

The Historacle

July 2008

The Official newsletter of the

Talent Historical Society



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

Keep Collecting Signatures

Talent Historical Society thanks you for the time and energy devoted to gathering signatures on the Heritage District petitions. Despite all our efforts, we still need more signatures (to reach a total of 16,000) and more time. It's not too late - we have until the end of August to keep collecting for the May 2010 ballot. If you still have a petition, please ask all willing registered voters to sign. Turn them into the Heritage PAC at # 2 N. Oakdale in Medford or give them to THS. Extra petitions are in the office at THS - just give Jan a call at 512-8838 if you need more. Help is also still needed for canvassing Talent neighborhoods and signature tables at Tarks. Thank you for taking part in the historic effort to create a Heritage District. Talent has an extra incentive to preserve history with our centennial anniversary of incorporation coming up in 2010. With your help, the society will be able to contribute to this important event

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Meyer Memorial Trust Grant

Much needed good news came this month with a grant award of \$4800 from Meyer Memorial Trust to install a Takelma Indian exhibit at the Talent Historical Society. The Society will use the grant money to create a replica of a Takelma pictograph on a rock wall in the entry way of the museum. The exhibit will include important local history about the pictograph offering the public and especially school age children information about the Takelma Indians who resided in this area for thousands of years. We are very grateful to Meyer Memorial Trust for their faith in our society and its ability to educate others through this new exhibit and materials. Watch for programs in the coming months that will help make this exhibit even more meaningful including a new Tom Doty book about Indian rock writings in Oregon and a slide show presentation by Roy Phillips.

Interview with Russell Brown

THS recently had the privilege of interviewing Russell Brown who was born in Talent in 1916. Russell's father, Louis Brown owned the Talent Mercantile Store that was located in the Ames building (photo below) which used to be on the corner of Main and the Railroad tracks where the skate park is now. Louis Brown owned the store until about 1928 when the family moved to Medford. A storage building in back of the store had ice and sawdust to keep foods cool for the customers. One day, Mr. Brown noticed a lot of boys selling eggs in the store, he put a stop to it when he found out that the boys were stealing the eggs from the storage building, cleaning them off, and then selling them back to the store as though they were from their own hens.



Photo courtesy of Ken Kantor

Wild Boar Impounded

Excitement ran rife in Talent, Friday last, due to the running amuck of a huge porker in the streets of that city, and the committal of the animal to the official pound, the first instance of the kind which has happened since Talent assumed municipal honors under its new charter. Jeff Bell was the impounding officer, and at the time of the motor's leaving southbound on the afternoon in question, the animal was still held in the pound for a big ransom. It is thought, however, that the commitment papers are defective, they calling for the restraint of a Berkshire bacon animal, whereas the porker held for ransom is a huge razorback of the wild boar species, owned by Welborn Beeson, who will spare no means to have the animal released under sufficient bonds. Owing to the fact that this technically enters into the case, a board of viewers comprising Poly Manning, Charley Wolters, Van Dunlap, Luman Judd, Geo. A. Morse, Bill Fox, Joshua Patterson, and J. E. Aylward have been impaneled to pass upon the merits and intricacies of the case.

[from *Ashland Tidings Monday, February 20, 1911*]



Wild boar recently shot by an 11 year old boy in Arkansas would have given the Beeson pig a run for the money!

Memberships Keep Us Going

All museums (history, natural history, geology or doll museums for that matter) share unifying characteristics:

1. Aid in the education of the individual.
2. Conduct scientific discovery and scholarship.
3. Document, display, promote, explain, and preserve culture.
4. Committed to excellence.
5. Seek to be relevant and active in the issues of the day through their changing displays.
6. Collect and accumulate the stories of individuals and organizations in a central location.

If you think these things should happen here in Talent, ask your friends and neighbors to support these goals by joining the Talent Historical Society. Application forms are available on-line at www.talenthistory.org or included in this newsletter. If each member makes the effort to bring in new members it would go a long way to make up for our lost funds and bring in new ideas and energy to the museum.

Antidote to Liquor

Talent News 15 June 1892 reported the following:

One of our neighbors has discovered an antidote for Ashland whiskey. On his way home after imbibing too freely he calls at J. J. Miller's and swallows a pint of rich cream followed by about three quarts of sweet milk. This neutralizes the effect of the liquor and enables him to sit upright on his horse and reach home sober and happy.

The *NEWS* takes pleasure in announcing this invaluable discovery to the public, believing that, when generally known, there will be so great a demand for cream and milk that henceforth dairying will be a more remunerative business.

Happy Anniversary

We can't claim it as our "new" building any more. We have been located in the old library for over a year now. We are very grateful to all the people who helped us with the moving, painting, fixing up and especially to those who donated or loaned items to put on display. We have made the most of the opportunity to expand and build a museum and are still asking for collections to be loaned to the museum for display. Bottles, tools, dolls, collections of any kind are needed to entice museum visitors and tell the story of our part of the valley.

Board of Directors:

President: Bob Casebeer
Vice Pres: Bill Horton
Secretary: Katherine Harris
Treasurer: Ralph Hunkins
Directors: Lynn Newbry
Carl Shauger
Greg Goebelt
Alternate: Helen Seiber
Emeritus: Alice Burnette

Museum Staff:

Museum Director : Jan Wright

Volunteers:

Carl Shauger
Katherine Harris
Karen Carr
Ann Ramage
Liz Carter
Larry Wikander
Dick Simonson
Pat Bentley
Bob Casebeer
Ralph Hunkins
Bill Horton
Greg Goebelt
Susanna Wood
Barbara McMillan

Board News

Two board members, Jim Bradley and Bob Wilson, resigned this spring. We are thankful to them for their service and wish them well in their endeavors. Ralph Hunkins will remain on the board but wants to be relieved of the treasurer's duties. We are seeking new board members to fill the vacancies. Please call 512-8838 if you would like to offer your time, talents, or treasures to the historical society. With the City's centennial celebration coming up this is an important time to contribute to historic preservation and education. Our board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.. Please join us then to express your interest in being on the board.

Fund-raiser for THS

Please mark your calendar for August 20th and plan to attend a fund-raising event at the Camelot Theater in Talent. The proceeds from this exclusive opening night of *Lend me a Tenor* will benefit the Talent Historical Society. Tickets are on sale for \$20.00 each. Refreshments and beverages during intermission will also be on sale and benefit the historical society. Please call the theater at 535-5250 to get your tickets and seat assignments in advance.

Be a Part of History

This is not the time to relax or to sit and wait to see what happens. This is a time for action if there ever was one. History is disappearing before our eyes. Interest is high but we are being fooled into thinking we can find everything on the internet or that technology is going to somehow preserve it all for us. There is no “virtual” way to preserve history other than to get down and dirty and explore with all of our senses the actual artifacts, clothing, documents, and places of our ancestors. We have all seen buildings come and go, landscapes wiped out by bulldozers or natural disasters, and people pass away. There is no substitute for their knowledge, their experiences, their voices. We need to record and archive as much as we can while we can or it will fade from memory. Here in Talent the historical society is the keeper. We hold the treasures of the past and are equipped to share whatever we have with the entire public.

YOU can help by being a part of the every day workings of the museum. Volunteers are needed as docents, as transcribers, as oral history interviewers, as board members, signature gatherers and as generous donors. Please search your soul and figure out a way to help. Please donate what you can to help the society survive for the coming years. Grants are wonderful and help us with certain projects but do not cover operating expenses or the director’s salary. We are one of the only historical societies in the valley that has a staff member on board to conduct research, coordinate volunteers, direct the operations of the society and administer the grants we get. We continue to be amazed at the depth and strength of our members and hope that you will give time, energy, and donations to this very worthy cause. As always your contributions are tax deductible.

This excellent photo was recently discovered in the THS donor files. Back row from left to right: John R., Minnie, and Oscar Talent. Front row: Aaron P. and wife, Martha Talent.

This was a copy of an old tintype that was in the possession of a Talent relative. The photo was dated 1864 but Minnie wasn't even born until 1877 and Oscar was born in 1871. Judging from the clothing and ages of the people, it looks like an 1890s image - possibly in San Francisco. At any rate, this offers another look at the Talent family - famous for lending their name to our fair city.



Memberships this Quarter

Renewing Members

Joe & Lorraine Mussack

Carol & Randy Samuelson

Claire Sommer

Charlotte Spohn

Thankyou! Visit the website at www.talenthistory.org for additional membership forms.

Talent Historical Society

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