



The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the
Talent Historical Society

Volume 27 Issue 3

September 2021

The Talent Garden Club - a Century Plus of Dedication

By Lunette Gleason Fleming and Debra Moon

*If of thy earthly goods thou art bereft
Of thy meager store two loaves alone to
thee are left
Sell one and with the dole
Buy hyacinths to feed thy soul
- Moslih Eddin Saadi*

There is a growing corps of volunteers who are at work to make Talent a more beautiful and sustainable place to live. These lovely souls are members of the Talent Garden Club. Evidence of this dedicated group of “worker bees” can be seen all around our small town. There are nine public, and seventy private, Pollinator Gardens in our town. The Garden Club members assist in beautifying the city in other ways as well. The Talent Garden Club continues a legacy of community service that has lasted for over 100 years.

According to a 2010 edition of the *Historacle*, the Talent Garden Club (TGC) was first formed in 1912, just two years after Talent became an incorporated city, the second incorporated city in Southern Oregon. With such an early beginning, the TGC may be the oldest club of its kind in Oregon, and most certainly the oldest in Southern Oregon. While many garden clubs have become extinct, Talent’s club holds the distinction of continuing to exist without interruption from the start, showing testimony to the commitment of its members.

The desire to learn how to cultivate the earth to produce food and other beneficial plants for oneself and neighbors has given the Talent Garden Club the purpose to stay the course. Before the 2020 pandemic, TGC members met once a month for educational lectures and business meetings. Special projects brought members



TGC President Chrissy Muhr and club member Gerlinde Smith
at the Talent Evening Market.

together to serve the community. The Harvest Festival was sponsored and organized by club members until 2001 when the City of Talent accepted responsibility for organizing the event. Residents of Talent who participated during the early days of the Harvest Festival will remember the Silver Teas, the Flower Shows, the flea market type “store”, and the street dance featured every second Saturday in September, as well as the parade and fair booths that have continued into more recent festivities.

During WWII garden members created Victory Gardens in order to share produce with neighbors. Donations were also made to troops serving in the war effort. Later workshops were given in

wreath making and flower arranging with wreaths and seasonal decorations given to decorate Talent City Hall and the White City VA. The Annual Plant Sale held the Saturday before Mother’s Day has helped provide generations of our community with affordable plants to supplement their gardens. Club members propagate “starts” to raise money for the many special projects the group elects to support. Even though restrictions kept monthly meetings from continuing in 2020, \$5000 was raised from the Plant Sale in May. From the money raised, donations were made to local non-profit groups: a Talent Garden Club scholarship to Phoenix High School graduating seniors who plan a degree in Horticulture.

Continued on Page 4

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 are members of the Jackson County Heritage Association; a group of heritage nonprofits dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Southern Oregon's cultural history.

We operate a museum and meeting place located at:

105 North Market Street
Talent, Oregon

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

General Business/Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 582
Talent, OR 97540

Phone Number: (541) 512-8838
Email: info@talenthistory.org
Web Page: www.talenthistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/talenthistory/

The Historacle is published quarterly.

Editor: Myke Gelhaus

You may submit your written work about historical Talent to be considered for publication in the THS newsletter. Our research library is ready for you to get started on an interesting local article! We are especially looking for more tales from early to middle 20th Century,

MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is closed to the Public until Further Notice.

1:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Memberships Since Last Issue

New Memberships:

Jeff LaLande

Kathy Jerman

Renewals:

Medicap Pharmacy
Lois Jean Bousquet
Dwayne & Kathy Guthrie
Myke Gelhaus
David & Alice Hodson

Jeff Johnson
Ann Maines
Gary Rockfellow
Mary & Ted Tsui

Lifetime Memberships:

Susan (Hartley) Andrews
Joan C. Barnhart
Poppie Beveridge
Jim Bradley & Patricia Remencuis
Marla Cates & Jan Ritter
John & Judy Casad
Joan Dean
Gladys Fortmiller
Margay Garrity
Bud & MaryLouise Gleim
Lunette Gleason-Fleming
Dale Greenley
Joe Hunkins

George Kramer
Jack Latvala
Matt & Antoinette Lichtenstein
Edwin McManus & Family
Michael Mills
Janice A. Napoleon
Ryan & Carly Pedersen
Wanda Perdue
Brent Thompson
John Wahl
Karen Carr
Jeff LaLande
Kathy Jerman

Additional Donations:

Dick Phillips

Gary Rockfellow



Honorary Lifetime Memberships

Bob Casebeer Jan Wright
Susan Moulder Katherine Harris

**Welcome to
Our Newest Board Member
Lunette Gleason Fleming**

“Recovery is an important word and a vital concept. It means renewal of life and energy. Knowing how and when to recover may prove to be the most important skill in your life. - James E. Loehr

Talent Historical Society Receives a Grant from the City of Talent

by Debra Moon

The Talent Historical Society was very pleased to receive a coronavirus relief grant from the City of Talent in July. THS had previously received a grant from the State of Oregon for coronavirus relief last fall. Both grants were very much needed and received with gratitude for the support.

An interview with Interim City Manager, John Le Garza, who set up the grants for over 50 recipients in the City of Talent, revealed that these were Federal funds which were distributed to states that further directed them to counties and cities in need of coronavirus relief. These funds were targeted for businesses or non-profits that had suffered financially from pandemic shutdown. The Talent Historical Society did qualify.

The Talent Historical Society received \$2,500.00 from the City of Talent to help with operating costs or other things that the Museum, or the organization, needs to purchase. This will be a great help since the Museum has only opened back up again about a month ago on Saturdays and Sundays 1 pm to 5 pm. Quite a good portion of the funding for the non-profit society comes from donations at the Museum or purchases from the Museum Gift Shop. The Museum and the historical society are completely run by volunteers. Membership in the society also provides a great deal of annual revenue, as does the annual fundraiser sale of Talent Tomato plants in May. All of these income streams have been affected by the pandemic and the Almeda fire, and help was needed.

Interim City Manager, John Le Garza, is doing a great job in his short stay with the City of Talent in overseeing the distribution of these funds to Talent businesses and non-profits, and we are very grateful to him and to the City of Talent.



President's Message *by Ron Medinger*

2021 September

It is with great sadness that I announce the temporary closure of the Talent Historical Society Museum. Again.

Beginning August 14th, the museum will be closed to Talent Historical Society members and the general public. All museum staff members have been fully vaccinated, but with the incredible number of new Covid 19 cases in Jackson County, we cannot, and will not, risk the health of our valued volunteers. However we are anxious to see you all again so we hope this closure does not have to last long.

Please support your hometown museum with a membership renewal or donation today! We also welcome new members, so talk with your friends and neighbors about joining the Talent Historical Society. Details available on our website, www.talenthistory.org.

Ron Medinger

Talent Historical Society Receives Donation of an Art Piece for Display at the Museum *by Debra Moon*

On July 13, 2021, the Board Members of the Talent Historical Society were holding their monthly Board Meeting at the Museum when two local residents, Bill Scholer and Karla Holland-Scholer, entered with an art piece made by Bill that they wanted to donate to the Museum.

The art piece is 48 inches by 56 inches, quite large. It is an encaustic painting on canvas titled "Ghosts", and it represents the Almeda fire. An encaustic painting is one done with wax that pigment has been added to. It is interesting because the fire influenced the way the painting resulted. Before the fire, Bill

had painted a field with balls in it. The balls were blue, contrasting with the field. The Almeda fire caused the balls to turn brown, from the smoke, and the wax to melt, giving the painting a distressed look. When Bill and Karla returned to their home after the fire and saw what had happened to the painting, Bill decided to add propane tanks in the forefront of the piece.

It is truly an expression of the fire experience. It will be placed on a wall at the museum above a case that will contain remnants from the fire, things recovered after people's homes burned, parts of journals, photos, and other things reminiscent of the fire in Talent.



The Talent Historical Society is still interested in collecting people's individual fire stories. They may be written or recorded on video. We feel we are still missing those narrations that are about recovery from loss and getting back on course. If you are interested in sharing your story, please contact the Museum at 541-512-8838 and leave a message. Someone will contact you for an appointment. Or you may send your written article to Myke Gelhaus at myke505@gmail.com.

The Talent Garden Club *Continued from Page One*

ture; Rogue Valley Farm to School; The Great Green Garden; Access's Community Garden; the Colver Road Triangle Tulip Project; Casa Angel Tree; Friends of Wagner Creek and Bear Creek riparian repair; and Bee City. A free Seed Swap also aided local gardeners with help in expanding their own gardens during these difficult times.

There was great concern in 2014 as to whether the Talent Garden Club would continue since the majority of its members were advanced in years, and there was a concern for their ability to continue as Board Members. Fortunately, the club organized a membership campaign at the 2014 Harvest Festival where many people's curiosity was aroused. They responded by attending the next month's meeting. Chrissy Muhr was among one of the new attendees. After learning of the need for new leadership, Chrissy volunteered to be voted in as Garden Club President. With her youthful enthusiasm and administrative leadership, the club has grown from a faithful few to a robust membership of over 100. The successful expansion of membership can also be attributed to the efforts of other key members, such as Dolly Warden and Gerlinde Smith.

Dolly Warden is known for her special connection to honeybees. Dolly learned of the concept of "Bee City," when it first started in 2012 in Asheville, North Carolina. Since learning about how Asheville created pollinator gardens to promote pollinators, Dolly tirelessly appealed to the Talent City Council to become a Bee City. In 2018 the Talent City Council agreed to work in cooperation with the Talent Garden Club in promoting the creation of Bee City Pollinator Gardens. Talent became the second Bee City in the entire nation. The

response to Bee City by Southern Oregon has been phenomenal. Talent has nine public Pollinator Gardens and over 70 private Pollinator Gardens. Ashland and Phoenix joined Talent's example by becoming Bee Cities as well. Interest in pollinator gardens continues to fuel participation in Talent's Garden Club. Vol-



Dolly Warden in her beautiful Bee Hat

unteers known as "Garden Angels" maintain the public pollinator gardens with weekly visits. To get an idea of the combined efforts of volunteers in creating and maintaining Bee City, visit the Talent Garden Club's Facebook page, click the blue button labeled "Learn More" and then the orange text "Talent City Hall Pollinator Garden". You will find photos of the many people who worked to make Talent a Bee City. You will also find maps of the gardens with labels to the plants and photos of plants both native and non-native used in the gardens.

One of the facilitators in creating the Bee City gardens in Talent has been Gerlinde Smith who moved to Talent from Findhorn, Scotland. Gerlinde is known internationally for her extensive

knowledge of pollinators and has given workshops around the world. Gerlinde is just one of many expert lecturers who make an appearance at the monthly garden club meetings. Public meetings began once again in August 2021 with Scott Good lecturing on maintaining healthy gardens during current climate changes. To take advantage of these lectures attend the free monthly meeting every first Saturday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in the Public Library meeting room in Talent. You can also obtain information about creating your own pollinator garden. The Talent Garden Club's vision statement reads "Our goal is to promote, celebrate, and educate local gardeners through service to our community", which history shows it has done for over 100 years. Anyone interested in serving the community in this way is invited to join.

Locations of Pollinator Gardens

Legal Pollinator Garden - Talent Police Station

Postage Stamp Garden - Talent Post Office
City Hall - 3 Gardens on the western side of City Hall within the parking lot strips (one contains mainly bulbs, one a preponderance of native plants and the other one is a Monarch Waystation)
Skateboard Park (on John Street)
Talent Historical Society (mainly a shade garden)
Talent's Roundabout



The THS Pollinator Garden



L to R—Homeowners Shulamit Hoffman and Stanley Hutchinson review construction progress with Project Manager Jake Brown of Asher Homes during the total rebuild of their home at 281 Talent Avenue after the Almeda Fire.



The pre-fire sidewalk leading to the post-fire new home construction at 281 Talent Avenue.



< Two of the many homes being rebuilt on Willow Springs Drive where the neighborhood lost several homes to the devastating fire on September 8, 2020.

Photography by Ron Medinger



> Familiar names abound during the rebuilding of homes in Talent as demonstrated by this rebuild at 310 Gangnes being built by Jason Vos, son of Belinda Vos, past editor of The Historacle.

Below: Many homes on Rockfellow Place are being rebuilt after the Almeda Fire. The area is named for Talent Pioneer Albert G. Rockefeller. (See pages 6 & 7)



The sadness of remaining ruins

Albert Gallatin Rockfellow - Talent Pioneer, Inventor, Writer

*Obituary Published in
The Ashland Tidings, April 1, 1915*

Another of the early Southern Oregon pioneers has crossed out to sea. Albert Gallatin Rockfellow, who first came "across the plains" to the Pacific Coast in 1850, and settled in the Rogue River Valley, on Wagner Creek, near the present town of Talent, in 1852, died in Ashland Sunday evening, the ninetieth year of his age. The end came quietly and without pain and after a very few days of illness.

Mr. Rockfellow was born in New Trenton, Linn County, Indiana, July third, 1825. The name was formerly spelled Rockafellar. He was one of six brothers and one half brother. The latter only of this family survives and is a resident of Iowa, John Henry Rockfellow. In the company in which Mr. Rockfellow first came to this country were two of his brothers, William and George, and all were well-known pioneers of this section. A daughter of the latter, Mrs. Minnie Lane, wife of C. E. Lane, is now a resident of Ashland.

Mr. Rockfellow mined in Siskiyou County, California, for a time, but was among the first group who established homes in the upper Rogue River Valley. This was in the year 1852, on Wagner Creek near the present town of Talent. In 1862 Mr. Rockfellow became a resident of the then village of Ashland and was associated in business here with some of

the earliest factors in its subsequent growth and development. He removed with his family to San Diego, California, in 1888, where he made his home until 1904. Returning to Ashland, he was content to spend his remaining years amidst the old familiar scenes and amongst the friends of days gone by. He was a soldier of the Rogue River Indian War of 1855-6 and saw active service in the campaigns of those years to break the power of the red man over this country.



Albert Rockfellow was photographed in front of his patented metal gate.

Mr. Rockfellow was a man of gentle and kindly disposition and one in whose mind it is doubtful if thoughts of

wrongdoing ever entered. He was of a poetic temperament and possessed native literary ability. For many years he indulged his fancies in both prose and poetry, and the files of the Ashland papers will reveal not a few of his writings. He also assisted in compiling the first volume of Southern Oregon history ever published and was active in the work of the Pioneer Society of Southern Oregon, of which he was one of the first members.

Mr. Rockfellow was married in this county March twelfth, 1856, to Sarah B. Myer, a member of the prominent Southern Oregon pioneer family of that name. She died at San Diego, California, January twenty-sixth, 1904 at the age of eighty-eight years. Seven children were born to them, five of whom died in infancy. Eugene F., the elder son, died less than two years ago, leaving two sons and two grandsons. One son only of the deceased pioneer survives, W. Alfred Rockfellow, a traveling salesman, who dutifully cared for his aged parent and attended him in his last illness.

Mr. Rockfellow was an active worker in all good causes, notably along educational and religious lines, and was a leader in the work of the Methodist Church in this city for many years. From this church his funeral took place Wednesday afternoon, March thirty-first, where the services in his memory were conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. J. Douglass, at two o'clock. The interment was in the family plot in Ashland Cemetery.



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THE SPINNING WHEEL AND THE BICYCLE.

By Albert G. Rockfellow

The wheel, the wheel, the spinning wheel;

Our mothers used to run it;
And many a day and many a year
Our sisters, too, have spun it.

That was the wheel that spun the yarn
That made our fathers' breeches,
And spun the flax that made the thread
That sewed the trusty stitches.

There was a time when that old wheel
Was high in estimation
Of folks of high or low degree—
By every class and station.

No matter if they had to walk
And turn the wheel by hand, sir;
They wrought with all the cheerfulness
That mortal could command, sir.

But that old wheel is laid away
To moulder in seclusion;
Our sisters now can ride and spin—
And this is no delusion.

Ah, yes! and spin two wheels at once—
Our spinsters, too, can spin them—
And court and woo as the lassies do,
The shy old larks and win them.

Our married sisters, too, can bike
And congregate together,
And drink their tea and spin their yarns,
In fair or foulest weather.

Whilst hubby he will stay at home,
To wash and scrub, it may be,
And darn and sew the buttons on,
And cook, and care for baby.

Our sisters now don't stay at home
And drudge and drudge forever;
They mount their wheel just like a man,
And not a whit less clever.

They spin away to shop and store,
Dismount and stop a minute,
Then out and mount the wheel again—
How gracefully they spin it.

The drive so long, the time so short,



How can the dear ones make it?
Ten blocks are passed and shadows
flown

Ere camera can take it.

"Come, oh, my lover, come along,
And ride with me today, sir.
I'll spin for you a yarn, my boy,
That is no childish play, sir."

The stakes are up, the wheels are off—
The stakes are hearts and rider—
Her speed is pressing two and ten,
And he is right beside her.


Now, wheel and wheel, right on they go,
And each with strong endeavor,
Is striving hard to win the race,
By beating it? No! never!

And so 'tis plain that both will win,
And they will be in clover—
Two hearts will beat in unison,
When racing time is over.

So then farewell, ye old-time wheel,
And the dear old folks that spun it;
Farewell, ye bonnie barefoot girls
Who helped the old folks run it.

And now hurrah! for the brand new
wheel,
And the brand "new woman" on it;
Hurrah! for the jolly cyclers, all,
Hurrah! for the hat and bonnet.

*Published in The Ashland Tidings,
July 25, 1912*



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My Mother's Daughter

The Continuing Memoirs of Jewel Donaca Lockard

Chapter 6

Holidays, Travel, Fun, and Treats

We kids didn't celebrate Halloween as they do today with costumes, trick or treating, or parties. After we started school there was a program and carnival where the parents would come. At home Mom got us a pumpkin or two and we'd cut a smiling face on them and find a couple of saved candle stubs. After dark we'd light them and take them out and set them on the gate posts. We'd look out the window and watch them burn, a big deal and lots of fun. Then in a day or two Mom would cut them up for pie, yummy.

Once in a great while Mom would make a white cake with white frosting. One time at the old house she did that and then went down with Dad to look at the garden, it was a late spring day. Leland ate all the frosting off the cake! I discovered what he was up to and ran all the way down to Mom to tell her. He got a scolding, but the worse thing was we had to eat the cake without frosting. We poured on an extra amount of cream to wash it down.

In the old house at night sometimes Dad couldn't sleep so at around midnight, so he'd get up to have a snack. No way to have hot coffee without building up a fire, so he'd pour out a cup of cold coffee, put sugar and cream in it and get a piece of home-made bread and dunk it. We'd all be awake, but we would stay in bed.

We could not buy store bought gum so Mom showed us how to find the good gum on pine trees. Some could be quite good, but if the pitch is not just right it crumbles or leaves a pitchy taste in the mouth.

When a person bought gas for their car in the old days the proprietor would want to get return business, so he would pass out a candy bar to the kids. If we went with Dad when he got gas, Leland and I got a candy bar that would usually each cost a nickel, which we never had. Oh, those bars were so good.

One day Mom suggested we have a picnic. We went up the canyon under the willows that grew where the swamp is

today, below the Big Pond. There were lots of old logs laying around, leftovers from the logging days. I remember this one time Mom made a batch of chocolate candy consisting of granulated sugar, chocolate and milk, boiled then beaten until it began to harden, then poured into a buttered pie pan. I knew she had made the candy, but Leland didn't as he would have wanted to eat it then and there.

When we got where our picnic spot was Mom hid the candy behind a log. Then when we finished eating our lunch, she produced the pan of candy. A treat to remember.

Mom would long to take rides. She would want to drive up the Dead Indian Road which was a dirt road in those days. Once we took a ride up into the Little Applegate and passed an old shack. Mom and Dad talked about how mulleins grew in the poor soil. I never forgot that first time hearing about mulleins.



Verbascum thapsus, the great mullein, greater mullein, or common mullein, is a species of mullein native to Europe, northern Africa, and Asia, and introduced in the Americas and Australia. It is a hairy biennial plant that can grow to 2 m tall or more. Its small, yellow flowers are densely grouped on a tall stem, which grows from a large rosette of leaves. It is thought to have been introduced to the Americas with the earliest migrations from Europe and is found in every state in the USA., including Alaska and Hawaii. It is known for its many homeopathic uses.

Once in a rare while we would take a trip to visit Grandma and Grandpa Curnow in Grants Pass. We'd get up early and be over there before breakfast. In those days you came unannounced which made your visit a surprise, there was no time for a letter. I remember Mom telling while we were driving about Table Rock, the old Birdseye House and the Indians too.



**David N. Birdseye House
Highway 99
at David N. Birdseye Creek
Rogue River, Oregon
Built 1856—Burned in 1990**

This photo is of the original log cabin style house established by David and Clarissa Birdseye in 1856.

The current property owner is Victor Theodore "Ted" Birdseye II.

David Nelson Birdseye and his wife Clarissa settled in the Rogue River Valley near Gold Hill in 1853. The original log house built in 1856 burned in a fire in 1990. Although declared a total loss, Ted Birdseye had the landmark structure rebuilt according to its original design, including using 1850s construction techniques. It is a strong statement of the pride demonstrated by these descendants of pioneer families..

I can remember Table Rock with the early morning summer sun shining across it. Sometimes we'd go via the Applegate and I remember below Murphy towards Grants Pass passing a poorly constructed building with a rickety picket fence, poverty grass and goats. Anyone with goats or milk goats were on the poverty line.

We also went to visit our grandparents when they lived out in Takilma. They had at that time rented a place and grandpa had a large garden. He enjoyed going through old dumps from the gold mining days. He got a couple of little pitchers, one Chinese. He also made me a scrub board to launder clothes. I have it yet. While there Dad took Leland and me fishing. I had a willow pole with hook and line. What did I

catch but a crawdad, I screamed, "I got a spider!"

When I was seven we went in the old open Model T Ford to Gold Beach. It took all day just to get to Myers Creek, beyond Brookings. We went via the Applegate, I didn't remember the Redwoods, I may

have been asleep, just Myers Creek. When we got to Myers Creek on the old coast Hiway, there you could drive down a steep grade to the edge of the water. So we camped for the night, cooking supper over

campfire, probably salty bacon and fried potatoes, and making beds down on the ground. This was all new to me, seeing this beautiful rock-strewn stream on its way to the ocean. I think perhaps Dad and Leland may have fished a little with willow poles.

The next morning after a great campfire breakfast of bacon and hot cakes, Mom had the dishes done and beds packed. Dad got in to start the Model T and it wouldn't start. He tried and tried. He cursed and cursed a blue streak. Mom got so nervous that her tongue went dry, and the car kept creeping closer to the stream. Luckily a man came walking down the stream and helped Dad get it started, so we got out of there. Off we went to see the ocean for the first time! They told us to watch out for the undertow, so I waded a little, but I was pretty scared of it

Another time when I was small, Mom wanted a picnic on the 4th of July and as she had been reading history about the country up the Applegate above Copper, we decided to go take a look at it. It was a very hot day. Mom packed a picnic lunch of fried chicken, green onions, homemade bread and cake. We went above where the Hutten Guard station is or was, where extensive mining had been done. We spread the lunch on the ground under some small maples and had a feast. Mom wanted to look around, but Dad was too scared as he thought some old miner living a lonely life might take a shot at us. Mom just loved old mining country and its history, after all she came from Nevada. In his book of

memoirs called *Feelin' Fine*, William Hanley told of someone passing an old miner's cabin after dark and an old fellow playing a fiddle to entertain himself. "The Captain with the whiskers took a sly glance at me – took a sly glance at me", an old waltz. (See **Page 10 about William Hanley and his very interesting book.**)



Our Model T

the Applegate to camp. It was a nice woodsy camp and we fished. I crossed a little opening in the woods and stepped onto a yellow jacket's nest and got stung seven times. Then from there we went to Hutten Camp Ground on the big Applegate. Dad walked over to chat with the man at the Guard Station. I sat down close to a big log to eat when I heard a buzz-zz and there under a log was a huge rattler all curled up. I screamed rattle-snake and a couple girls in the next camp shot at it wildly here and there! It was a wonder that things weren't worse. Seems Dad and the ranger showed up and settled things down...the snake and the girls.

Clothes - These days a person doesn't have to dress up to go to town or not much anywhere else, but back when I was a kid, if a person went anyplace with ragged clothes, or patches, they were laughed at, made fun of 'cause he was poor and beneath you. A person had to work hard to have anything presentable.

Mom had an old camel hair colored coat completely out of style. It was the thing because if you went out in the winter with-

out a coat you were poor. Now people run around half naked in the cold and that's great. Dad had an old brown suit that we finally had him laid-away in as we had no money for another. It then had moth holes in it.

Mom made our clothes from anything she could find or get ahold of. No ready made clothes like today. In the Fall she usually sent a money order to Monkey Wards for a few cotton pieces to make dresses. I liked looking at the patterns and prints in the catalog. Leland got pants and shirts if she didn't make them, also a coat and long-handled underwear. Too she might buy muslin for undies, but mostly these things like sheets, slips under-panties, pillow cases all came from flour or sugar sacks. Mom and I wore long cotton stockings held up with a garter belt. For our feet we got overshoes if there was any money left. When we sent the order to Wards, Mom would go to the mailbox and the carrier took care of the money order and Mom would also get stamps. Two or three school dresses lasted me through 9 months of school and through the next summer.

Mom made wash cloths from cotton salt sacks and crocheted pretty edges around the cloths. I was really embarrassed we couldn't afford terry wash cloths. Now I think it a bright idea!

When people gave us a box of old clothes it was a ball to go through all the garments. I know now I looked better than many kids did in those days.

Dad wore bibbed overalls, blue chambray shirts, heavy work shoes and in the winter long-handle underwear. Summer he wore no shorts and never had T-shirts. He slept in his shirt only. Dad's overalls were

too heavy for Mom to wash by hand very often but she washed the other garments once a week.

Mom insisted we bathe once a week, so water would be put on to heat on the stove and the wash tub bought in and sat on the kitchen floor. As one bathed the others were sitting in the main room. You bathed in what little light there was from the main room. We only had one light and no door between the rooms.

Jewel's story will continue in the next issue.



A catalog page for chambray shirts.



William Hanley

By Marjorie Thelen
Oregon Historical Society

William Hanley, who was known as the Sage of Harney Valley, was born on February 8, 1861, in Jacksonville, Oregon, then called the Rogue River country. At the age of seventeen, he left his Rogue River home with his brother Ed and a small herd of cattle and headed for the Harney Valley in southeastern Oregon. He settled south of Burns and went on to become one of the most influential men in the region, spurring economic development and establishing important transportation networks.

Not much for formal schooling, Hanley quit school when he was about ten. He later remembered when a teacher told the class the story of Noah and the ark: "I was just a little boy, but I knew stock. That brought about my final decision that I was done. If that was all the teachers knew about stock, then school wasn't worth my time."

Hanley was known for his down-home wisdom and his hospitality. Among his friends he counted railroad magnate James J. Hill and his son Louis, poet Edwin Markham, writer C.E.S. Wood, landscape painter J. Alden Weir, and renowned American painter Childe Hassam. On his trips east, he met Woodrow Wilson, William Howard Taft, and J. Pierpoint Morgan.

Hanley ran unsuccessfully for governor and for the U.S. Senate in 1914 on Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose ticket. But he never lost sight of his roots. "I had learned we must all just be cattle together," he wrote, "and not some of us lord it over the others."

Hanley married Clara Cameron, a neighbor from Jacksonville, on July 6, 1892. They owned and ranched the Bell A in Harney Valley, where the view extended fifty miles in all directions across sageland, pasture, lakes, and rimrock. In 1903 they added to their holdings and bought the 16,000-acre OO Ranch for six dollars an acre.

Hanley protected the abundant wildlife on his ranches, ranging from deer and antelope to coyotes, eagles, and migrating waterfowl. He was an advocate for wildlife conservation. After his death in 1935, Clara Hanley sold 14,741 acres of the OO Ranch to the federal government for expansion of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition to ranching, Hanley was a leader in the construction of two important highways—the Bend to Burns road (Route 20) and the Three Flags

Highway (Mexico-U.S.-Canada or Route 395). In 1931, Governor Julius Meier appointed him to the Oregon Highway Commission. As a land developer and speculator, Hanley initially encouraged more settlement of the Harney Valley but later believed that the government's policy of encouraging small homesteads in the arid region was folly.

Hanley also helped bring rail transportation to the region. Through James J. Hill, Hanley was instrumental in bringing an expensive short railroad offshoot from the Columbia along the Deschutes River to Bend in central Oregon.

After a long illness, Bill Hanley died on September 15, 1935, in Pendleton, a day after attending Hanley Day at the Pendleton Roundup. At his funeral in Burns, Oregon Journal editor B.F. Irvine said: "Too bad the whole world could not have known him."

Editors Note: Hanley's memoirs *Feelin' Fine: Bill Hanley's Book* were published first in 1930 thanks to historian/author Anne Shannon Monroe who compiled his writings into an engrossing read. After an intense search, I finally found a copy. It was well worth the effort. I was taken in immediately by his progressive, humanitarian stance and his vast memory of the early 20th Century in Oregon.

He tells first of his impressions of the Modoc wars, a different approach than any other I've read. Then he moves on to his late teens and early twenties when he developed his skills as a cattle man, range rider. He takes us into the vast plains and desert of Eastern Oregon, detailing the natural life and hard work involved in herding cattle and the creation of rodeo, developing activities for this part of the world. It is a fascinating book.



A vintage postcard of Rogue River Round-Up Cowboys.



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 _____

Mailing/Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone	e-mail
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Member Type: ☐ New ☐ 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: *The Historacle*

Check if you want it sent: electronically by email in lieu of paper []
or by regular mail via post office []

☐ If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please check the box, and we will contact you.

Please make checks payable to: Talent Historical Society

Send completed form along with payment to: Talent Historical Society
P.O. Box 582

Thank you!

Talent, OR 97540

Talent Historical Society Board of Directors:

Ron Medinger	President - Membership Chair & Treasurer
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Bob Casebeer	Board Member - Emeritus

The Talent Historical Society Board Meeting is held monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. .

*Meetings have moved back to Zoom
until further notice.*





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

BIRDS ON THE GREENWAY

Our local birder, and THS board member, Emmalisa, reported three visits to Lynn Newbry transects A and B and two visits to the Suncrest transects this summer. Each transect is about a mile long and should be completed within 45 minutes for each early morning survey. Emmalisa goes with a partner or two and identifies species and counts numbers of each species accurately. Foliage is coming back, and the areas look slightly more habitable. Our birds have little choice, they must live in the habitats they are accustomed to, and they must deal with smoke, unlike us, with no way to keep indoors and out of the heavily smoky air.

Numbers of birds sighted and number of species in both areas combined peaked in July and has declined somewhat due to nesting habits and habitats of various species. Some highlights from recent survey trips included: plenty of Lesser and American Goldfinches flitting through the grasses and showing off their striking yellow coloring; a Belted Kingfisher on the creek following the survey group up the creek making its wonderful sound; nearly 100 Red-winged Blackbirds; an Osprey; Lazuli Bunting; Green Herons and Great Blue Herons. Many waterfowl

have traveled to have their young, but some species remain: the Canada Goose, Wood Ducks and Mallards. A Tree Swallow was spotted couple of times, once at Lynn Newbry and once at Suncrest. There is hope that many more will follow as cavities for them to nest in increase. A Red-Tailed Hawk was spotted at Suncrest along with its nest and two juveniles. Emmalisa was glad to see that they were successfully raising their young.

The Bear Creek Community Bird Survey is a collaboration between the Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Klamath Bird Observatory, Rogue River Watershed Council, and the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. The survey is depending heavily on local birders for their observations and wants to generate data to track the changes in bird populations along Bear Creek over time as the riparian habitat recovers from the 2020 fires. The surveys are taking place in severely burned, moderately burned, and unburned areas, so that changes in the burned areas can be compared with unburned areas. The birders record this all on Ebird, a product of Cornell University, used by birders to keep track of birds sighted.



*Lazuli Bunting at sunrise Aug 2021 at the
Lynn Newbry Park transect.*