

The Historacle

April 2010

The Official Newsletter of the **Talent Historical Society**



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Open Hours: 1:00 to 5:00 p. m. Wednesday through Saturday

TALENT WOMEN'S CLUBS LASTING IMPACT NOW KNOWN AS A RESULT OF A DONATION TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1912, a small group of women met and decided that collectively they could make an impact on the quality of life that the citizens of Talent area could enjoy. Just recently, thanks to the archival skills of Alice Burnette, extant minutes of this group, and succeeding years of Talent women have been given to the Talent Historical Society.

Initially known as the Talent Community Club (the group was known by that name until 1957) until the club members voted to join Oregon's Federated Women's Clubs and thus became the Talent Federated Women's Club. While the early minutes of the Talent Community Club have yet to be unearthed, minutes from January 1918 to April 2001 are now housed in the historical collection of the Talent Historical Society.

The impact of what only a few women can accomplish when they organize to change the immediate world they inhabit can be found in these rare documents. Listed below are just a few of the accomplishments of decades of activity of this club which usually had fewer than twenty members at any one time. Talent women did this:

1918-Started a library in Talent. Hired the shelves built to house the books.

Formed a Library board. Paid the librarian.

Got the City Council to assist the continuation of the Talent Library.

Joined a loose organization of women in the State of Oregon.

1922 - Purchased a piano for the Community Hall.

1923 - Decided to aid and build a kitchen for the Community Hall.

Planted roses in the Community Hall yard

1925 - Began the sponsoring of Talent area Camp Fire Girls and Boys Scouts--
a sponsorship that lasted for many years.

Began an annual Christmas Tree & Party that continued until mid 1950s.

1928 - Got a dining hall built on to the Community Building with the help of the
City Council.

Paid to have a walk installed in front of the Community Building.

- 1929 to 1932 - Distributed clothing to the Depression Era needy
 Appointed a committee to study the need for highway clean-up. Talent Avenue was then the Old Pacific Highway, the main highway to California.
 Made bedding for needy families.
 Discussed the need for a school nurse.
 Canned 1309 quarts of food for needy family food relief.
- 1932-1938 - Joined with the Chamber of Commerce to purchase a new piano
 Combined with the City of Talent to install a new stove and water heater in the kitchen of the Community Hall.
 Sponsored 4-H Scholarships which sent 4-H members to summer programs at then Oregon State College.
 Started an annual Art Show
- 1939-1940 - Assisted in raising money for City of Talent Fire Department equipment.
 Redecorated the Community Hall dining room.
 Helped purchase band uniforms for the Talent High School.
 Held a Golden Jubilee Benefit tea for the General Federation of Women's Clubs here in Talent.
- 1943-1949 - Rolled bandages for the Red Cross.
 Met at high school to sew for the Red Cross.
 Made scrapbooks for the Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.
 Purchased playground equipment for City Park.
 Sponsored annual Easter Egg Hunt
 Sent donations to Navajo children through Salem's Chemawa Indian School
- 1950-1959 - Sent clothing to Korea.
 Worked on TB x-ray drive.
 Got other clubs and groups to help create a Camp Fire Girls Camp up Wagner Creek.
 Assisted the school to buy a hot pack machine for polio victims for Medford hospital.
 Purchased tables for the Community Hall.
 Distributed Christmas baskets for local needy.
 Furnished lumber to build latrines at Camp Ya-ie-wah-noah up Wagner Creek.
 Folded bandages for the Cancer Society
 Club bought the lumber for the Lions Club members who built a shelter at the Wagner Creek Camp Fire Girls camp.
 Finally quit paying the Talent Librarian salary when the Talent Library became part of the Jackson County Library system. Payment began in 1918 and ended circa 1959 **some 41 years later.**

Started a Hobby Show that was held annually unit 1979.

Released Camp Ya-ie-wah-noah to the Jackson County Parks Association.

Started an annual Christmas bazaar and Flea market, held from 1968 to 1988.

1970-1980 - Discovered that the club members had folded some 150,000 cancer pads over the past years of activity.

Paid to have the exterior of the Community Building painted.

Made and provided bibs for nursing homes. Over the years other items made for these patients included lap robes, back packs for wheelchairs, catheter covers, place mats, and lap aprons.

Paid for a backstop at the Talent Charles Robert Park.

1981-1989 - Donated \$200 for a bike rack at Charles Roberts Park.

Held a candidates' fair for city, county, state, and U. S. offices.

Donated \$200 to a high school senior who needed a wheelchair.

Helped Friends of the Library hold a rummage sale to keep the local library open.

Joined with Partners in Progress to repair the Community Hall.

Donated money to the Talented Feet Elementary Jump Rope Team.

Worked to get a three year library levy passed.

Celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Talent Community Club in 1987

1990-2001 - Assisted with the ceremony installing the Veterans' plaque on the huge oak tree at Talent Elementary School.

Sponsored State Representative Nancy Peterson's discussion of issues facing the state legislature.

Helped sponsor the Talent Community Cleanup Program.

Promoted efforts to secure passage of a five year Jackson County library levy.

Planted three trees and three bushes at Charles Roberts Park.

Provided 157 teddy bears to the Talent Police Department for distribution to Talent children through their Operation Santa program during this decade.

Donated funds to the Dunn House, a refuge house for battered women and children.

Donated canned goods regularly to the Talent Food Bank.

Annually contributed to the Phoenix High School's all-night graduation party.

Nearly 300 lap robes were created and given away to nursing homes and other organizations. Larger ones to be used for crib blankets were given to the Dunn House.

Donated funds to the Suzuki violin project at Talent Elementary School.

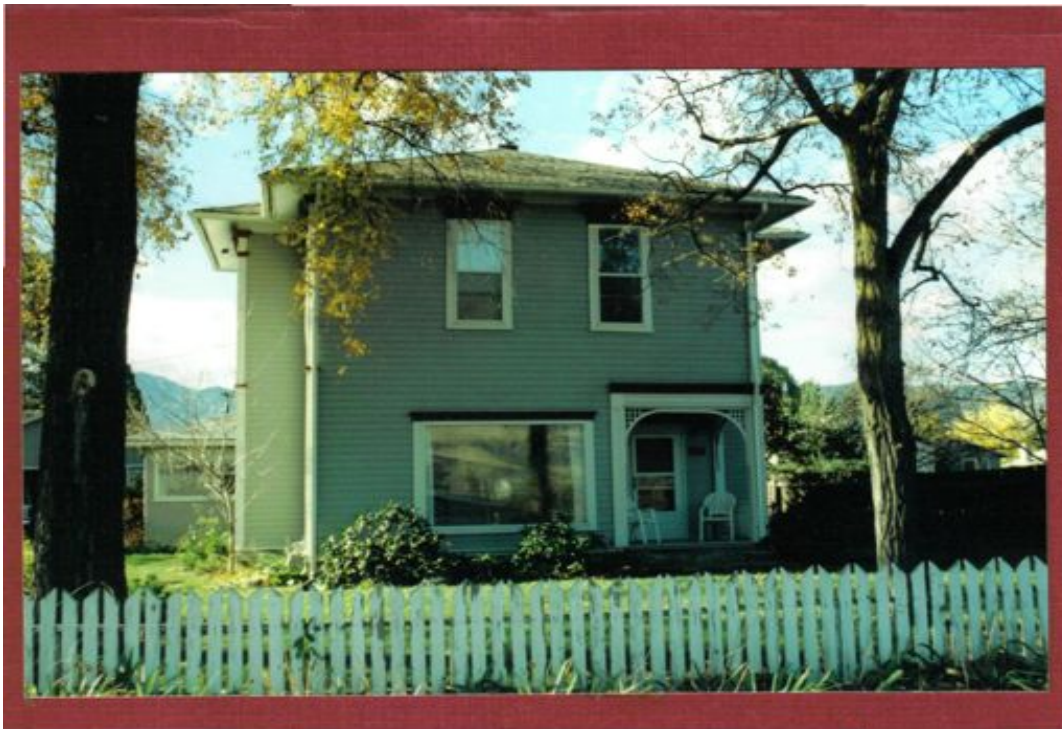
Editorial Comment: What would Talent have been like if this club and its average yearly membership of fifteen had not been active in our community? Some of

its long time members are now in their 90s. Will other women in our community continue this traditional effort and activity? Apparently this group over the past 98 years has been part of the social glue that kept this place of Talent active and involved. The Talent Historical Society archive collection has provided this information to the community through this quarterly publication.

The Railroad and the Traveling Talent Depot

Although the railroad that links Oregon and California was finally finished in 1884, with the appropriate golden spike ceremony held in Ashland, Talent, due to its small population did not have a railroad depot. The passenger trains (yes, at one time the railroad through Talent did carry people not just freight as it occasionally does today) did not stop at Talent.

Actually the reason why this town is called Talent rather than Wagner Creek, its earlier name, is also due to transportation history. After Aaron Patton Talent arrived in Southern Oregon in the mid 1870s, he purchased both the Jacob Wagner property, and some land from Welborn Beeson, some 160 acres all told, and built a house at what is now 108 South Front Street.



He hired Welborn Beeson to survey and plat what is now the town of Talent, but it was not until 1883 that the community had its own post office. Prior to that time, the stage coach company, which carried the mail for the U. S. postal service, dropped the mail off at Mr. Talent's home, so eventually A. P. Talent became the postmaster for the

community. When the railroad began carrying the mail in 1884, they continued dropping the mail off at the Talent residence. But the growing town, which was not incorporated until 1910, still did not have a train depot. A solution, however, was found.



In 1900, after years of lobbying by Talent residents, “friendly” Southern Pacific Railroad company delivered a depot building to Talent, a depot that had previously been used as Medford's depot, but due to increased passenger demand in that city, a new depot in Medford had been built.

The present Depot building, located in front of the City Hall on Main Street and currently hosting a coffee shop, is a replica of the original depot which had been removed when passenger service was no longer provided by Southern Pacific Railroad to the Southern Oregon area. If commuter rail service is ever provided for the Rogue River Valley, Talent's depot will once again greet rail passengers.

So You Folk Have an Archive? Hmmm? So What?

Periodically, the Historical mentions that the Talent Historical Society maintains an archive. Our archive focuses on the Talent and Upper Bear Creek Valley area and its people.

So exactly what is an archive? The American Heritage Dictionary defines an archive thusly: “A place or collection containing records, documents, or other materials of historical interest.” Secondly, an archive is a place where memories and information is stored.

At the Talent Historical Society museum (located between the Talent Library and the Community Building at 105 N. Market Street) the Archives now exist in 35 archive boxes, plus over 90 oral interviews which have been conducted since 1994. The material in the Archive is currently available for research purposes **within the museum**. Both the THS Archives and Library are research entities and do not operate like a lending library. Within in each box are file folders citing the kind of information placed therein. The general topics are these: Native American; Oregon General History; Southern Oregon General History; City of Talent; Talent & Southern Oregon Cemeteries, Talent Schools—General History; Talent School Publications; Civil War Veterans, Water History of the Talent Area; Talent Area Churches; Talent Newspapers; Talent Newsletters; Talent Photographs—General History; Preservation—Conservation-Historic Preservation; Talent Community Organizations; Talent Before 1910; and Talent After 1910.

In addition to these categories, the Talent Area Archives also have a section on Upper Bear Creek Area Family Data. We currently maintain twelve boxes of files mostly on Talent area families. We welcome family history contributions to these files, and we clip news articles and add to all these files constantly. If any area family desires to have their genealogical information or family memories permanently stored in our archives, simply contact the museum at 541-512-8838 during office hours (1 to 5, Wednesday through Saturday), or drop by the museum to talk about storage of your family history.

Volunteers needed to work on the Archives. Call 541-512-8838

BULLETIN BOARD DATA

Donations or loans of objects which the Society can use for exhibit display are always welcome. For example, at the moment we have a display about ironing of fabric with a sad iron featured. The current Dave Hampton exhibit of Talent quarter horse competition has drawn considerable attention. The Burnette family has brought quite a bit of documentary material to the museum recently for inclusion in the Archive collection. The lead article about the women's club activity in Talent for 98 years is available from documents the Burnettes provided.

The following individuals have recently provided loans or donations, and we thank you:

Alice Burnette	Jack Latvala—Star Properties
Daniel & Kristine Childres	Boyd & Dorcus Lockwood
Diane Glendenning	Kurt & Laura Lotspeich
Katherine Harris	Tom & Susan Moulder
Ron & Jesse Hodgdon	Lynn & Charlotte Newbry
Carol Kehrig	Ron Ridgeway—Tarks Market
Kurt & Laura Lotspeich	

What We Currently Are Looking For:

1. Some members to fill at least two vacant board positions.
2. A Volunteer coordinator
3. Items and pictures to circa 1910 to build exhibits to celebrate the City of Talent's Centennial.
4. One or more artists to create and paint a mural on the exterior of the museum.
5. Digital Camera with tripod or tripod ready

Email Addresses

If you have an email address, and currently are receiving the Historical by mail, please help the Society save postage expenses by providing us with your email address. You can do this by email to us, simply send your note to us at talenthistory@gmail.com [Use this link.](#)

Save the Date

Saturday, May 29 Stearns Pioneer Cemetery Tour. Jan Wright, author of the centennial book Talent will lead a tour providing an overview of the cemetery, its history, and the history of the people who founded Talent. The tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. Jan's stories about past pioneers are fascinating and give a surprising glimpse into the early days of our valley.

Talent Historical Society Website

On our website, under the heading HOW YOU CAN HELP, you can find a link to Amazon.com. If you are planning to buy a book as a present or for your own amusement or edification, log on to the link provided and shop Amazon as you normally would. The Talent Historical Society will then receive a percentage of your purchase as a donation from Amazon. Go to www.talenthistory.org for more information.

And Don't Forget to Come Visit the Museum

The Historical is published quarterly by the Talent Historical Society, located at 105 N. Market Street, Talent, Oregon. Phone: 541-512-8838. Open Hours: 1 to 5 Wednesday through Saturday. Send mail to P. O. Box 582, Talent, Oregon 97540. Website access: <http://www.talenthistory.org> The Society operates as a 503(c3) organization, totally by volunteers. We maintain archives about the Upper Bear Creek valley, conduct historical research, feature a reference library, and host a museum. We welcome old and new members. Annual Dues: Individual \$20; Family \$30; Business Sponsorship: \$50.

New and Renewing Members this last Quarter are listed below:

Individual:

Lee & Ann Banks

Diane Glendenning

Judy Jordan

Doris Myers

Paul Creel

Genevieve Windsor

Family:

Boyd & Dorcas Lockwood

Bob & Annie Dreisus

Bill & Carolyn Cecil

Catherine A. (Beeson) Weber

Business Sponsorship:

Associated Fruit Company—David Lowry