

The Historacle

The Official newsletter of the
Talent Historical Society

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



Robison farm on Wagner Creek Road looking north

These photographs are brand new (to THS anyway). They were recently donated from a woman in Yreka who is a shirt-tail relative of the Robison family. Eddie and Blanche Robison, who lived on the old homestead wrote on the back of this photo: “This is looking north down through the pasture and through the little peach orchard and the milk house woodshed all joined together and my south kitchen door.” The house has been remodeled almost beyond recognition but it and the barn behind it are still standing at 7103 Wagner Creek Road.

Inside this Issue.....

Board Bios	2 -3
Talent News	4
Stearns photos	5
Files at THS	6
Cemetery Tour	7
Membership	7
Help Wanted	8



Eddie & Blanche Robison

Illustrious Board of Directors

Not to brag, but we have an amazing board of directors at Talent Historical Society. As I was gathering this information for the grant application, it occurred to me that it might be nice for the membership to know what talented people are in charge at the historical society.

President: **Robert L. Casebeer** is an emeritus professor of English from Southern Oregon University. He was a former high school English teacher, librarian, guidance counselor, & assistant principal. He worked at Southern Oregon State College (now University) in many different capacities. He directed Project Prometheus, a program for gifted and talented high school students. He served in Korea. He studied at the University of the Americas and graduated from Southern Oregon University. His master's degree is in Humanities. He was the visiting professor of education at the University of Puget Sound and exchange professor of English at Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou, People's Republic of China. Formerly he was a member and chair for the Phoenix/Talent School Board and member of the Jackson County Intermediate Education District for two terms.

- Vice President: **Karl Slack**, a fourth generation Oregonian, was born in Ashland in 1923. He graduated from Talent High School in 1941 and served in the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII. After the war he worked in the lumber industry. In 1957 he changed careers and worked at First Interstate Bank eventually becoming the bank manager. Karl is now retired and has been on the Talent Historical Society board of directors for a little over a year.

- Secretary: **Katherine Harris**, affectionately known as Bunky, was born in Los Angeles and moved to Talent 60 years ago. She attended Talent Schools, Rogue Community College and Southern Oregon State College in Ashland. While raising her family of 5 children, she drove the school bus and was a "4-H Mother" and leader. In addition to being Talent Historical Society's Secretary, Katherine is a member of Talent Friends of the Library, Talent/OSU Extension Group and a former member of the Talent Garden Club.

- **Ralph Hunkins**, the trusted treasurer, was born and raised in Deadwood, SD where he developed a lifelong interest in history. He became a high school teacher, a soldier, and a foreign affairs specialist for Dept. of State in Washington, D.C. After earning a Master's Degree from University of California at Berkeley and a Doctorate in Education from Indiana University, Ralph became a professor of education at State University of New York at Plattsburgh. For 27 years he taught history of education to teachers and prospective teachers. Ralph and his wife, Margaret, moved to Talent in 1999 to be near the grandchildren and children.

- **Joe Cowley** was born in Seattle and graduated in Journalism from the University of Washington. Until 1957, he lived in the Seattle area working on weekly and daily newspapers. He came to the Rogue Valley to work for the Medford Mail Tribune as a political reporter and ended his career there as their key reporter on agricultural affairs. After he "retiring", he worked as the assignment editor at KOB. Joe has many photographs and stories about the local area and serves at THS as our oral historian. Joe served in the navy in WWII in the Pacific arena.

More Board Bios.

- **Lynn Newbry** was born near Talent, in 1923 and attended grade school in both Talent and Phoenix and graduated from Ashland High School. He attended Oregon State college and Pomona College. He enlisted in the USAAF and served for three years. After WWII he went into the fruit business with his father. In 1974 Lynn went to work for Medford Corporation. He was Chairman of the Board of Valley of the Rouge Bank and was active in several business organizations. He was a member of the Talent School Board for seven years, served on the Jackson Co. Budget Committee and was appointed to the Oregon Senate in 1961, and served until 1975. He was a member of the board of the Oregon Historical Society, Southern Oregon Historical Society, The Oregon Board of Forestry and the Oregon Parks Commission. He is currently an active member of the Talent Historical Society and the Oregon Parks Trust.

- **Alice Burnette** has been an active citizen of Talent all of her adult life. She has been actively involved in the Talent Public Library, Camp Fire Girls, Church Groups and Federated Women's Club and a Talent Historical Society board member since its inception. Alice worked with Mae Lowe and published the *Talent News Flashes*, a community newsletter for several years. The newsletter is now a collectible item and a delightful documentation of Talent events in the 1950s-1980s.

- **Bob Wilson** received his education at Lawrence College Conservatory-violin, viola major and his Bachelor of Education Degree at Wisconsin State Univ., Whitewater. He earned his Masters of Library Science Degree at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has been a florist, porcelain salesman in France, and taught in elementary, high schools and Kent State. He was a public Librarian in Milwaukee, Madison, & Cleveland. Last year he retired as Jackson County South Regional Manager of Talent, Phoenix and Ashland Libraries. Currently he serves on the Talent City Council, Urban Renewal Board, Greenway Board, Civic Center Committee, Talent Library Friends Board, Friends Fund Raising Committee and Talent Library Design Committee. Bob enjoys playing classical viola, bluegrass fiddle, reading and traveling.

- **Helen Seiber** was born in Clovis, New Mexico but has lived in Talent for over 50 years. She is a retired businesswoman and landlady who once owned and operated a sporting goods store in Talent. She attended High School in Central California and graduated from San Jose State College. She attended Florida State College and Western Washington to work on her Master's in Education. She is a member of Soroptomist International Club and the American Association of University Women. She was once involved with Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon and Talent Business Association. She has been an active board member of Talent Historical Society for several years.



Talent News

More excerpts from the *Talent News* that document some of the debates at the U.M.L. (Universal Men of Liberty Hall) on Wagner Creek. People got together on a regular basis and had debates, listened to lectures and preachers, or enjoyed entertainment in the hall. It served as a very stimulating community center for a number of years. Now days talk radio serves the same purpose except that fewer people get to participate.

December 1st 1892

“...At the meeting last Friday evening, the question ‘Resolved that war has caused more misery to the human family than intoxicating drinks,’ brought out a long array of facts and figures on both sides, but whiskey, as usual came out ahead - so said the judges.”

November 15th 1892

“On last Friday evening, the question was: ‘Resolved that the horse is a more useful animal than the cow.’ The affirmative speakers put in their best licks in favor of those noble animals, ...they could have argued in defense of the horse on the score of morality, for no one can ... drive oxen without using profanity... However the judges decided unanimously in favor of beef and butter...”

February 15th 1893

“The question: ‘Resolved that the Negro has received more ill-treatment from the white race than he Indian has’, was on the programme for last Friday evening.

The question was discussed with uncommon earnestness. Lengthy speeches were made and enough statistics presented to make one’s head swim, but in the opinion of the judges, poor Lo* came in for the greatest amount of sympathy.”

*Lo was a nickname for the Native Americans.



Stearns Family Photos Just In

Thanks to a Stearns family member who inquired at THS about his family, we have new photos in our collection and a few more stories to go along with the photographs. Samuel Stearns and his wife Susan, crossed the plains with the “preacher train” and the Stearns clan in 1853. They settled in Eden Precinct near what is now Talent and had twins boys in 1857. They stayed until after 1865 when the family mysteriously split up and moved apart, Samuel going to Washington territory and Susan and children to Portland.



Baptist Minister, Samuel E. Stearns
(photo courtesy Clay Johnson)



Susan T. Whitaker Stearns, wife of Samuel Stearns lived briefly in Jackson Co. but moved to Portland with her children after divorcing Samuel. (photo courtesy Clay Johnson)



Oldest daughter of Samuel and Susan Stearns, Louisa Stearns Stewart
(photo courtesy Clay Johnson)

Family Files at THS

In an attempt to keep historical information for reference at the office, many family files have been created. We want any and all files to pertain to Talent people whether they have lived here since the pioneer times to moving in last week. You are encouraged to add to the files or come in and look through them. The following are the family names on file at THS. Please help us build our research library by adding any information to these files or help us make new ones. Some of the folders have only one photocopy or one lonely piece of paper.

Box 1	Box 2	Box 3
Abbott	DeYoung	Patterson
Anderson	Dozier	Renfro
Applegate	Firestone	Rhodes
Bacon	Ford	Roberts
Bagley	Foss	Rodgers
Baldwin	Ganges	Settles/Springer
Barlow	Gleim	Slack
Baylor	Goddard	Slagle
Beeson	Hanscom	Sleppy
Bell	Hartley	Smith, James B
Brabbin	Hill	Spencer
Bradley	Holdridge	Spitzer
Briner	Hummer	Stearns
Brittsan	Kenyon	Talent
Brower	Kerby	Taylor
Burnett	Lamb	Williams
Bush	Leaming	Wolgammott
Carlile	Lowe	Wolters
Charley	Lubbers	Yockel
Childers	McFadden/Penland	
Clevenger	Mason	
Conger	Messenger/Cotton	
Conner	Miner	
Crum	Morrison	
	Myers	
	Netherland	
	Newbry	
	Nininger	
	Nyes	

Do not stand at my grave and weep

By Mary E. Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,

I am the swift, uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.

I am not there. I did not die.

(Poem brought in by Helen Seiber)

Grant Update

The grant application to Oregon Cultural Trust was sent in on time. We asked for nearly \$7,000. to help us complete a microfilming and transcribing project and think we have a good chance of getting the grant. If you would like to help with any of the steps in preparing the Welborn Beeson diaries for publication let me know. Call 512-8838 if you would like to help transcribe or proofread or if you have a knowledge of the workings of microfilm reader/printers.

Reschedule for Cemetery Tour

Because of the wild and powerful lightening storms on the eve of the Stearns cemetery tour, the tour had to be canceled. It was so wet at the cemetery, it would have made the parking and walking around too muddy. I would like to reschedule the tour for next month or later this summer. Though I called all the board members, it was impossible to phone everyone who might come. Sorry if it inconvenienced anyone and thank you to those who showed up anyway!

A special thanks to Marty Joseph, Marilee Duce, and Dewey Talent who have all responded to the call for participation at the historical society. Though Marty doesn't live in the area, she still wanted to help. She got busy and put together her family history for the THS files. Just imagine if every member did this! Our shelves would be brimming with history! Marilee and Dewey are offering to donate family memorabilia which will also enhance our ability to showcase Talent history. Thank you . Your contributions are much appreciated.

New Membership :

Barbara & Dick MacMillen

Thank you!

Help Wanted

The display case is in sorry shape. The plexiglass on the top of the case is so scratched that it is hard to see what is inside. Volunteers are needed to arrange for a replacement of the glass and for ideas of what to exhibit . Please call or come by to offer assistance. If you have a nice collection of any items of historical interest please use our space to share with the public. The case is locked and secure so there is no need to worry about the contents.

Volunteers are also needed to help with finding and linking obituaries with the individuals buried in Stearns and Dunkard Cemeteries. I would like to create resource books for both of those cemeteries. Please call 512-8838 if you can help with this or any project at your Historical Society.

Talent Historical Society

P.O. Box 582 • Talent, OR • 97540-9766
541- 512-8838 • talenthistory@jeffnet.org