!" Bill quit high school at the time and several years later took night classes to finish.

Bill's oral history interview compared his work ethic with the ethic of today's workers as follows: ... "the way we used to do it.. there weren't any hours. You worked until the time the job was done until evening. Then you got everything ready for the next morning, ... That's what makes it so hard now. The way people complain now. If we had things like they have now, we would have...thought we were in heaven. You tell some of these people what you used to do and how you used to do it. They say 'You have to be crazy to do things like that!' That's the way we did it...If we didn't get it done where the company could make some money, we didn't get paid. There were many days I didn't get paid, but the company wasn't going to stay in business, we would be out of a job... It was the best of times."

New donation full of old photos

Everyone who has done family research in Talent has heard the name of Lida Childers. After her death, THS inherited many of the books she co-authored with Ruby Lacy and some of her personal papers on Talent families. But recently, one of Lida's relatives donated a couple of boxes full of more papers and about 150 photographs. The following are samples of the photos which represent different time periods in the Talent area.



1911 Tent home of William and Ethel Childers and son, Buford



Marcia Coleman Robison
1920s - Nice Shoes!



Friends in Talent- house in background looks like
207 Talent Ave. -(still standing)

SEEKING ARTISTS

The old library building we are moving into could use some beautification. Marvin and Lilli Ann Rosenberg, artists from the Applegate, have been contacted and have offered to help.* THS is applying for an Oregon Cultural Trust Grant to have them create an unforgettable entry to the museum. If we receive the grant money, the artists will invite you to help with the project to ensure community input. What would YOU like to see included in the artists rendition of the historical highlights of Talent ? The artists are also interested in organizing workshops to allow participates to create their own panels to include in the overall work of art.

In addition, there is a sizable wall in the old library that could use a painted mural. If you are a muralist or know of one, please contact Jan at 512-8838 and we will try to work something out as part of our renovations to our new site. We are especially interested in local artists that have a sense of history. [*All projects are subject to City approval]

Thank you for your patience!

THS is experiencing a frustrating lapse in internet service. We have tried several different things but since we are moving soon, we are on hold. There has been no email service for a month or more and the internet service is spotty at best. We have learned from this and will get the best service we can afford when we move into the old library.



Telephone is the best way to reach us now.
541-512-8838.

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

Oregon Heritage Commission

Camelot Theater

Richard A. Nagel, CPA

Thomas Doty

Greg Goebelt

Wagner Creek.com

City of Talent

Bill Mansfield, attorney

WalMart - Talent

The *Historacle* is published quarterly by the

Talent Historical Society

P O Box 582/ 206 E. Main St.

Talent, OR 97540

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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

THS Website

We have been working hard on the site and will have it ready soon. The prototype is looking good and the content is packed with photos, and research sources. The Jackson County Pioneer file index will soon be ready to help people find their roots and the events calendar will keep you updated on what is happening. This newsletter will also be available on the website for a better look at the photos and layout. The current issue will always be mailed but the previous issues will be posted on line.

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 membership. 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.

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

New & Renewing Members

Individual:

Kurt Bailey
Judie Bunch
Karen Carr
Bill Horton
Whitney McMahan*
Carolyn Rutledge
Betty Smith
Pauline Sullivan
Patricia Tann *

* New Member

Family:

Bob & Audrey Casebeer
Darrell & Roanne Clapp
Paul & Nellie Creel
Joe Hunkins & Kathy Holden
Gifford & Marilyn Lee
Boyd & Dorcas Lockwood
Don & Carol Muir
Ray & Margaret VanNatta

Sponsor:

Poppie Beveridge/ Schoolhouse Retreat
Judi Drais
Ron Medinger

Many renewing members have chosen to send in donations above the traditional membership levels. That's the spirit! We also want to thank the members who year after year, continue their membership and support, no matter how much they send in.

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