

The Historacle

Oct 2007

The Official newsletter of the

Talent Historical Society



105 N. Market Street • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, OR 97540 • 541-512-8838

Open House for Talent's First Museum

With the help of several dedicated volunteers, a successful Open House was held during the Talent Harvest Festival on September 8th. Displays of Native American artifacts, wall hangings and quilts, Johnny Gruelle and Beeson family memorabilia delighted everyone. Items on loan from the Southern Oregon Historical Society brought depth and beauty to our exhibits. Also on display was an 1884 cradle made by a member of the Goddard family on Wagner Creek. We are still in need of items to display - loans and donations are welcomed. About 200 visitors came to the museum during Harvest Festival but we would like to see more residents enjoy a free peek into the past. Our hours are from Wednesday through Saturday 1-5. The location of the museum next to a playground and commons in the old Talent Library makes it a convenient place to relax and explore.

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Email Addresses Wanted

Please send your email address to jan@talenthistory.org to receive a PDF version of this newsletter. The quality is much better if printed out on your home computer than it is photocopied at THS. If you prefer the mail, it will continue to arrive in your mailbox; but email is faster, prettier, and less costly to us. Thank you.

Potierres from SOHS

Temporarily on loan from the Southern Oregon Historical Society are two lovely door curtains or potierres. If you didn't get a chance to see them at our Open House during the Talent Harvest Festival, they are well worth seeing. They belonged to a local woman, Lizzie McCall and were made for her by the Women's Relief Corps in the 1890s. When Lizzie crossed the plains to Oregon, she first settled in the Talent area with her brothers, E. K. and Marion Anderson. She was one of the few women who received an education, graduating from Umpqua Academy in 1856 and was Ashland's first school teacher. She married the Rev. George Brown in 1858. After he died in 1866, Lizzie ran her own millinery shop on the plaza until she married John McCall on the 4th of July 1876. Mr. & Mrs. McCall later built a beautiful home which still stands on Oak St. in Ashland. The potierres could have hung in any of the doorways of the home which is now being used as a bed and breakfast.



photo courtesy of Jim Bradley

Grants applied for include:

Jackson County Cultural Coalition

(part of the Oregon Cultural Trust) requesting funds to build a model of the 1862 octagonal house of Welborn Beeson.

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation

to fund educational programs about local Native American history. Programs will supplement the rock wall & pictograph in our entry way and create materials for classroom use. They have scheduled a visit to our museum on Oct 17th to take a look around.

If these projects sound interesting to you, please do not hesitate to volunteer time, money, or referrals. We welcome input and sweat equity for all these projects and would like to know what your ideas are for the museum.

We regret to inform you that the grant request for the mosaic mural on the outside of our new building was denied by Oregon Cultural Trust. We remain interested in this project but without funds it seems improbable. Any community-minded lottery winners out there?

Due to budget cuts THS director's hours have been reduced to 20 hours per week. The good news is that the museum will be opened on Saturdays to give more time for visitors. If you can volunteer on Saturday (once a month) or any other day at the museum, please call 512-8838 and talk to Jan. The adjusted open hours (starting in Oct.) are Wed-Sat. 1-5 PM.

Golf Scramble Fundraiser

The tournament format consists of a 9 hole, 4-person scramble (best ball). On every shot, all four players hit the ball; the 3 LEAST DESIRABLE SHOTS are then picked up and all four players hit from where the best shot landed. Experienced and novice players welcomed. It's for fun!!!

When: Saturday October 6, 2007
Check in: 12:00 noon — Shotgun start: 1:00 PM

Where: Bear Creek Golf Course
2355 S Pacific Hwy, Medford, OR -
541-773-1822

What: A fund-raiser to develop and operate the Historical Society Museum at 105 N. Market St., Talent

The price is \$100.00 per foursome. The price includes green fees and prizes. Make checks payable to: Talent Historical Society. Send to: P.O. Box 582, Talent, OR 97540. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be based on the number of teams. Other prizes will be given based on closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt. A separate putting contest and a raffle will be held for additional prizes. Please pay in advance so the golf course can be prepared.

Hole-in-One wins a John Deere ride-around mower
Courtesy of Floyd A Boyd Company –
5759 Crater Lake Highway



Farewell to Dewey Talent



Dewey & his father carrying on the Shiner tradition. (Photo courtesy of Dewey Talent)

We will miss Mr. Dewey Talent who died September 11, 2007. People who knew and loved him spoke of his humor, his sense of community and his willingness to help the less fortunate. A few weeks before he died, Dewey came into the museum to see our new digs and to remind us to keep his family history alive. At his 89th birthday party on August 31st, THS brought a quilt top for him to see which was made by his great grandmother, Martha Talent. The quilt top is in the museum on loan from SOHS. He leaves a wonderful wife, Janell Talent, nephews and friends to mourn his loss. Talent Historical Society will remember him in fondness and as one of the last & best to bear the name "Talent".

Annual Meeting/Chautauqua



Diana Coogle will be the Chautauqua Speaker at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 17th. The program, titled *Reading Houses: What Architecture Tells Us About Ourselves*, will address famous houses in America and abroad. By special request Diana will also include information on the Welborn Beeson octagonal house that stood on Wagner Creek Road from 1862-1892. Please plan to attend and bring your own stories about how houses reflect our personalities. As always, a short annual business meeting will precede the Chautauqua lecture. Chautauqua is sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

Mark your calendars
Public invited free of charge
Saturday, NOVEMBER 17th at 2:00 PM
Talent Historical Society Museum
105 N. Market St.
Talent, OR 97540
For more info call: 541-512-8838
refreshments served

Bellview Grange in Ashland is donating a large mural-sized painting that has been in their building for the past 75 years. We don't know much about the painting and would welcome anyone who would like to do some research on it. The painting depicts a pioneer scene with wagons going through a canyon. It will be removed from the Grange, cleaned, and mounted on the wall above the stage in our museum. Thanks goes to Greg Goebelt who discovered that the Grange was trying to find a home for it and to the Grange for allowing us to have it.

Sharing Local Stories

Storyteller, Tom Doty and THS director, Jan Wright are calling for a small corps of volunteers to launch a new project in Talent. It is our goal to catch as many local personalities on tape, video, or photographs as possible to reveal the character of our area. The resulting stories and photographs will be collected and incorporated into our displays and some of them performed by storyteller, Tom Doty, on our stage. Stories will be continuously playing in the museum to help give voice to the community.

Please volunteer to help with this project. We can not do it alone. Stories will be more and more valuable as time goes by.

So often people come in to the museum and talk about the neighborhoods they grew up in, who had cookies after school, whose house was “haunted” and where the best ball fields were. I often wish the tape recorder was running when they do so and now with the right equipment, it can all be recorded simply and efficiently.

Volunteers are needed now to help others tell their stories, do the technical work of storing and recording, to organize outreaches and help publicize the project. Please come and share your experiences and your skills. Call Jan at THS 512-8838 to help with this endeavor.



photo courtesy of Jan Wright postcard collection

I hope you are all watching the Ken Burns series called *The War* on PBS. It is an amazingly personal and informative historical documentary about WWII. It is a great example of the kind of stories THS would like to archive and share. If you are a veteran of the war or have a story about it, please feel free to come in and share it.

Grants & Fundraising

Leadership Gifts

Thanks to all our generous donors who have made gifts through September 2007.

Listed are recent grants -- and donors who have contributed \$100 and greater during the transition to our new Museum.

\$5,245

Oregon Heritage Commission
grant to transcribe and edit the
Diary of Welborn Beeson

\$2,500

Oregon Heritage Commission
grant to establish our website

\$2,000

Carolyn & Dan Beeson
grant to microfilm Beeson diaries

\$1,000 - \$1,499

Talent Wal-Mart

\$500 - \$999

Carl Shauger
Umpqua Bank

\$250 - \$499

Jim Bradley
TARKS Market

\$100 - \$249

Carol & Robert Delsman
Home Depot
AP Facilities - Bob Fisher
Eric & Barbara Massey
Wanda Perdue
Patricia Remencuis
Carol Samuelson

Talent Historical Society is part of the Jackson County Heritage Association (JCHA). The group plans to let the voters decide on the formation of a Heritage District much like the Soils and Conservation District to establish a permanent but minimal (5 to 7 cents on a thousand) source of funding for all the historical societies in the county. If all goes as planned, the vote will be during the presidential elections in November 2008. Please let us know your thoughts and feelings about whether you would vote for a Heritage District or not or how you think that the historical society ought to finance the future.

As director, I have tried to keep **history** at the center of every project. Like the libraries, the historical society needs to find a stable funding source to get out of survival mode and back into preservation and historical pursuits. Please join the THS board and others in seeking solutions and in generously donating to the Talent Historical Society which will keep us concentrating on our mission rather than on the money. Help us stay positive and be a part of the first history museum that Talent has ever had by adding your name to the list on this page. Thank you!



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

Camelot Theater

Richard A. Nagel, CPA

Thomas Doty

Greg Goebelt

Carl Shauger

City of Talent

Schoolhouse Retreat - Poppie
Beveridge

Jim Bradley

LightningCopy.net

Talent Chamber of Commerce

Micro-Trains - Joe D'Amato

Matt Watson

Oregon Council for the Humanities

Southern Oregon Historical Society

New Members

William & Carolyn Cecil

David Gray

Ed Jorgenson

Lori Leyba

James Maize

Alicia Moore

Wanda & Carl Perdue

Renewing members

Pat Bentley & James Trowbridge

Katherine Harris

The *Historacle* is published quarterly by the

Talent Historical Society

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Talent, OR 97540

www.talenthistory.org

jan@talenthistory.org

Board of Directors:

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Museum Staff:

Museum Director : Jan Wright

Volunteers:	Carl Shauger
	Katherine Harris
	Karen Carr
	Ann Ramage
	Liz Carter
	Jim Bradley
	Pat Bentley

Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, The
Historacle, by mail or by email to:
jan@talenthistory.org Members of the Society
receive the *Historacle* free with membership. Board
meetings are at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Monday of
each month. Office is opened from 1-5 Wed. - Sat.

Let your friends
become our friends.
Share this newsletter with
them . We can all work
together to make Talent a
landmark city by sharing
our memories, skills and
experiences with one
another.

Membership Renewal Form

(Memberships now due)

Talent Historical Society

P O Box 582

Talent, OR 97540

or use form on-line at www.talenthistory.org

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

(Make check payable to Talent Historical Society)

* Individual (\$ 20.00) *Family (30.00) * Business \$50.00

Thank You!

Feeling generous? See page 6 of this newsletter for a peek at what others are donating.

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