

# The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the  
Talent Historical Society

Volume 22 Issue 1

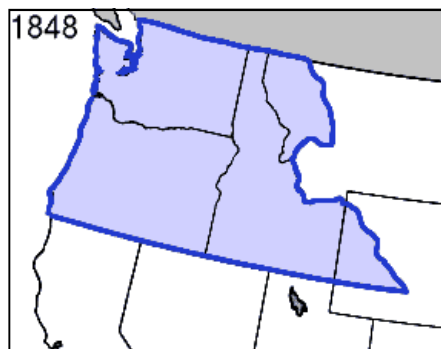
March 2016

## Donation Land Claims Spur Settlement in Talent Area

So, how do you convince people to pack up all their belongings, say goodbye to friends and family and trek all the way across the country on a hazardous journey with no guarantee that they'll ever arrive at their destination alive? Answer: FREE LAND!!

While men went to California to seek their fortunes in the gold fields, families came to the Oregon Territory because of the richness of the land. Oregon's climate and soil appealed to families that were from states that lined the Ohio and Upper Mississippi rivers. As the western migration began in earnest, it soon became evident that a system for organizing and documenting various land claims was needed.

In late 1850, the Donation Land Claim Act was enacted by the United States Congress with the express intention of promoting homestead settlements in the Oregon Territory in the Pacific Northwest. At that time, the Oregon Territory comprised the present-day states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of Wyoming and Montana. The law legitimized the claims made under the 1843 Organic Act of the Oregon Territory, while providing new guidelines for further settlement. The 1850 law was a forerunner of the later Homestead Act and brought thousands of white settlers into the new territory.



Oregon Territory

The act became law on September 27, 1850 and granted 320 acres of designated areas free of charge to every unmarried, white male citizen eighteen or older, and 640 acres to every married couple arriving in the Oregon Territory before December 1, 1850. In the case of a married couple, the husband and wife each owned half of the total grant in their own name and it was one of the first laws in the United States to allow women to hold property under their own name. Half-blood Native Americans were also eligible. Those who arrived after the 1850 deadline but before 1854, were granted half that amount. The land was given to United States citizens or those becoming citizens within a year. Claimants were required to live on the land and make improvements on it for four years in order to own it outright. After the 1854 cut-off date, land was no longer free, but still available at \$1.25 an acre. 7,437 land patents were issued under the law, which expired on December 1, 1855. In 1862, Congress passed the first "Homestead Act".

The course of Oregon history was significantly shaped by the Donation Land Claim Law. By the time the law expired in 1855, approximately 30,000 white immigrants had entered the Oregon Territory, with some 7,000 individuals making claims to 2.5 million acres of land. The overwhelming majority of the claims were west of the Cascade Mountains. Oregon's populations increased from 11,873 in 1850 to 60,000 by 1860.

The Surveyor-General began to survey public lands in October 1851. A Baseline was set just south of the mouth of the Willamette River running east/west and a Meridian was established running north/south down through the Willamette Valley. Townships of six square miles were numbered either north

or south of the Baseline, and Range locations were numbered east or west of the Meridian. Each of the six square mile blocks thus formed were divided into 36 Sections. By knowing the Township, Range and Section, a location can be determined within 1 mile.

The first Donation Land Claims in the Talent area were in January of 1852 when Eli K. Anderson and his brother, James Firman Anderson, took up adjoining claims at a location where the creek that now bears the Anderson name crosses Colver Rd. Just a few months later, in the spring of 1852, Jacob Wagner filed a 160 acre claim along the creek that now bears his name. Others quickly followed and soon settled the area that we now know of as Talent. The table below shows Donation Land Claims in Township 38S, Range 1W that now make up the

Name	Acres	Claim #
Anderson, Eli K.	159.89	#62
Anderson, James F.	160.29	#61
Anderson, Jesse & Melissa	151.73	#60
Beeson, John & Ann	320.14	#63
Chase, Thomas	160.67	#58
Dingham, William H.	160.07	#72
Eldridge, Henry H.	155.39	#70
Reams, Woodford & M.	320.81	#57
Redick, Thomas Harvey	159.04	#70
Robison, John & Susan	319.96	#66
Rockfellow, Albert G.	160.63	#68
Rockfellow, George W.	160.62	#69
Smith, Nelson D.	160.08	#59
Smith, William	159.86	#75
Stearns, David & Fidelia	320.70	#67
Thornton, James & Isabell	529.08	#65
Wagner, Jacob	160.75	#64
White, Thomas	160.34	#73
Woolen, Isaac	160.50	#74

*Continued on page 10*

# 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 Friday  
through Monday 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](mailto:info@talenthistory.org)

[www.talenthistory.org](http://www.talenthistory.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/  
groups/TalentHistoricalSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/TalentHistoricalSociety/)

*The Historacle* is published  
quarterly.

Editor/layout:  
Belinda Klimek Vos

## New Museum Hours: Friday through Monday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

### Memberships

#### New Members:

Cheryl Baker  
Mary Ann Gayton  
Nick Medinger & Jana Sweet

Ryan & Joy Baker  
Emily Grimes  
Kent & Colleen Patrick-Riley

#### New Business Members:

Rudy Greene, MD

Talent Liquor & Market

#### New Business Sponsors:

Green Valley Wellness  
Umpqua Bank  
Cherokee Construction, LLC

Talent Dental  
SOS Plumbing

#### Renewals:

Kurt Bailey  
Ann Banks  
Bill & Carolyn Cecil  
Paul Creel  
Bob & Annie Dreiszus  
Joel Goldman  
Robert Holdridge  
Robert Jacobs  
Marilyn Lee  
Carol Muir  
Roger Roberts  
Bruce Snook  
Ben Truwe  
Ron & Stella Medinger  
Liz Carter  
Carole Kehrig  
David & Alice Hodson  
Willow & Ryon Nauth  
Rick & Yolanda Nagel

Morgan LeeAnn Bailey  
George & Colleen Baylor  
Roanne Clapp  
Joan J. Dean  
Lillian & Christine Fullerton  
Nelda Hanscom  
Steve Isaacson  
Ron & Beverly Lamb  
John & Nancy Miller  
LaVelle Ricks  
John Rockfellow  
Claire Sommer  
Claire Wilson  
Penny Keegan  
Linda Hale  
Darby Stricker  
Ron & Jackie Wagner  
Emmalisa & Ruby Whalley

#### Renewing Business Members:

Jim's Better Buys

#### Renewing Sponsors:

Poppie Beveridge  
Daniel & Linda Jackson

Robert & Carol Delsman

#### Renewing Business Sponsors:

Greg Goebelt  
Star Properties

Kramer & Company

#### Lifetime Memberships:

Marla Cates & Jan Ritter  
Bud & MaryLouise Gleim

Margay Garrity  
Al Nijenhuis

#### Additional Donation:

Roanne Clapp  
Joan J. Dean  
Marilyn Lee  
Dick & Shirl Phillips  
David & Alice Hodson

Nelda Hanscom  
Darby Stricker  
Carol Muir  
Linda Hale

## THS President's Message - by Ron Medinger

Our board has been hard at work building membership in the Society. A sound membership base is the only way Talent Historical Society will survive far into the future with certainty. We've been graciously supported by those of you who feel that THS has something valuable to offer the Talent community and we thank you for that!

We've completed our Membership Renewal drive with great success and we're most of the way through our Business Membership drive finding much needed support from our business community.

There is one more membership segment that remains to be approached, and 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 their local Historical Society.

We're here to preserve your memories.

## Talent Tomato Sale Coming Soon

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about planting that summer garden.

THS will once again be offering Heirloom Talent Tomatoes for sale this year. The plants will be available at our Museum, 105 North Market St., Talent on Saturday, May 7th, the same day as Talent's City Wide Yard Sale. Hours will be from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm.

This unique tomato variety was originally grown by Talent farmer, Clarence Holdridge. Clarence had noted that a particular plant in his large tomato field was better than the rest of his Medford variety. He saved the seeds from this special plant, naming it the Talent Tomato and grew it the next year. Not long after, the local cannery closed, commercial growing ended, and a few seeds were left forgotten in a drawer until rediscovered 18 years later. Surprisingly, when planted, about 60% germinated and grew to adult plants.

Our plants are being grown by Greenleaf Industries in Grants Pass, which is a private, non-profit corporation, providing training and employment opportunities to men and women with varying developmental disabilities.

The red, medium size fruit is meaty and flavorful, and you will enjoy an early and long harvest with this indeterminate type of tomato. The strong, sturdy plants will be available in both 4" pots for \$3.00 or gallon containers for \$7.00.

We are also offering pansies for sale this year. Clarence's wife, Genevieve, was a teacher at Talent Elementary. If you were lucky enough to be in her

class, in the spring you got to enjoy a field trip to her husband's greenhouse. There, students got to pick out a pretty pansy to give to their mothers for Mother's Day. What a treat!! And since Mother's Day falls on May 8th this year, the day after our sale, we hope you will continue this tradition as well.

We will also be offering our 2016 edition of the Talent Tomato t-shirt featuring a new logo created by board member Willow Nauth. The shirts will be available in various colors and sizes.

Tomato plants and t-shirts may be pre-ordered until Monday, May 2nd by dropping by the Museum or by calling 541-512-8838 for more information. You can also place an order by going to our website at: [www.talenthistory.org](http://www.talenthistory.org) and clicking on the store icon.

We had many positive reviews from people growing these tomatoes last year, and we look forward to hearing more scrumptious reports from the Summer of 2016.

This event is one of our major fundraisers for the year, so we hope you will come out and support the Talent Historical Society while growing a tasty tomato at the same time.



## 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 December 22nd, we hosted a Holiday Open House featuring "Tales of Christmas past in the Wagner Creek Community." A nice crowd enjoyed holiday cheer and a lot of cookies!!

We had an excellent turnout on January 26th when Ben Truwe gave a talk entitled "History Revealed: Letters to the Bureau of Indian Affairs" A lively and thought provoking discussion followed the presentation. On Feb. 23rd Darin Welburn, Fire Chief at Jackson County Fire District #5, led a discussion on the "History of the Fire Departments in Talent."

Our own Jan Wright will tell us about the interesting topic of "Spiritualism in Talent" for the March 22nd event.

On April 26th, we will learn more about Clarence and Genevieve Holdridge. Mr. Holdridge was the person who discovered and named the Talent Tomato, while Mrs. Holdridge was a much loved first and second grade teacher in the Talent School system for many years.

As spring unfolds, Kristi Mergenthaler will give a presentation on "Wildflowers Found in and Around Talent" on May 24th.

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.

## New Board Member Added

Mark Smith-Poelz has joined the Talent Historical Society Board of Directors. He was elected at the December Board meeting and is now our Merchandise Manager.

John Harrison has taken over as Treasurer and Emmalisa Whalley is now our Secretary.

# It's Story Time!

*An Editorial by Robert Casebeer, THS board member*

One of Oregon's good writers Ursula LaGwin, wrote a brief sentence or two about stories. She pointed out that humans use stories as tools. That idea so impressed me that I copied what she wrote and pinned it on the inside of the museum's front door. I added a not so subtle suggestion, too: Why not share your stories with us? Our museum archives keep family records for folks who live or have lived in the Upper Bear Creek valley.

As LaGwin pointed out, our stories are tools to explain our religious views, our ways of viewing past events, our own views, our clan views, our state and nation's views and our views of the whole world with all of its complexity.

We use stories to amuse ourselves and others. People even laugh at their own jokes. We record stories so we can keep and share the truths that stories illustrate. We even prevaricate using stories which misdirect those who listen when we do not want to experience their reactions to events. So we attempt to hide or alter the real stories. Some folk call these stories lies!

We use some stories to convince our children that some behaviors are disliked inappropriate, or dangerous. Even our libraries have story time for young children, and for those of us who are older, we have novels and short stories that become ours as soon as we discover that reading them can be a pleasure. Mechanized stories are television and movies bread and butter. Reporters for newspapers and writers for magazines earn a living telling and recording stories about people who are living in interesting or horrible ways. And psychologists and psychiatrists treat people by listening and questioning people whose hidden stories have been housed as memories that haunt them.

As LaGuin pointed out: the story is indeed a universal human tool. Each one of us knows stories that ought to be shared. Local historical societies like ours here in Talent treasure and collect local stories. So drop by, and tell us more. We'll keep them so others can have them in years to come!!!!

*Taken from an oral history done on December 15, 1997 with Davis "Pop" Young.*

My parents moved to Talent in 1932 from Oak Grove, Oregon. Dad bought a small orchard on Rapp Rd. & S. Pacific Hwy. (now Talent Ave.). A man by the name of Lewis was running it for another man who owned it. The house was there and is still there. It was a Montgomery Ward house. I did not see it built. There is a room added on to it now. It was a small orchard but specialized in variety. We sold the apples right on the front porch. People wanted a red apple, didn't care what it tasted like as long as it was red. Dad would sit on the front porch and polish them. There were about 20 varieties. The most popular were the Delicious, Newtons and Jonathans and Macintosh. We also had cherries and peaches.

I was born in Sacred Heart Hospital in Medford but lived for seven years in Oak Grove (OR). Lucille, my sister, was two years younger and my brother (Floyd) was two years younger than Lucille. I went to the Talent school through high school and graduated in 1942.

Girls participated in basketball. When they graduated from Anderson and Wagner School they came to Talent. Those two schools were still in session as elementary schools when the Talent school was in progress. Anderson School was on the knoll at the bend - on north side - going up Anderson Creek

Rd. The building is gone now.

Lacey Lane would be where Lacey's lived. Where Rapp Rd. ends and meets Hwy. 99. That was Lacey Lane. Rapp Rd. wasn't there then. The Rapps were there, but the road wasn't named yet. Lacey's house on the left has been removed. It was just where it meets Hwy. 99 there was a small house. To the right was the Klimek house. They sold wood for years. They were Czech. The Dad worked really hard.

The bridge over Wagner Creek was there before I came. The first house after the bridge was a mobile home; the park developed around the time of the war. People by the name of Walters lived there. The next house was pretty classy - Bill Breeze's house. The road was called Hwy 99.

I met my wife on a blind date after

the war. I was living in Talent after the war. I was in the Air Corp - Alaskan Division - Lend Lease Air Transport. I went to air craft school between school and war time.

Rich Shumacher organized a local band that played on the steps of City Hall. I didn't participate in school sports because I went home after school to help Dad in the orchard work.

Bear Creek over flowed several times. It never reached our house.

I had a bicycle and we played marbles - even on the school grounds if we didn't play for keeps. That's quite a game. The train crews in the caboose took our marbles every time. They were experts.

One thing about the RR. One item was the way they delivered mail. There was an iron post that had an upper and



*Ed.: My Uncle, Marcel "Whimp" Klimek, Jr., was a great friend of Mr. Young who was always referred to as "Pop". They attended the air craft mechanics school in Eugene together before both of them joined the Army Air Corp during WWII. A family photo album has photos of Pop and my Uncle together, usually including a motorcycle or two. They had many adventures while going to school in Eugene.*

*Photo: l. Marcel Klimek and Ronda Everett and r. Davis "Pop" Young. Marcel's motorcycle was named Betsie and Pop's Susie Q. The photo was taken in 1942 In Eugene, OR.*

lower arm. They hung the mail bag between the two arms. It was spring loaded. The train would go by and grab the bag. They just kicked the mail for Talent off the car.

Near the depot was a brick building - a theater at one time. Then the CCC camped there. It was across the City Hall. It faced City hall. It was two-stories. South of the brick building were a few small houses. The barber shop was where it is now.

The service station at the corner of Wagner and Talent (Ave.) was a Standard Station. The next corner south was another station. As you came off the highway, there was the Pumpkin Center. That was a fruit stand for years. I think the Friends Church was where it is now. Most of the houses were up Foss Lane and around the curve near the school.

We didn't have a police chief. We had a Marshall. It seemed like they were always breaking into the pool hall on the highway. Mr. Rapp would gladly give anyone a watermelon if they asked, but if they tried to steal, then he would go after them.

(Later) my parents lived at 207 Bain St. in a second house that the Klimek's owned. My Mother started out teaching in Butte Falls, then Talent. Mr. Lowe lived across the street from my Mother. Mother shuttled back and forth to Butte Falls with the Lowes. Dad helped in the raising of rabbits. My brother (Floyd) pulled the orchard out two months after my Father died. He has a motorcycle shop there now.

When I came back from the war I got into the lumber industry out in White City - ended with Boise - had a good retirement plan. I have no children. We tried but never had any. My brother had five children.

*Ed.: Davis' Mother, Nell Young, was a well known third grade teacher at Talent Elementary School for many years. Although I was in the classroom across the hall from her, I have vivid memories of her as does anyone who happened to have her as a teacher. Her habit of rapping inattentive students with the business end of a metal-edged wooden ruler was not soon forgotten. She was a dedicated and respected teacher and in her later years, could be seen tooling around Talent on her three wheel bicycle.*



**2**

## **Bahr-Brown House**

**202 East Main Street    ca. 1902**

This early hipped-roof dwelling was apparently constructed shortly after the turn of the century by Jacob and Nancy Bahr. Four years later Orzo and Roxanna Brown purchased the home and lived there until 1917. By 1945, W. and Cleo Kenyon purchased the home and remained there for many years. Following Cleo's death, Mr. Kenyon remarried and continued to reside there until at least as late as the mid-1960's. The Bahr-Brown residence retains high integrity to its original design. The large fenced lot includes large trees and other features that add to the building's appearance. The Bahr-Brown home accurately relates its significant association with early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development in Talent.

*Taken from our "Walking Tour of Historic Talent" Booklet. The booklet may be purchased at the museum or online. 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](mailto: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](https://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 be very popular and our followers have increased to 227. While we continue to publicize Talent Historical Society events and meetings, one of the most inspiring aspects to the posts are all the comments that viewers make concerning Welborn Beeson's diary entries. As we try and interpret vocabulary, foods and customs from the 1860's in southwest Oregon, a deeper understanding of the trials and challenges that were faced by the Wagner Creek pioneers are better understood.

As the dead of Winter lies upon the land, one might think that life quiets and settles down for the settlers, but Welborn's diary suggests otherwise. He and his neighbors are out and about as often as ever. Hardly a day passes in which someone doesn't come to call or pass by, and Welborn makes note of it as if it is an unusual occurrence not to speak to a visitor on any given day.

Much of the winter months are spent making pickets, presumably for wooden fences, and there are many references to this activity throughout his diary. Social events also continue with several mentions of balls. Welborn has an interesting comment on the dangers of a current clothing style

at one dance. Thursday, December 7, 1865: *Wallace & Will Smith helped me to make pickets. It has been Dull and foggy, nice day for hard work. Mr Coolidge called this morning he brought us some papers from Ashland. Sam Robison came rushing down this evein to say that Em Barneberg was quite sick she was taken at Ez Rhinehearts ball with a Spasm and has only just got home to day. She is quite sick in consequent of laceing herself to tight. It is starng women will not learn the folly of laceing to tight and causing themselves so much suffering.*

Welborn takes on more responsibilities as his mother, Ann Beeson's, health deteriorates. Jan 31st. 1866 Wednesday: *frosty morning fine day Father and I grubed fore noon I plowed after noon, north of the barn Mother is very unwell.*

However, he seems to take these new responsibilities in stride and while acknowledging the amazing life that his parent's have lived; born and raised in England and now finding themselves half a world away in the wilds of an untamed land, he says he is happy to take care of them. January 5th, 1866: *Wallace hauled pickets posts &c, &c, wood and the old slabs that formed the old shop and pantry at the old house.*

*Father and I were tearing it down. we are going to build a hog house in the timber and of the slabs. Father has gone to Holtons. Mother is quite unwell, she pained her finger and it hurts her. She had an apple pudding to day for dinner in honor of the old Duke of Rutlands birthday. She say's she recolects my Grandfather had a roast leg of Mutton and a litle party about forty five or six years ago, and Uncle Dewy and a young friend of his was at it. little did she think then she would be away of here in Oregon. with a big son to take care of her, and I am happy in being able to take care of my parents.*

Welborn also seems to sense that things are changing in the Wagner Creek Community. New houses are being built and shops are being set up. Basic survival is giving way to increased commerce. What a surprise he would have to see what his little community has become today!! Jan. 17th, 1866: *It is stormy and Windy. We tried to work but to bad weather. set in the house after noon I walked down to Wagners He is talking of building a barn this Spring. James Thornton, has bought a set of blacksmith tools, and is going to set up a shop on the creeck. the blacksmith has come up to day. It will soon be a town here, I prophysy.*



### Cherokee Construction, LLC

Over 18 yrs specializing in environmentally respectful site development and septic installation

CCB Licenses #203131 and #37924

Melissa Bonney 541-821-5925  
Tom Bonney 541-821-8399

Thanks to these businesses for supporting the Talent Historical Society at a Sponsorship level.

Tia Stratton  
AVP, Store Manager



president's club

tiastratton@umpquabank.com  
umpquabank.com

PH 541-618-6809  
F 541-535-3396  
TF 866-486-7782  
NWLS #834070

201 North Pacific Highway  
Talent, OR 97540

### Talent Dental

General Dentistry

Mehdi L. Ghavam, D.M.D., L.L.C.

P.O. Box 275  
106 North Market Street  
Talent, OR 97540  
Phone: 541.535-1597



Office Hours By Appointment



541.840.5966

GREG GOEBELT

Deluxe Home Team

Specializing in Talent and Ashland  
GGoebelt@gmail.com | www.GregGoebelt.com



www.greenvalleywellness.com

103 N Pacific Hwy Talent, OR  
541-535-3022

got a question? email it to us today

## 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](mailto: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.

In regard to the February 6th, 1866 entry from Welborn Beeson's diary, which reads in part, "*Mr Williams called about the new road scheme.*" Paula McClain Mixson asks, Please ask Jan what she knows about the new road scheme."

Jan's Answer: The new road scheme is a big change in the path way of Wagner Creek Road. The way it curves around the corner off of Rapp Road to become Wagner Creek Road represented a big change for the residents, especially the Beesons who owned the land where the big curve appears. WB was not crazy about the idea, but his neighbors won the battle and it is what it is today. The process of road building was a community effort. Someone had to petition the county - get surveyors to come out and then each individual took a shift at the hard work of shoveling and grading and removing obstacles to make the road happen while "viewers" looked on and reported back to the county that the road was made according to stipulation.


Part of the entry for Saturday, December 16, 1865 reads, "*I left 30.25 cts with May Walker for the flag.*" This is in reference to the Mountain Rangers flag which was first mentioned in the Sunday, December 3, 1865 entry, "*Minnie has a petition to collect money for the purpose to buy a flag for the Mountain Rangers.*" George Rakes asks, Does the historical society have this flag?

Jan's Answer: I wish we had the flag that was mentioned in WB's diary! But no, we do not have it nor does the Southern Oregon Historical Society. I am pretty sure that the flag is the one in the back ground in the accompanying photo. Mountain Rangers listed left to right -- Abel Helman, F.W. Myers, O.C. Applegate, Thomas Osborne, Minus Walker, William B. Stout, Ivan Applegate, Wallace Baldwin and Welborn Beeson.



Regarding the diary entry for Monday December 25, 1865 which reads in part, "*Wallace and Father came down early to breakfast. Logan found Candy &c, &c, in his socks, but old Santa claus had not left Mother or me any thing.*" Kirsten Couch asks, "&c, &c,?? candy and candy?"

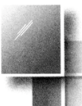
Jan's Answer: "&c &c" means etc. etc. - that is the way it is abbreviated in the diary. I think it meant in this case that Logan got the usual things for Christmas candy, fruit,... treats of a simple kind.

**MEDICAP**  
PHARMACY  
*We'll always make time for you.*

**Rick Chester, Pharmacist**  
Naturopathic Physician & Acupuncturist

- STORE HOURS
- Monday - Friday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM
- Saturday: 9:00AM - 1:30PM
- Free Local Delivery
- Drive-Thru Window
- Compounding

205 N Pacific Highway  
Talent, OR 97540  
Phone: 541.535.5843  
Fax: 541.535.6362

**KRAMER & COMPANY**  
Historic Preservation Consultants

George Kramer

386 North Laurel  
Ashland, OR 97520  
541-482-9504  
[www.facebook.com/PreserveOregon](http://www.facebook.com/PreserveOregon)  
[george@preserveoregon.com](mailto:george@preserveoregon.com)

**SOS**  
Plumbing & Drain Service

Mike Davis President  
[mike@sosplumbing.net](mailto:mike@sosplumbing.net)


541-535-5063 206 So. Pacific Hwy.  
541-488-2680 Talent, OR 97540  
541-779-3472 CCB #079604  
541-535-3964 fax [www.sosplumbing.net](http://www.sosplumbing.net)

**Funagain.com**

**World's Best Game Source**

voice: 541-482-1939  
fax: 541-482-6573  
email: [cs\\_general@funagain.com](mailto:cs_general@funagain.com)

Store - Funagain Games • 1660 Ashland St. • Ashland, OR 97520 USA

**Mountain View Estates**

A MANUFACTURED HOME  
COMMUNITY FOR PERSONS  
55 AND OLDER

(541) 535-3223  
[mountainviewesta@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mountainviewesta@qwestoffice.net)

Chris Hudson  
Manager/Owner

333 Mountain View  
Talent, Oregon 97540

**STAR PROPERTIES**

JACK LATVALA BROKER/OWNER

P.O. Box 442 • 88 Lapree Street • TALENT, OR 97540 • 541.535.9999  
[jacklatvala@gmail.com](mailto:jacklatvala@gmail.com) • [www.starpropertiesrealestate.com](http://www.starpropertiesrealestate.com)

# 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.**

So what was happening in the United States in 1949? Well, Harry S. Truman was President, *Hamlet*, starring Laurence Olivier, won the Academy Award for best movie, and "Riders in the Sky" by Vaughn Moore and his Orchestra was the #1 song that year.

According to The People History, "After many years of misery through the depression and World War II postwar prosperity is starting to get underway with companies now able to supply the cars, Televisions and the other goods demanded in a consumer society. The cars got bigger, the TV's got bigger, with some 6.2 million new cars sold in the US and nearly 10 million Televisions in American homes, A new type of TV program appeared we now call Soap Operas (the name came from the fact many soap manufacturers sponsored the shows to catch the stay at home mom with advertising). China became a communist country and Russia had the Nuclear Bomb which increased the tension between East and West (The Cold War)."

Meanwhile in Talent, Oregon, which had a population of about 730, Harold J. Straus was the Mayor, and 14



*The Bulldog annual staff hard at work.*

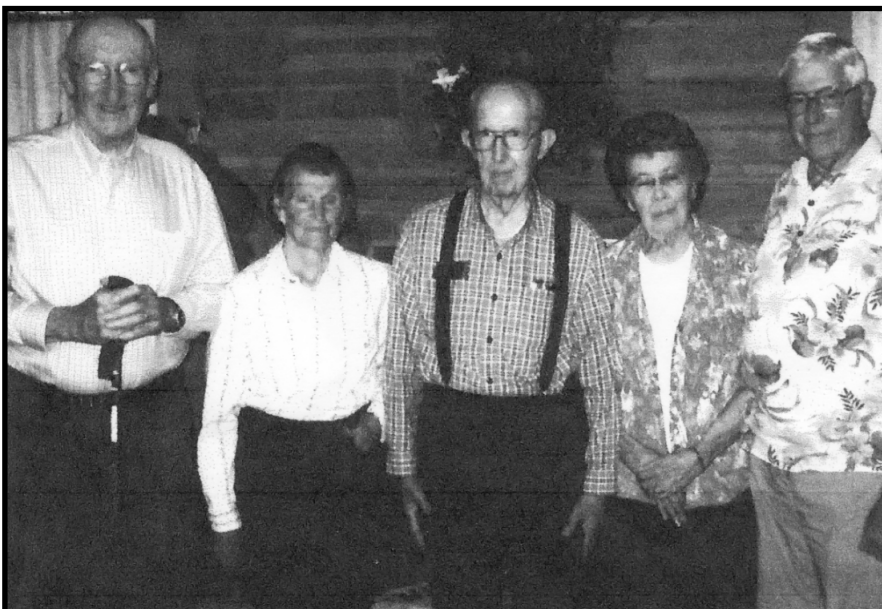
students graduated from Talent High School that year. The faculty consisted of six teachers plus Roy B. Parr, who was the Superintendent. The high school was housed in the three story brick schoolhouse that was built in Talent in 1911.

The graduates included: Margaret Egan, Don Millage, Jack Milhoan, John

York, Joe Fenton, Joan Davis, Frances Sullivan, Clyde Williams Otto King, Charles Garrett, George Wilson, Charles Zickefoose and Betty Henry.

One of the highlights of that year was the football team's exceptional season. They played Rogue River, Gold Hill, Prospect, Butte Falls, St. Mary's and Jacksonville in their own division, winning every game, before starting their state championship bid.

According to the Bulldog Annual, "Talent beat Jacksonville, thus qualifying us for the state play-off in football. The quarterfinal game was at The Dalles, where we played Dufur. This consisted of a trip through Central Oregon and a two-night stay in a hotel, expenses paid. The boys came through in the second half to defeat Dufur 46-26. By virtue of this win, we were given the chance to play Umatilla in the semi-finals, again away from home. This was played in Pendleton, which meant another trip across Oregon, ending in our victory 32-20. By winning over Umatilla, we earned the right to try for state championship. Fortunately this game was played in Medford on a snow-covered field in the bitter cold. Unfortunately, we didn't win, the winners being Mohawk by a score of 24-14, thereby making us theoretically the second best 6-man team in the state."

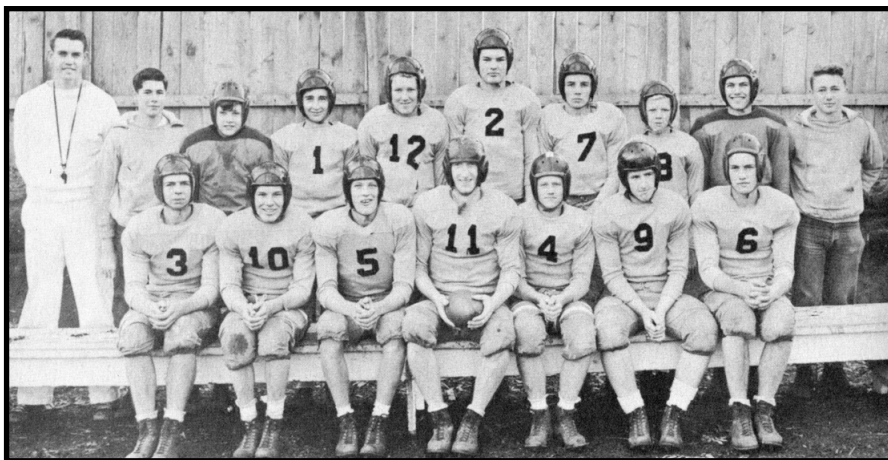


*The Talent High School graduating class of 1949 held a 66th year reunion on Sept. 19, 2015. Those attending were l to r - Otto King, Joan Davis Ragsdale, John York, Frances Sullivan Hayman and Charles Zickefoose.*

One can only imagine what an amazing experience this was for a group of small town boys; staying in a motel and traveling clear across the state. And all expenses were paid!!

1949 was a time of great change in our country. The war had ended and a new culture was emerging. The young men and women who graduated from Talent High School that year had a future that was much different from their parents. One hopes their time spent at THS prepared them for their life's journey.

*THS State Runner-up Football Team*



## At the Museum

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

One of our most treasured artifacts is a handmade cradle. Not ornate; simple in construction, yet it has endured through the years to now grace our museum. The wooden cradle is handmade and looks like a trough on rockers. It measures 38" x 20" and is 15" tall with the rockers. Square nails hold it together.



*Hendrick H. Goddard*

The cradle was made in 1884 by Hendrick H. Goddard for his first born child, Fred R. Goddard. On October 22, 1882, Hendrick married Miss Maggie A. Sherman of Phoenix, Oregon and they had three children; the above mentioned Fred, as well as Adelbert C. and Ormy M.

Hendrick was born on November 20, 1859; the son of Blin C. and Damaris (McClain) Goddard. The Goddard's had crossed the plains in 1864 with ox teams to Oregon, spending their first winter on the old E.K. Anderson place west of Talent. They moved to Phoenix the next spring and then in 1867 moved to a ranch on Wagner Creek. According to the Cen-

tennial History of Oregon, Hendrick "was reared in the home of his parents and in the schools of Oregon pursued his education. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade and during the greater part of his life he was employed in the construction of buildings."

Hendrick's Father, Blin Goddard, was a well know carpenter and many of the oldest houses on Wagner Creek were built either by Blin or his son Hendrick. It was noted that, "Hendrick was well-know and highly respected citizen of his community and is greatly esteemed by a large circle of friends." He was a member of the local school board for twenty years and died on June 13, 1938.

So how did this treasured piece of Talent history come into our care? Hen-

drick and Maggie's youngest child, Ormy, married a woman named Edythe and the couple lived for many years at 7681 Wagner Creek Road. June Collins McKeirnan was a young neighbor of Edythe, and when June was younger she helped her neighbor around the house. Edythe then gave the cradle to June in the 1970's. June used the cradle as a coffee table when it was turned upside down and at Christmas for decorations. Her children also used the cradle when infants and as a plaything for dolls later on. Later when June moved from the area, she donated it to us.

What an interesting path this 132 year old piece of furniture has taken. Always making its home in Talent, we are privileged to now have the opportunity to provide a welcome resting place for this important part of Talent's past.



Continued from page 1

City of Talent and surrounding areas.

For those following Welborn Beeson's daily diary entry on our Facebook page, the names on the list will be familiar as they are his neighbors and are mentioned often. Jacob Wagner's (misspelled as Wagman on the map) claim #64, in Sec. 26 was later divided into small lots and includes the current City of Talent. (see map below)

It is interesting to note that all the good, relatively flat, bottom land was taken by the time the map below from 1858 was made. And while the original claims were in neat blocks, later claims were nestled in amongst prior claims. The entire area was "claimed" as such and property lines butted against one another. Roads developed along existing trails and along the creeks. Larger versions of this map are available for viewing at the THS Museum and are fascinating to study.

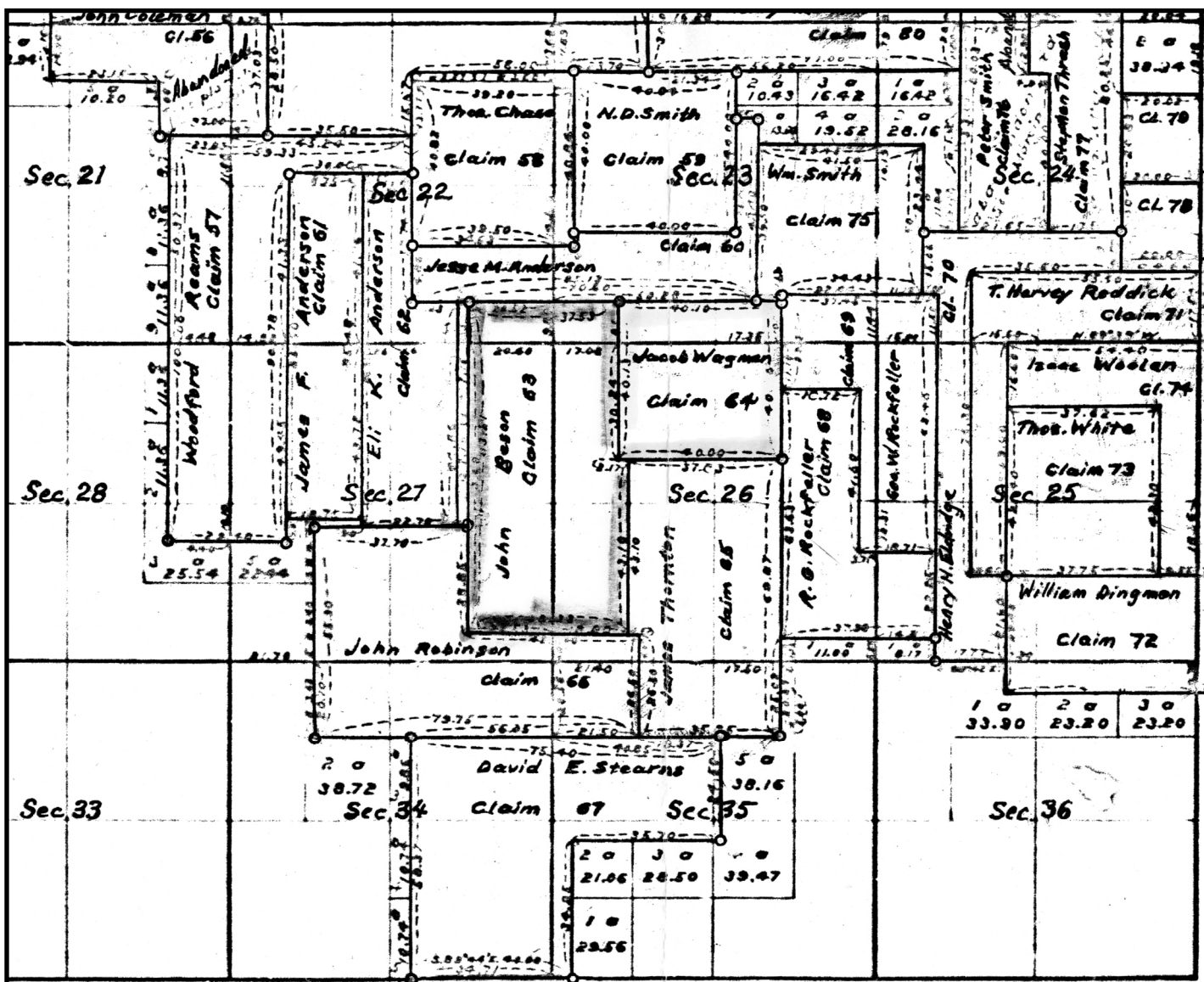
Donation Land claims for the Talent area went through the Federal Land Office in Roseburg, Oregon. The law required applicants to prove; place of birth, if foreign born - date of arrival in Oregon; if married - to whom, where and when; length of time residing on the property, and the cultivation of the land being claimed. This information is still available today as the originals are located in the National Archives in Washington DC. Copies on microfilm are available and require that you know the land office and claim number.

For example, information from the claim of John Robison, #66, includes that he was born in 1799 in Franklin, Co., Pa; that he arrived in Oregon on the 30th of August 1853 and settled on a claim in Jackson County by the 1st of September of the same year. He declared he married Susan Milligin on Nov. 28, 1822 in Ross Co, OH and lists the names of their eight children.

Information such as this is invaluable to expanding our knowledge of the pioneer families in our area.

The names of the founding fathers of Talent are recorded in the map below, clearly showing how this important law encouraged these brave men and women to trek the 2,000 miles over the Oregon Trail to reach their destination in the wilds of the Oregon Territory. Imagine what it must have looked like when they first pulled their wagons onto the rich land that became their new home; primitive and raw, but their dreams of owning land had been fulfilled.

*This map from 1858 shows the Donation Land claims in Township No. 38 South, Range No. 1 West, of the Willamette Territory of Oregon; sections 21,22,23, 24,28,27,26,25,33,34,35,36. The map states it has been examined and approved by the Surveyor General's Office, Salem, April, 12, 1858; (signed) John S. Zieber.*



# 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:            ☐ New                      ☐ Renewing

Membership Level:    ☐ Junior (12-18) - \$10    ☐ Individual - \$20    ☐ Lifetime Individual - \$200  
                                 ☐ Business - \$50            ☐ Family - \$30            ☐ Lifetime Family - \$300  
                                 ☐ Individual/Family Sponsorship - \$100 or more  
                                 ☐ Business Sponsorship - \$100 or more

Donation in addition to membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues include our quarterly newsletter: *The Historacle*

☐ Check to receive *The Historacle* 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
Bradley Flint	Vice-President - Network Admin.
Emmalisa Whalley	Secretary
John Harrison	Treasurer
Anthony Abshire	Talent City Council Liaison
Belinda Vos	Newsletter Editor
Willow Nauth	Art/Design Chair
Jan Wright	Historian
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

	March 8	THS Board Meeting	6:00 pm	At the Museum	
	March 22	Tuesday Evening at the Museum	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Jan Wright "Spiritualism in Talent"	
	April 12	THS Board Meeting	6:00 pm	At the Museum	
	April 26	Tuesday Evening at the Museum	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Topic: Clarence and Genevieve Holdridge	
	May 7	Talent Tomato Sale	8:00 am - 2:00 pm	At the Museum	
	May 10	THS Board Meeting	6:00 pm	At the Museum	
	May 24	Tuesday Evening at the Museum	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Kristi Mergenthaler "Talent Wildflowers"	

### 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.