

The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the
Talent Historical Society

Volume 22 Issue 2

June 2016

History in the Making - Talent in 1966

We are the Talent Historical Society and as such we are pledged to preserve and record the history of the Talent area in Southern Oregon. But, that statement begs the question, "When does history begin?"; 50 years ago, 100 years ago, last week? As a Historical Society, we often focus on the pioneer families such as the Beesons or the Andersons, but what about Talent's more recent history. Isn't it relevant and important as well?

At the February, Tuesday Evening at the Museum presentation, Darin Welburn, the current Fire Chief of Jackson County Fire District 5, led a lively discussion on the history of the fire departments in the Talent area. A great deal of the talk was about the 50's, 60's and 70's. Stories were told about when Chief Welburn had first volunteered at the Phoenix Fire Dept., and one of the past chiefs was also in attendance and told stories about how things operated back in his day, the 60's. The room was filled with interested people and comments flew around the room about where the old fire station was located (the building at the corner of Hwy. 99 and West Valley View - now Suntym Pools). We all knew where that is today. A story was told about the very loud siren that called the volunteers out after the station moved to 716 S. Pacific Hwy. This was history. This was a historical discussion. No, it wasn't about wagon trains or homesteads, but it was definitely a valid piece of history. Talent history.

With that in mind, this issue of the *Historacle* will focus on 1966; 50 years ago. What was happening in Talent back then? What was it like to live here during that era? How was it different from now?

In 1966 on the national level, Lyndon B. Johnson was President and in the first Oscars televised in color, *The Sound of Music* beat out *Dr. Zhivago* for best picture.

But the top news story was the raging war in Viet Nam. Graphic scenes of war filled American's homes each evening as Walter Cronkite solemnly reported that day's death toll. The country was in turmoil with marches and demonstrations; love and peace vs. Agent Orange and Napalm. The draft was mandatory and young men had to sign up at the Post Office on their 18th birthday. Jackson County had 33 young men perish in that war. One soldier, Glenn Wayne Bradley, is buried in Stearns Cemetery on Anderson Creek Road, west of Talent. Those growing up in that era still remember the uncertainty and looming dread of being drafted and sent overseas. It's what you worried about if you were in high school. Those memories linger even today, especially for those now adult men and their families who had their lives uprooted and changed forever.

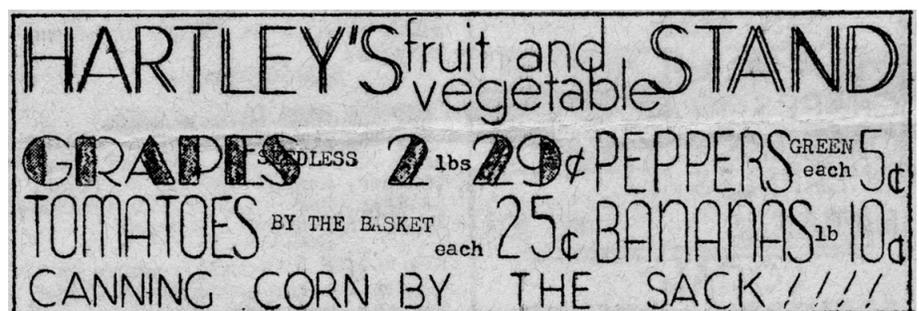
In 1966, the population of Talent was about 1,100. Keep in mind that the City limits were much smaller then than now, and Talent has always had a large rural population.

Much of the information for this

article was gleaned from the pages of the *Talent News Flashes*. Published and edited by Mae Lowe, it was published weekly in Talent since 1934. It's yearly rate in 1966 was \$3.00 or 10 cents per issue. The Talent Historical Society is very fortunate to have copies of this paper as an amazing source of information. Mae Lowe scoured the town and seemingly knew everything that was going on with everyone. Hospital visits, vacations, arrests, weddings, engagement announcements and obituaries of anyone with a Talent address was reported, giving us a robust picture of life in Talent in 1966. Mae also shared her editorial comments at times. She didn't mince words and her opinions were often insightful and helpful to readers.

1966 was an election year and the Fall issues are full of ads for various candidates. The *News Flashes* recommendation on the town ballot were: "Mayor: Ralph Conner, Councilmen: Lee Boyd, Henry Lucier, Ed Lunsford and Milton Seoule. These

Continued on page 10



Hartley's Fruit Stand was located at Hwy. 99 and Hartley Rd. (now Barely Used Beds at 5538 S. Pacific Hwy.), and much of the produce was grown on fields now occupied by Brammo, Inc. (former Wal-Mart site) on west Valley View Road. The rich, Bear Creek bottom land grew vegetables that were outstanding in taste and quality. Nobody's corn tasted as good as George Hartley's and it was considered the best in the Valley. Ad from the July 29, 1966 issue of Talent News Flashes.

Talent Historical Society

The Talent Historical Society researches and preserves the history of the Talent area in Southern Oregon. We offer a collection of historical archives to help local residents and visitors become better acquainted with our area's rich history.

We operate a museum and meeting place located at:

105 North Market Street
Talent, Oregon

The museum is open Saturday and Sunday and holiday Mondays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

General Business Address:

P.O. Box 582
Talent, OR 97540

Phone Number: (541) 512-8838

Email: info@talenthistory.org

www.talenthistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/TalentHistoricalSociety/

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Editor/layout:
Belinda Klimek Vos

**New Museum Hours:
Saturday and Sunday
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

**Holiday Mondays
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Memberships since last Issue

New Members:

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A special *Thank You* to Jack Latvala for his generous and repeated donations to the Talent Historical Society. We appreciate your continued support and interest. *Talent Historical Society Board of Directors*

THS President's Message - by Ron Medinger

Last issue I mentioned there is one more membership group that we need to approach. That is the members of our community who, while they find the work we do interesting, have not yet decided to support us with a paid membership. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to support Talent Historical Society with a membership.

As board members, we've done quite a bit of organization re-building in the past year and a half. Now we'd like to ask those of you who would like to volunteer a couple of hours, or more, a month to join with us to help the Society continue to grow. If you are interested in learning what you can do to help, send an email to info@talenthistory.org. Let us know what your availability is and the best way to get in contact with you.

Help us preserve Talent's memories.

Tuesday Evening at the Museum

The Talent Historical Society continues its series of presentations held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

On March 22nd, THS Historian and Board Member, Jan Wright, gave an interesting and thought provoking talk on "Spiritualism in Southern Oregon at the Turn of the Century." An enthralled crowd listened as she spoke of strange events and meetings going on right here in Talent along Wagner Creek.

On April 26th, several speakers paid tribute to the lives of long time Talent residents Clarence and Genevieve Holdridge. Mr. Holdridge was the person who discovered and named the Talent Tomato, while Mrs. Holdridge was a much loved teacher. Special guest, David James, told of how he "re-discovered" the forgotten packet of Talent Tomato seeds in his desk drawer as he was about to retire, and then had Greenleaf Industries begin to grow them again. How lucky for us!!

Kristi Mergenthaler gave a wonderful presentation on the "Wildflowers Found in and Around Talent" on May 24th.

Our June 28th, program has yet to be finalized. Check our Facebook page for details.

Talent Historical Society Historian Jan Wright will lead a field trip at Stearns Cemetery on Tuesday Evening, July, 28th. After a very popular tour of the cemetery last summer, she will once again inspire us with tales of some of Talent's past residents. Meet at the Cemetery on Anderson Ck. Rd., just off Wagner Ck. Rd. at 6:30 pm.

The August 23rd presentation will be announced at a later date.

All talks are held at our museum at 105 North Market Street, Talent, unless otherwise noted.

Please come and join us as we explore the rich history of Talent, Oregon. The meetings are open to the public and you need not be a member to attend.



May 7th Tomato Sale a Big Success

A big thank you to everyone who came out to support us at the Talent Tomato Sale. We had a wonderful turnout and sold out of tomato plants in just a couple of hours!!! The Museum was humming with good cheer and laughter. The plants, which were grown by Greenleaf Industries in Grants Pass, were lush and sturdy and some even had little tomatoes already on them. Pansies were also available and all of those sold as well.

We had a new and unique item; a Talent Tomato postage stamp, and they sold briskly. An "I Love Talent, OR" magnetic sticker was also made available for the first time and can now be seen on car bumpers around town. The 2016 edition of the Talent Tomato T-shirt was a big hit with its saucy graphic imploring you to "Bite Me". Stamps, stickers and T-shirts can still be purchased by going to our online store or at the Museum. We are also taking orders for prepaid 2017 tomatoes. So get your order in now, so that you won't be disappointed next May.

See everyone again next year!!



THS Online Store Up & Running

Our online store is ready for your shopping pleasure and can be reached by going to our web page at www.talenthistory.org and clicking on the online store name or by going directly there by using <http://store.talenthistory.org/>.

You can sign up for a membership to the Talent Historical Society directly or you can download an application and send it to us. Several different styles of T-shirts as well as books, belt buckles, posters, etc., can be ordered online. We can ship these items to anywhere in the U.S.

Check out the store and see what we have to offer. It's a great way to support the Society while getting some unique and interesting Talent merchandise.



Southern Oregon Grape Fair

The 3rd annual Southern Oregon Grape Fair will be held Sunday, June 5th in downtown Talent from 12:00 to 6:00 pm, and the Talent Historical Society will once again have a booth.

Information on the history of grapes in Talent and the Rogue Valley will be available. We will also have Talent merchandise for sale including t-shirts, books and much more.

So, stop by and have a chat while enjoying a fun day in Talent.

Story Time

Interesting stories about Talent residents and their histories taken from our oral history files.

Taken from an oral history done on May 19, 1997 with Al Grabher at 213 Talent Avenue, Talent, Oregon.

I've been here since 1950 and came from Berkeley, CA. I knew of Talent through my brothers. They had been here a year or two earlier and I had been through here from Washington to California. I don't know why this particular area, really. I came and spent about a week in the area, then went back and got my Dad to come up on a three day vacation. By the time we went home, we had purchased 22 acres on Rapp Lane. We went home and told my mother and wife that they now owned a ranch in Oregon. I came up first and settled. There was one big house and one small house - 7033 Rapp Lane. Then, it was Rt. 1, Box 599. That didn't mean much to most people. Twenty-two acres - 5 acres orchard (peaches, cherries, plums.)

When I grew up I went through 8th grade and whatever you learned by the time you got out of that grade is it. I tried a couple years of high school but gave that up and there came the time when everyone went into the service. I was in the Army about eighteen months.

I had two brothers and a sister. One brother passed away and one lives here in Talent. My sister lives between Phoenix and here.

About 1953, I bought a Service Station. That's the best way to get to know the people. It was a Union station on Valley View and Talent Avenue. That same year, I became a member of the Lion's Club and was appointed assistant Scout Master and everything went from there. I stayed in voluntary Lion's work - still am. I stayed in Scouts for 6 years and finally wore out.

I sold the station and went to work for the Bureau of Reclamation when they started to work on the Talent Irrigation Project in 1956. Later, I served on the Talent Planning Commission. I bought another business. That same year, I went to work for the City of Talent in the capacity of City Superintendent for five years. Things were moving fast; sewer,

water, fire station and a new city hall. The water plant on Wagner Creek was working. I didn't get in on the water plant down here, but I was in on the water reservoirs. Those are still what we use now. We need a couple more. Approximately 800 people - less than a thousand people in Talent.

Stores in Talent at the time? Not much of anything below the Mobil Service Station on the corner; all open ground. This side of the street had about the same number of houses. Talent Hardware was in what is now the Emporium. The service station was at the corner of Main and Talent. Nothing on the other side except mobile homes which were torn down.

I bought property and junked it. Talent was a depressed area. Banks didn't want anything to do with Talent. We hauled tons of junk away. This was while I had the service station. The man who owned the Tally Ho and one that owned the paint store and two men who were Lions all said, "You can buy a house for \$250." People can't borrow money. They said, "If you will do the demolishing, that will be your part."

From the August 5, 1966 *Talent News Flashes*

HARDWARE TO EXPAND

Al Grabher, proprietor of the Talent Hardware, has purchased the entire inventory of the Simpson Hardware Store in Ashland. Since Simpson must vacate the store by August 17.

Al is planning to hold a storewide sale beginning August 5 and running through the 15, in order to lower the inventory before moving it to the Talent Hardware. Al plans to sell as much of the stock as possible. There will be tables of items reduced from 20% to 30% for this special sale. So between Aug. 5 and Aug 15 is the time to buy at Simpson's Hardware in Ashland. See the staff at the Talent Hardware about the numerous door prizes.

We began buying all questionable pieces and tore them down. The houses weren't all empty, but as soon as we got the people out, we demolished it. Water and sewer were in. That was one case where I went in with others who were business men and who knew how to invest.

I demolished literally with my hands. I worked every day in addition. The Silva place was a fairly reasonable house. There was a fire in the garage. For 15 years, he didn't do anything. It just sat there. The City is reluctant to enforce ordinances unless forced. The legal side just doesn't work. They just sit there. The apartments on Gibson too for 20 years. Even threats with a law suit doesn't work.

The Oregon Bank put in a mobile home type of bank. It lasted maybe a year. Then we didn't have any for quite a few years. Then, Brittsan and Bagley and Newbry and one other man got another bank in here. That attracted depositors. That was Valley of the Rogue.

I worked for the City when the brick school house was torn down. I think it should have become a museum. They had plenty of land for the school. There was no reason for putting the school where it is. The School District decides to do something, it goes. They have absolute power. Most powerful lobby in the state of Oregon. If they want a street closed, they close it. They are an entity that does what it wants to do. Where the school sits is a bottle neck. The state of Oregon twenty years ago told the city they should make plans.

I owned where the Emporium is for seven years. I offered it to the City for \$14,000. They said no. I even offered to tear the building down and carry it away. Then they would have had property to make a street straight through. The prediction was already out as to how many cars would be coming through. Another man bought it then sold it to Del Shaw who bought it for Jittery Joes. Eventually, the City is going to have to buy the property.

The people who have come here in the past fifteen-eighteen years don't care.

It used to be the locals were in power, not politicians. It used to be if a person in government came in the area to speak, thousands came out for it. Now, they don't give a damn.

We are seeing problems with the freeway; the entrances and exits. Phoenix and Talent will be the next one. I sat on a commission where we warned the city not to let Ray's Market build there in Phoenix. They should have left 70 feet through the market area and there would have been plenty of room for the market and parking. Another bridge over Bear Creek is the next one, and Talent isn't going to want to pay for it.



George Kerby moved tons of hay from the fields to the barn over and over again. Hay grew lustily up in the hills and supplemented livestock feed through the winter. (Kerby family.)

From "Images of America - Talent" by Jan Wright of the Talent Historical Society, page 77. This book may be ordered through our online store or purchased directly at the Museum. Price is \$21.99. This must have book documents Talent's early history through images and text and is published by Arcadia Publishing as part of its Images of America series.



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Southern Pacific Depot
100 East Main Street ca. 1883 (original)
2003 (replica)

When the railroad linking Oregon to California was finally completed in 1884, the growing settlement around Wagner Creek did not have its own depot. This was solved in 1900 by the Southern Pacific Railroad moving a depot that had been constructed in Medford in 1883, but was no longer going to be used there, down the tracks to Talent. The Talent Southern Pacific Depot served the railroad and the town until it was torn down in 1948. The new replica Depot Building was constructed by the Talent Urban Renewal Agency in 2003 based on photos, like the one above, of the original depot building.

Taken from our "Walking Tour of Historic Talent" Booklet. The booklet may be purchased at the museum or at our online store: store.talenthistory.org. Purchase price is \$2.00 and includes descriptions of 20 properties of significant historic value that are located within the city limits of Talent.

DON'T MISS OUT!!

Would you like timely email reminders about upcoming events at the Talent Historical Society? If so, contact us at: membership@talenthistory.org or call and leave a message at (541) 512-8838. Or just drop by the museum and leave us your information. We'll email notices out including all the information about upcoming events.

From Our Facebook Page

To read all the THS posts and information, “like” us on Facebook

Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TalentHistoricalSociety/>

Or go to www.facebook.com and type Talent Historical in the search bar at the top of the page. Then from the options shown, choose Talent Historical Society (Public Group)

In a daily post, we are following pioneer Welborn Beeson’s diary entry from 150 years ago. (currently 1866)

Our Facebook page continues to grow and has become a lively forum for news and comments on all that is the Talent Historical Society.

Reading Welborn Beeson's diary entries for 150 years ago, we learn that political unrest is not a new concept at all! Mar 10, 1866, Saturday. *“The reporter man has a notice of our arival in Town, in this mornings issue We breakfasted and went down to Dowells office to have a talk. We find that Doctor Thomson has misrepresented to the union men of Jackson untill they believe that the country people are their enemy. As for the old Doct he was very anxious to have us go into his office so that we would not talk to the people and enlighten them to his underhanded game I think we enlightened Dowell, so that he will join the Union party. we had a huge time talking to all hands. The Klamath Bridge broke down and floated away and took the ferry with it. great loss to Firman Anderson. I got home at eight oclock and night and went to bed This is my first experience in Political tricksty and I see more villiany the more I investigate, which plainly shows why it is that the meanest men become our Political leader’s an honest man has no need to try to be a Political leader, at present.* In his

April 14th entry, he elaborates further: *“Wallace rode Lionheart to Jacksonville Logan and plowed. Logan plows well It is the first day he ever plowed. been cool day Mother is very sick. Father is not well. Wallace has not come home yet. It is cloudy to night. The political atmosphere of our country is in an alarming state. Johnson is siding with the Rebels and is opposed to our radical congress one year ago to day our beloved Lincoln was assasinated in cold blood. the condition of the country was bad enough then but I prophesy harder and more blood will be shed before the people and President will be brought to their senses. I feel almost to despair, of peace and quiet, but let the worst come. I will try and be prepared and will ever try to do what is right and honorable. The oak trees buds are just beginning to swell, and apple buds show red Peaches flower out full bloom, wheat is growing nice. Oats, are up.”*

This last entry demonstrates the two main subjects of the past few months posts. Almost every entry refers to some kind of planting or “grubbing” or some type of activity related to growing food. It seems a never ending cycle of work and worry as crops are planted and tended.

As spring advances more and more

entries chronicle the decline of Welborn’s Mother, Ann Beeson’s, health.

On April 24, 1866, he writes, *“went to Steanes after his Spring wagon took Mother to stay a few day’s at Ashland, at J Wagner’s she is very weak. I got her up there quite comfortable, and came home and plowed for cornto night is the first night ever I spent on this place with out Mother she never slept away from the place before oh how lonesom. we have strained the milk, and I have mixed up some sour dough, and put some apples ready to cook and Father has gone to bed. Logan Wallace and I are ready for bed. the Toads are singing a tremendous noise.*

April 25th, Wednesday. *“... .. I am again at home all gone to bed. Dear Mother is not at home oh how curious it seems not to have her to speak to me when I come in. I seems as if I could hardly wait till tomorrow to go after her. It is cool to night.*

Her decline is heartbreaking to read and one can only imagine the anguish Welborn must be feeling. And as readers we feel his pain as well, and also acknowledge our good fortune to be living in a time when one’s physical passing can be helped by modern medicine.



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ASK JAN



Many followers of our Facebook page have asked interesting questions while we've been reading Welborn Beeson's diary entries, especially about the history of Talent and the area. Jan Wright - Former Executive Director of the Talent Historical Society has agreed to answer some questions for us. So if you have a question, email it to askthsjan@gmail.com and every week she will answer three questions from the requests she gets. Her answers will be posted every Sunday evening on our Facebook page for you to see. The questions don't have to be about Welborn's diary or even the Beeson's specifically. They can be about anything you are curious about concerning the history of Talent.

Regarding diary entry for May 5th, 1866, which reads in part, "Mother is still growing weaker a high fever all day. pain not so severe, rested poorly all night..... Mrs Robison called. I and Logan staid in house turn about I got considerble plowed in orchard for beans. Mrs Holton called in a few minutes Mother is quite free from pain comparitively and is sleeping now. Roger Bradley asks, "Where was the Welborn Beeson place?"

Jan's Answer: Welborn Beeson's house, though much altered, is still standing today. See pages 41-43 in the Talent Book to see photos of the remodeled place. His home was very special - it was built as a hexagonal building and stood that way for nearly 30 years until it was sold to Julius Foss in 1890. Julius apparently did not like the angles of the hexagonal and so he had the entire west half of it torn down and a conventional two story house added to face Wagner Creek Road. You can't miss it as you drive down Wagner Creek Road just outside of town limits - it is on the left hand side of the road and has the water town directly attached to the back of the house.

Regarding the diary entry for April 29th, 1866, which reads in part, "I staid all night with C.C. Applegate, and then came home calling at Cooliges, O.C. Applegate, A.D. Helman, H.S. Emery and O. Dodge, accompanying me to the Warm Springs." Nick Medinger asks, "Warm Springs = Jackson Hot Springs?"

Jan's Answer: Very likely the Warm Springs referred to is Jackson Hot Springs. There are other springs in the area - in and around Ashland but they had other names like Tolman Springs, Soda Springs, etc and weren't necessarily warm springs. The way WB said that he came home (to Talent) and the others accompanied him on his way - does seem to me to be the location of Jackson Hot Springs. Good call Nick.



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School Days

Schools are an important part of any community and the Talent area is no exception. Often one of the first buildings erected, schools provide a consistency and a gathering place where lifetime relations are often formed.

Talent Junior High School

Talent Junior High School was created in 1960 when the Talent and Phoenix School districts consolidated. Consolidation was not an easy or quick decision. The idea had been bantered about for years. A measure was finally approved by voters in 1959 and the next phase of bringing the two school districts together began. Several ideas were proposed. One had the two elementary schools, Talent and Phoenix, expanding to include 1-8 grades. After much deliberation and some outside advice from the Oregon Board of Education, a decision was made.

An "Educational Status of Phoenix Schools 1960-61" was written. It stated that the grade schools would be "composed of 2 grade schools consisting of grades one through six, one in Phoenix with an estimated enrollment of 465 and one in Talent, with an estimated enrollment of 275." It further stated "A Junior High School consisting of grades seven and eight will be housed in the former Talent High School. It will enroll about 220

students. All state required subjects will be offered, in addition to elective subjects not previously available to seventh and eighth graders. Mathematics and science will be offered in specialized classes where ability grouping can be provided. The elective subjects offered include a full program of handicrafts open to both boys and girls, instrumental and vocal music, art, and an athletic and activity program." It went on to say, "Phoenix High School will consist of grades 9 through 12 and will total about 330 students. Five additional classrooms are being added to the present building to accommodate students previously attending Talent High School."

The new Junior High retained Talent High School's orange and black colors and their Bulldog mascot.

By the late 1980's, crowding in all areas of the school district promoted change again and Talent Junior High underwent extensive remodeling and became Talent Middle School opening its doors to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders for the first time in 1990. The school colors were changed to blue and white, but the Bulldog mascot was



retained. The school is still an important part of the Talent landscape.

So what was it like at TJHS in 1966, 50 years ago? Well, the boys wore button down shirts - no t-shirts, as they were considered to be underwear!! The girls had to wear dresses; no pants allowed. There were 147 students in the eighth grade and 154 in seventh grade for a total of 301. Marvin Williams was the Principal and there were 14 teachers.

There were no girls sports at all. You could be a cheerleader or a majorette, but involvement was pretty limited. Boys could participate in football or basketball. Out of the 79 boys in the eighth grade class, 30 were on the football team, a testament to the culture of the time. There was 7th and 8th grade Varsity basketball as well as a Junior Varsity team. Activities included band, chorus, drama, photography, chess, rhythms and gymnastics. The TJHS band was large and loud, including 67 members of both 7th and 8th grades as well as nine majorettes. They made quite a showing in their orange and black uniforms as they marched in Medford's annual Pear Blossom Parade.

The mixing of the two schools; Talent Elementary and Phoenix Elementary was a blending and sometimes anxiety causing situation for 7th graders as new friendships were formed and alliances made. The two elementary schools had a history of rivalry and even at reunions today there is still talk of "well, he was a Phoenix kid" or "she was a Talent girl." But



Talent Junior High School Band - 1966

new bonds were formed and by eighth grade, things began to calm down and stabilize.

Talent Junior High was a safe place to grow and learn. The teachers were caring and helpful; well, most of them

anyway. That age bracket of pre-teens is a volatile mix of hormones somewhere between child and adult. For 30 years, TJHS provided our community with a secure place to bridge that gap and for students to grow

and explore. Anyone attending Talent Junior High was fortunate to have the opportunity to develop into a young adult with the help of a committed school and teachers, and Talent Middle School continues that tradition today.

At the Museum

In each issue, we showcase an interesting artifact or exhibit housed at our museum. Stop by and take a look!

Great Majestic Wood Cook Stove

This stove was housed in the Wagner Creek School House and according to memories of those attending the school, was used to provide hot lunches for the students. Mothers of the students gathered together during the harvest season and canned fruits and vegetables to be used during the school year, using this stove to can the food. The stove was given to the Historical Society by the present owner of the school, Poppy Beveridge.

Manufactured by the Majestic Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri, this particular stove is one of the less ornate of the stoves the company made. Lucius Llewellyn Culver founded the Majestic Manufacturing Company in the 1880's and it remained in business until the 1940's. While in business, they produced approximately two million stoves. The Majestic Stove Company was one of the 10 largest stove manufacturers in the United States prior to WW II. The company was famous for its popular and extensive line of commercial and home cooking stoves. At the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, the company's exhibition of its Majestic Stoves was one of the event's more popular attractions.

Small cooking stoves were used as early as the 1840's and the now classic full-sized range was developed by the 1880's. Most of these classic ranges share a basic and efficient design including an easily adjustable burn time, simple clean out and clean up and an even baking oven. At the turn of the century, these stoves were being produced by the thousands in hundreds of foundries across the country. Most of these ranges were constructed of the same type of material. A catalog by the Majestic Mfg. Co. states that the bodies were "made of cold-rolled, double stretched, steel plates, Nos. 15 to 18 gauges; ovens two or four gauges heavier." The other parts, except for the fire box and shelf brackets were made of malleable iron. The American stove industry gained worldwide recognition and respect for the beauty craftsmanship and efficiency of their wood burning kitchen ranges. At the center of every home, they were used for cooking, heating, bathing and hot water.

Nestled in the back corner of our museum, one can only imagine all the hot meals lovingly baked on this fine, old cook stove. An old frying pan sits on the cook top with some jars on the warming shelf above and you can almost smell those biscuits baking!!!



Great Majestic Wood Stove - #207

Continued from page 1
men believe in fair play, honesty and working in harmony. Other candidates are: Mayor: Granville Brittsan, Councilmen: Lois Yockel, Dave Baylor, Ellis Beeson and F.W. Gilbreath. Don't agree with me! VOTE anyway." A full page ad in the Nov. 4 issue by the Jackson County Republican committee asked, "Had Enough? The lumber business is in trouble, mills are closing and people are out of jobs. The cost of living is the highest in history. It's time to elect men who will work to end these reckless trends." These sentiments mirror an article in the Mail Tribune in October, 1966 reporting that several lumber mills were temporarily closing or curtailing operations.

During that time period a great many families in the Talent area were supported by the timber industry in some capacity. Log trucks were a common sight parked in driveways around the town and in the rural areas. While some of Talent's current residents rankle at the idea of Talent being a "bedroom community", services were limited in Talent in 1966. Although there were local grocery stores, most people with transportation shopped in Ashland or drove into Medford. There was no bank, doctor or dentist.

By perusing the pages of the 1966 *News Flashes*, one can get a good sense of the businesses operating in the Talent area at that time. The Drive In Market always had a full page ad on the back page. They encouraged you to shop there by offering free parking, and silver dollar stamps and encouraged shoppers to "Drive Down & Save \$\$\$\$." The store occupied the building currently housing

Asante Ashland Home Health & Hospice at 209 N. Pac. Hwy. The Talent Thrift Market also had a fairly large ad and invited people to "Shop in the Heart of Talent." The Talent Laundry, Talent Chevron Station, Brookside Beauty Salon, Les's Barbershop, Talent Feed and Farm Supply and Talent Hardware often placed ads. Interestingly, most of the ads didn't include an address; a testament to small town living, everyone knew where the businesses were located. The Ft. Wagner Café boasted daily dollar specials, home made pastries and proclaimed "It's Fun to Eat Out."

Lee Boyd was the Talent City Fire Department's chief and Charles "Chuck" Roberts was the Police Chief in 1966. Chief Roberts led with a steady hand, knowing everyone in town personally, and as a father himself, understood that well, boys would be boys. One *News Flashes* article states that "A complaint from the Starlite Drive-In Theater, said a bomb was set off in the men's room at about 1:40 am blowing up a toilet." As that was a bit north of Talent, the Jackson County Sheriff had to handle that particular complaint.

Another notice proclaimed "ATTEND THE DANCE EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT, Talent City Hall. 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a. m. sponsored by Talent City Firemen, Music by Maddox Bros. Orchestra, Refreshments by Lions Auxiliary."

In January of 1966, political unrest swept over the town of Talent as Mayor Granville Brittsan faced recall. A recall

petition was circulated requiring 25% of the registered voters (approximately 130) to sign in order to trigger an election. The move to recall Mayor Brittsan was started in mid-December after Councilman John Tompkins charged the Mayor had violated city laws and had failed to heed legal advice. The petition defined six specific charges against the Mayor.

A three hour public meeting with more than 100 people attending was held on Feb. 16 in which Mayor Brittsan admitted to the charges, but with explanations. Given that five men on the City council were asking for the Mayor's resignation, one can only assume that this issue was the talk of the town. Eventually the situation was resolved and Mayor Brittsan's check signing authority was returned. However, the City's woes continued as the budget was voted down twice. And continued strife on the City Council over payments to the City attorney and an engineer, resulted in two council members resigning in December.

The first planning stages were presented to the Talent City Council asking to annex 55 acres adjoining Talent Elementary school on which it was hoped 250 houses would be built. The request was being considered, and of course, today that area is indeed a large subdivision that changed the face of Talent and the surrounding area.

Talent in 1966 was a safe place to be. It was a good place to grow up; somewhat isolated, but still a stable environment for maturing into adulthood. The Elementary school and Junior High were important parts of the community and teachers were held in high esteem.

A young girl felt free to ride her bike through the streets, meet her friends at the store and to just generally hang out. No cell phones to let parents know where you were, but then parents really didn't worry about things like that in 1966. They figured you would come home eventually. The Viet Nam war hung over the nation's conscious like a black cloud, touching even the small towns like Talent. It wasn't a perfect place, it had it's issues and controversies, but people were friendly and neighbors lent each other a helping hand. I'm glad it's where I grew up.

So, what should we be saving today, right now, that will be history tomorrow? We here at THS feel that it is our duty to preserve records and documents today that may have historic value in the future. For who is to say when history begins!!



The Talent Thrift Market was a mainstay in downtown Talent for many years. The building is located at 109 Talent Avenue.

The Talent Historical Society Membership Application

The Talent Historical Society was founded in 1994 as a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of the Talent area in Southern Oregon. By becoming a member of the Society, you provide valuable support of the Society's ongoing work.

To become a member, please select a membership level, complete the form below, and return the completed form along with your membership payment. All memberships, regardless of level, are greatly appreciated.

Name _____	Date _____
Street Address _____	
City, State, Zip _____	
Phone _____	e-mail _____
Member Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing
Membership Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (12-18) - \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Individual - \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> Business - \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Family - \$300 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family Sponsorship - \$100 or more <input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsorship - \$100 or more
	Donation in addition to membership: \$ _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____	
Dues include our quarterly newsletter: <i>The Historacle</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check to receive <i>The Historacle</i> electronically, sent by email in lieu of paper. (This saves us printing and postage costs.)	
Please make checks payable to:	Talent Historical Society
Send completed form along with payment to:	Talent Historical Society P.O. Box 582 Talent, OR 97540
Thank you!	

Talent Historical Society Board of Directors:

Ron Medinger	President - Membership Chair
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Emmalisa Whalley	Secretary
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Mark Smith-Poelz	Merchandise Manager
Bob Casebeer	Board Member

The Monthly Talent Historical Society Board Meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the museum building at 105 North Market Street, Talent, Oregon

All interested persons are invited to attend.



Talent Historical Society
 P.O. Box 582
 Talent, OR 97540



Upcoming Events

	June 5	Southern Oregon Grape Fair	12:00 - 6:00 pm	Downtown Talent	
	June 14	THS Board Meeting	6:00 pm	At the Museum	
	June 28	Tuesday Evening at the Museum	6:30 - 8:00 pm	TBA	
	July 12	THS Board Meeting	6:00 pm	At the Museum	
	July 26	Tuesday Evening at the Museum	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Jan Wright - Stearns Cemetery Tour - Meet at the Cemetery	
	August 9	THS Board Meeting	6:00 pm	At the Museum	
	August 23	Tuesday Evening at the Museum	6:30 - 8:00 pm	TBA	



Something YOU can do to help!

If you do any shopping on Amazon.com, use the link below to enter the Amazon website. The price doesn't change, but the Historical Society receives a donation from each purchase. Any purchases you make will help support the Talent Historical Society and its projects. Thanks!!

<http://www.amazon.com/?%5Fencoding=UTF8&tag=talent-histosoc-20>

Just a reminder that you can check the top, right hand corner of the address label on this issue of the *Historacle* to see when it's time for you to renew! The date will tell you when your membership expires.