



The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the
Talent Historical Society

Volume 25 Issue 4



December 2019

THE STEAMSHIP ERA CONNECTS THE COASTS OF AMERICA THROUGH THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA

By Myke Gelhaus

The Isthmus of Panama is the S-shaped piece of land, about 480 miles long, that connects the North and South American continents, with the Caribbean Sea on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. In it lies the country of Panama, which is now a constitutional republic, and the Panama Canal which was completed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers between 1904 and 1914.

The isthmus had long been valued as a possible short route from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean ever since Vasco Núñez de Balboa first sailed by its shores in 1503 and wondered what was out there. Once Balboa learned from the native peoples that there was a great expanse of water and much gold to be found on the other side, he and his crew of Spanish sailors started hacking a path through the rugged jungle. Despite unstable swampy jungle conditions alternating with rocky rugged terrain, and accompanied by torrential rain, tropical heat, and disease causing insects carrying malaria and other illnesses (the connection as yet not understood), they were successful by 1513. Balboa and his men then had to struggle back to their ships on the east coast, not being able to take advantage of



SS *California*, the first ship of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. This side paddle steamship was used between Panama and San Francisco between 1848 and 1894, when she was wrecked off the coast of Peru.

By US National Postal Museum - Site; Image - Sharpened before upload, PD-US,

their discovery.

The newfound sea was named the South Sea by Balboa. Magellan renamed it the Pacific in 1519 because the waters were "so serene".

The Spanish quickly realized that the isthmus was the narrow spot between two great oceans and used it as a springboard to invade the western Americas which they did for the next 200+ years, enriching the Spanish throne to an enormous degree with tons of gold and silver.

Although the isthmus is only about 38 miles wide at its narrowest, many dangerous attempts to create a workable route through the jungle caused vast numbers of men to lose their lives over the next 400 years. Towns were estab-

lished on each coast, Panama on the west, and first Nombre de Diós, then Chagras and Aspinwall on the east, but by the mid-19th century no solid infrastructure yet existed to cross the rugged landscape other than paths. Mule train, dugout canoe, and native bearers were the only way to cross the still hostile jungle. Then gold was discovered in California! Fortune seekers arrived in Chagres from North America's east coast in large numbers forcing the idea of creating a connection across the isthmus.

The pioneer expansion westward in North America had started a decade earlier and steamship companies came to realize the need for ships to connect the coasts in less time.

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 Address:
P.O. Box 582
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Web Page: www.talenthistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/talenthistory/

The Historacle is published quarterly.

Editor/layout: 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
Saturday & Sunday
1:00 to 5:00 PM

Memberships since Last Issue

New Members:

Carroll Albert &
Stephen Berman
Philip Lanni

Consuelo Montoya
Annmarie Slavenski
Deborah Starks

Renewals:

John Abbott
Ann Banks
Christine Bate
Maureen Flanagan Battistella
Martha S. Davis
Stuart Douglas
Ruby Garmon
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John & Kittie Harrison
Greg Hartley
David & Renee Heath
Shirley Sullivan Hewitt

Jill Iles
Carrie Jones
Jeff Johnson
Willow McCloud & Ryon Nauth
Christopher & Melody Knox
Greg Koenig
Kristi Mergenthaler
Paula & James Mixson
Carol Muir
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Myke Ann Reeser
Roger Roberts
Gerlinde Smith
Gene & RoseMary Woida

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Patricia Remencuis
Marla Cates & Jan Ritter
John & Judy Casad
Gladys Fortmiller
Margay Garrity
Bud & MaryLouise Gleim
Lunette Gleason-Fleming

Dale Greenley
George Kramer
Jack Latvala
Matt & Antoinette Lichtenstein
Edwin McManus & Family
Michael Mills
Janice A. Napoleon
Wanda Perdue
Brent Thompson
John Wahl

Additional Donations:

Ruby Garmon
Greg Hartley

Kristi Mergenthaler
Paula & James Mixson



Honorary Lifetime Memberships

Bob Casebeer Jan Wright Susan Moulder Katherine Harris

President's Message by Ron Medinger

Holiday Greetings to all you faithful Talent Historical Society members who help us keep this mission alive by supporting the Society with your paid memberships. I am humbled and immensely grateful for the number of you who responded to our membership renewal efforts over the past few months. The forward movement of our society that is currently being carried out by our board members and volunteers is exciting and rewarding to see and be a part of. The vitality of this group is infectious and I'm really looking forward to the next few years of the Society's life.

I hope volunteers continue to come forward. You'll find us a vibrant bunch and so much to do!

Come visit us at our Holiday Open House on December 17th (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.) and join us in celebrating the season.

It was a Tomato Kind of Day At the Talent Harvest Festival

It was a beautiful day on the edge of autumn in Talent when everybody came to town to join in on the celebration of the 50th Talent Harvest Festival and the 25th Anniversary of the Talent Historical Society. We had 160 people sign our welcome book and many of those people brought children who we could not get to slow down long enough to sign the book! We were also happy to accept several new memberships that day. A hearty welcome to our new members.

There was a contest for photos featuring the Talent Tomato, which is sold each spring for your gardens. People who walked in the door were asked to vote. The winner was Ryan Pederson of Talent! His prizes are a choice of a one-gallon plant or two 4" plants from next spring's sale; a Talent Centennial Belt Buckle, and a Talent Tomato T-Shirt chosen from the stock available at the museum. Ryan has two little girls, and one still hadn't gotten a Tomato Shirt so that worked out well.

Second prize went to Paula McClain-Mixson, who won an Applegate Centennial Collectible Coin and a Talent Tomato T-Shirt. Congratulations to our winners! We encourage you all to buy

a Talent Tomato plant next year for your own gardens and enter the photo contest. All money raised by the tomato sale goes toward museum expenses.



THS Board President Ron Medinger awards Ryan Pederson his 1st Place Belt Buckle.



The winning picture

TUESDAY EVENING AT THE MUSEUM

Located just north of Eagle Point on Highway 62 in Southern Oregon you will find a beautiful and arresting sight that has been called the most photographed house in the Northwest. Attracting artists and photographers for generations, the Wood House has survived being moved, being left empty,



and continual vandalism. The 19th century house has also endured challenges presented by development and financial pressures. Today, the house is a hands-on museum of collected and donated items representing everyday life in a pioneer farming community. It is stewarded by a preservation-oriented non-profit led and motivated by Skip and Charlotte Gear of Eagle Point.

The Gears came to THS in October to share the story of their struggle to keep the Wood House a going concern. Hosted by Willow McCloud, the presentation was accompanied by a slide show of Willow's excellent photos.

Marvin Sylvester Wood was born in New York on October 8, 1836. Wounded in the Civil War, he was discharged as a corporal from the United States Army in January of 1864, and with his brother Dennis, came to the Southern Oregon area in 1868. The next year Marvin filed a homestead claim and built a small cabin on land just north of Eagle Point. That year, two tragedies occurred,

Continued on page 8

Holiday Open House



December 17th—6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Isthmus *cont.*

Getting Mail and Sending Letters was No Easy Task in Pioneer Times

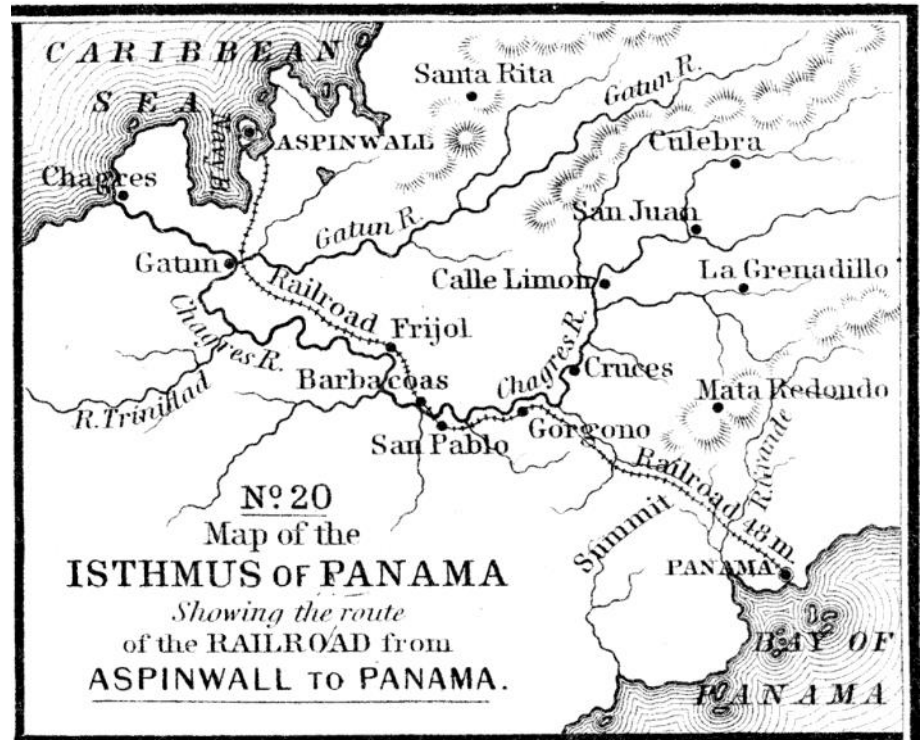
This is a reprint from the June 2002 Historacle and is from the WPA autobiography of J. Henry Brown, Oregon pioneer of 1847.

“When I came to Oregon, the missionary ships arrived once a year, and letters from friends by emigrants across the plains.

The war with Mexico had been closed some six months before we heard of it. It generally required two years to write and receive a letter and then we paid 50 cents to have the letter carried to the first post office in Missouri by persons returning to the States. When the P.M.S.S. Co. established their line and crossed the isthmus, we hailed it as one of the remarkable achievements of the day: we were then able to hear from our friends once every 3 months by mail.”

The Pacific Mail Steam Ship Company (PMSSC) was established by Manhattan entrepreneur William H. Aspinwall and supported by lucrative U.S. mail contracts. The steamships went into operation late in 1848 just as gold was found in California. The gold rush hit the isthmus fully unprepared, but Aspinwall was working on solutions.

The first steamship to sail into San Francisco Bay was the PMSSC steamer CALIFORNIA, sailing through the Straits of Magellan and arriving on February 28, 1849. Departing from New York before the discovery of gold in California had become well known, the wooden side-paddle-wheeler “rounded the Horn” at Tierra Del Fuego and stopped in Panama expecting to pick up a few passengers on route to San Francisco. But, at Panama, the ship instead found hundreds of gold-seekers waiting to board. Upon hearing of the discovery at Sutter's Mill, they had made their way down the East Coast, and had walked west across the isthmus. When the ship reached San Francisco, all the passengers disembarked for the gold fields east of Sacramento. To the captain's disdain, so did most of the crew. The CALIFORNIA was joined shortly by two other steam ships, the PANAMA and the OREGON. By the quirk of history of the Gold Rush,



Pacific Mail's success was assured!

With the need being obvious, Aspinwall went to work immediately on his plans to build a railroad across the isthmus thereby shortening the journey from coast to coast and avoiding the perils of Cape Horn.

The Panama Canal Railway route stretches 47.6 miles across the Isthmus of Panama from Colón (once called Aspinwall) to Balboa, near Panama City. Because of the difficult physical conditions of the route and state of technology, the construction was renowned as an international engineering achievement, one that cost \$8M in US dollars to build, and the lives of an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 workers. The first coast to coast train departed the east coast of the isthmus on January 28, 1855.

Why are we interested in this bit of history that seems so far away? Because, once finished, it became the route that many people took between the coasts of North America until the transcontinental railroad was finished in 1869, 14 very busy years in American history. And because Talent's (then Fort Wagner) own John Beeson took this route to the East Coast just a short time after it was initiated.

By 1856, John Beeson was speaking adamantly against Oregon's Indian policy to his neighbors and at churches and

public meetings around the area. He subsequently published an important article in the June 28 issue of the Argus, a widely distributed newspaper in Oregon City. He admonished his readers to deal fairly with Indians to “do good, love truth, be just and fair to ALL, exalt the RIGHT, though every *ism* fails.”

On May 24, 1856 - Welborn Beeson wrote in his diary - “*I am afraid Father will have to leave this country. Public opinion is so strong against him, some would as leave kill him as an Indian, just because he has spoken the truth out bold against the rascality of this Indian war, or rather the butchery of the Indians.*”

After Beeson fled Oregon, he landed in San Francisco, finding refuge with the proprietors of the Hilliard Temperance House and the gentlemen at the What-Cheer House. These gentlemen furnished Beeson with tickets to New York.

*The famous What Cheer House was a unique hotel opened in 1852 in San Francisco. It was destroyed by the earthquake and fire of 1906. The **What Cheer House** catered to men only, permitted no liquor on the premises, and housed San Francisco's first free library and first museum.*

On September 5, 1856, he boarded a steamboat bound for Panama, and despite misgivings (having heard of a hor-

Isthmus *cont.*

rific accident involving the train) crossed the isthmus by way of the new trainline. He then took another steamboat to New York, landing at the pier on September 27, 1856 – twenty-two days of travel! Quick and easy compared to six months of travel three years earlier crossing the prairie in a covered wagon.

In letters written home he mentions riding in the train, seeing huts, tropical scenery, noticing natives “who were generally of good size, with rather pleasant-looking features, and apparently well-fed though not corpulent”. He does not seem to be impressed by the ease of convenience offered him for his travel. He had other things on his mind.

Within weeks of his arrival in New York, Beeson had circulated 3,000 copies of a pamphlet on the plight of Indians and continued to meet with influential people. Beeson’s book, *A Plea for the Indians: With Facts and Features of the Late War in Oregon*, self-published in New York in 1857, brought him some notoriety and the opportunity to meet with newspapermen, magazine editors, and even with President Abraham Lincoln at the White House. He continued his crusade for fair treatment of the Indian for the next seven years before making it back home to Oregon.

Meanwhile the PMSSC continued to prosper, employing at least 60 vessels during this “Steamship Era”. During the American Civil War the steamships carrying the gold and silver of the western mines to the eastern states were under threat from the Confederate Navy. Several plots were uncovered to seize a steamship for its precious cargo or to convert one into a raider to capture another ship with such cargo. Consequently, Union General Irvin McDowell ordered each passenger on board American merchant steamers to surrender all weapons when boarding the ship and every passenger and his baggage was searched. Also, detachments of Union soldiers were ordered to sail with Pacific Mail steamers.

In 1867 the PMSSC launched the first regularly scheduled trans-Pacific steamship service with a route between San Francisco, Hong Kong, and Yoko-

hama, and extended service to Shanghai. This route led to an influx of Japanese and Chinese immigrants, bringing additional cultural diversity to America. When the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads met in Utah in 1869, the profitability of the Pacific Mail on the run from Panama to San Francisco ended. Many of its ships were sold or put on other routes. The company was formally dismantled in 1949, after just over a century of existence.

The Panama Railroad today remains a

vital link in the world's trade routes, running alongside the Panama Canal. As of 2015, Panama Canal Railway Company runs both passenger and freight trains between Panama City and Colón. Passenger service consists of one service in each direction Monday-Friday and the regular one-way fare is US\$25.

-For further reading:

Wright Jan. “Oregon Outcast: John Beeson’s Struggle for Justice for the Indians, 1853-1889”, 2018, available at the Talent Historical Society.

The Wood House Story on Pages 3 & 8



Photo by Willow McCloud



Photo by Willow McCloud

The kitchen, top and bottom left, is still used during celebrations at the house, Christmas and Harvest. The machine at right is one of many on display around the grounds.



Photo by Willow McCloud



Courtesy of Loretta (Wood) Corbett

Walter Wood, dapper at age 89, at home on his porch where he delighted in waving to people as they went by. Picture taken Sept. 1970 by Loretta (Wood) Corbett.



Photo by Willow McCloud



Marvin Sylvester Wood

Lilliputians of the World



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stratton better known as Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thumb



In October of 1869 Welborn Beeson and family visited “the most perfect little people I ever saw.” Young Emmett Beeson was more willing than a boy from Jacksonville, one Philip M. [probably Philip Miller] described in this article from the Jacksonville newspaper.

The Oregon Sentinel 9 Oct 1869 (no *Ashland Tidings* until 1876) published in Jacksonville, described the visit from the famous little people as follows:

“Tom Thumb and his troupe of little folks appeared before the public last Monday afternoon at 2 o’clock and again in the evening at 8 o’clock. The hall, where they exhibited, was crowded by spectators from all parts of the county, of all ages, sexes, and conditions. The whole performance was a success. The little pigmies all displayed intelligence beyond public expectations, while Commodore Nutt achieved a decided reputation beyond public expectations, and achieved a decided reputation by his drolleries and witticism. One could not help wondering at the audacity of such little souls in coming so long a journey through a country like this. They seemed, however, to comprehend the situation, and to meet even the most novel inconveniences very much as matters of course, in the true spirit of that philosophy which teaches man’s independence of circumstances.


To Miss Minnie Warren we would apologize for the want of gallantry displayed by little Philip M. in refusing to kiss her when permission was offered. Several juveniles, of about the same age, who were absent

at the time, are hugely indignant over the matter, and declare, if she ever returns, they will make it all right. It ought to be said in extenuation of Philip’s conduct that while all the “big boys” around were so confoundedly sheepish, they ought not to expect anything more from a little fellow under the circumstances. “



Commodore Nutt, Mrs. Lavinia Stratton, Unknown man, and Mr. Charles Stratton a.k.a. “Tom Thumb”

Thank you Jan Wright for submitting this great article.



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"Making Local History" – A Partnership for Talent Historical Society & Talent Elementary School

Last year The Talent Museum was filled with voices of children when Talent Elementary students from the Outdoor Discovery Program (ODP) visited for a tour of the museum, the historic Town Hall, and the train depot. The collaboration included visits from the Talent Historical Society (THS) board member, Debra Moon, to ODP to make corn husk dolls and help with journal entries in each student's "pioneer journal" about coming across the Oregon Trail to southern Oregon. The culmination was a well-attended History Night where students dressed in costume and read from their journals to tell the story of the pioneer settlement of the area. Families from ODP ended the evening at an Open House at the Talent Museum.

Debra then went to Talent Elementary School, meeting with the second and third grade teachers with a survey to find out what kinds of materials the school needed to educate the students on

local history. The principal and teachers were as eager to have resources for teaching local history as THS was to provide these resources. Using the teachers' input, she and Jan Wright, THS Board Secretary and Historian, worked together to apply for grants to fund the creation of a local history curriculum.

On November 15, 2019, THS received news that one grant they had submitted to Oregon Parks and Recreation had been fully funded for \$5,839 to create the curriculum and some relevant new museum exhibits. In 2020, THS will be providing Talent Elementary School with two units of study, "A History of Schools in Talent" and "The City of Talent." THS will also create a portable exhibit for the history of schools that will be placed first in the museum, then possibly at the library, the City Hall and the elementary school. Flip books and large-scale maps will be reproduced for display at the museum and for use at the school.

Because the new curriculum will involve many hands-on activities, this exciting project has been aptly named, "Making Local History." Students will study the topography of the land and the development of roadways and commerce. They will build models, take walking tours, create timelines and get to know historic figures and sites iconic to Talent. Students will participate in recording things about the present that could contribute to later generations understanding the past; they will see that the present will be considered history in days to come. THS hopes to expand the project in the future to include units on native peoples of the area, railroads and other aspects of local history.

The Talent Historical Society is grateful to the Oregon Parks and Recreation and the Oregon Heritage Commission for offering support for the project. THS can't wait to fill the museum with students and their families again. Watch for future articles about "Making Local History".

"She calls me Grammie,"

says Debra Moon shown here with her 2-year-old granddaughter Bella at the THS Museum after the Talent Harvest Festival parade on September 21st. Debra is a Board member and the Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator. She works hard for the THS cause, leading the Book Club, writing grants, making sure the membership files are continually kept up-to-date and just generally being there to help with things that need to be done.

Bella is wearing her Harvest Parade costume made by Debra - she's the "Talent Tomato Kid"! Love the green stems coming out of the top of her head.



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The Wood House *See more pictures on Page 5*

Dennis died, and the cabin burned on Oct. 16, 1869. With determination and perseverance, Marvin built a large house in 1870, strong enough to last a lifetime. The wood for the house was cut from trees above Prospect, Oregon.

Marvin Wood married Susan Griffith in 1876, and they had three children: two daughters, Ora and Mayme, and one son, Walter Sylvester Wood. Marvin and Susan divorced in 1900. Susan later married John Hart in 1901, and Mr. Hart committed suicide in 1912. Marvin Sylvester Wood died in 1924, and Susan Griffith Wood Hart passed away in the Wood House in 1929. Walter Wood was born in the house in 1881, and he lived in the house his entire life until he passed away in September of 1974. Marvin Wood, Susan Wood-Hart, and Walter Wood are all buried in the old IOOF Cemetery in Central Point, Oregon.

Around 1898 the house was remodeled; a kitchen wing was added and the second story of the house was raised several feet higher. The famous "front gable" was also added at that time.

During its existence, the Wood House has been in jeopardy several times. The first time was in 1946 when Highway 62 was widened. The house was in the way of the road construction, so the State of Oregon wanted to demolish the structure. Walter Wood fought to save the house, and he was able to purchase the Ashpole property (38 acres) across the highway from the existing homestead. The house was moved to where it stands today for the sum of \$1,420. When moved, the house was turned around 180 degrees so that it would face Highway 62. In its old location the house faced Mt. McLoughlin.

After Walter Wood passed away in September of 1974, the house was boarded up and abandoned. An investor from California purchased the house and the 38 acres it sat on in 1983. The house continued to waste away and it was taken over by brush, blackberry bushes and vandals. Due to its deteriorated condition and the backdrop of Mt. McLoughlin, the Wood House became the most photographed and art painted house in the Pacific Northwest, and it still claims that title today. There are photographs and paintings of the house all over the



*The Wood House in disrepair in 2000.
Picture by Skip Gear.*



*Original photo of the Wood House kitchen,
taken in about 1900.*



A replica of the original sign now hangs on the front porch with its original spelling! Skip thinks that the house stood out so strongly on the western prairie that many people stopped by looking for room and board..

United States and in foreign countries, including Australia, Canada, England and Japan.

Prior to 1946, the house never had electricity or internal plumbing. After the move three lights were installed in the house and a sink with running water was installed in the kitchen. An out-

house was still used.

In the year 2000 the existing landowner donated the structure to the Eagle Point Historical Society, but he retained the 38 acres. A one-acre lease to the Society was established at \$200 per month so that the house could be kept on site. Using donated money and volunteers, during the summer of 2001 a minimal restoration was done to the house. Keeping in mind the atmosphere of the house that photographers and artists enjoy, only the work needed to keep the house structurally safe was performed. The old porch of the house was torn down, and using what original wood could be salvaged, a new porch was constructed. It was reroofed with old weathered cedar shakes that were removed and donated from the Don Grissom house in Lake Creek, Oregon. Vintage windows and doors were added to fill the vacant openings throughout the house. Nothing was done to the inside of the structure, and visitors can view the unchanged interior to see exactly how things were back in the 1870's.

In May of 2006, Judson Parsons and Diana Gardener (a Salem couple) purchased the property, which did not include the Wood House structure itself, from the existing landowner and the Wood House was saved once again. A new lease was established with the Eagle Point Historical Society and instead of one-acre, two-acres were now leased at \$1 per year.

In 2008 a conveyance was done by the Eagle Point Historical Society to the City of Eagle Point, and the city received the Eagle Point Museum, all the existing assets (except for the Wood House) and the artifacts contained in the museum. At the same time a second conveyance was performed by the Society to the newly formed Woodhouse Preservation Group (a non-profit organization) making the Woodhouse Preservation Group the proprietor of the Wood House Structure. After both conveyances were completed, the Eagle Point Historical Society was officially dissolved, and it no longer exists. As a side note, in 2017 another acre was included under lease to the Woodhouse Preservation Group lease agreement by Judson Parsons and Diana Gardener to be used for additional parking, making the total acreage as part of the lease agreement three acres.....still at \$1 per year for all three acres.

All work and the events at the house

are performed on a volunteer basis and are operated on a very small annual budget, supported strictly by donations. Various annual events are held at the Wood House each spring, fall and winter to bring tourists and local visitors to the house. The events include a Farm Festival Show in May, a Harvest Festival Show in October, a Halloween Open House at the end of October, and an Old-Fashioned Christmas Open House in December. Free tours of the Wood House are given during each event and at other times of the year by appointment.

Woodhouse Preservation Group
161 Rockingham Circle, Eagle Point,
Oregon 97524
(541) 826-2177

Talent Poker Tour

Thanks to everyone who came out to our tournament on August 31st, and congratulations to winner John Wahl. John has won back-to-back tournaments now! Our next tournament will take place on Saturday, November 30th starting at 1:00 pm at the Museum. The tournament is open to THS members only, with a membership level of Family or above and pre-registration is required. Can Johnnie All-Call make it a three-peat?

The No-Limit Texas Hold'em tournament will feature a buy-in of \$30.00 with all entry money paid back out as cash prizes. Refreshments and snacks will be available for a modest cost. This is a no alcohol/no smoking event.

Contact info@talenthistory.org or call the museum at 541.512.8838 for additional information.



John Wahl
Winner of Talent Poker Tour XLIII



15

Hanscom Hall

201 Talent Avenue, ca. 1906

While not entirely clear, it appears this wood frame building was originally built in 1906 by brothers Charles and Daniel Hanscom. It was one of the few wooden business buildings to escape destruction in the 1911 fire that decimated the downtown area of Talent. However, Hanscom Hall suffered a fire of its own in 1912. A photograph provided by Jerry McGrew, a descendant of the Wolters family, shows the structure originally built as a two-story building, but the fire damage was so severe that in rebuilding, the roof was lowered and the 1½ story building that stands today is all that survives. It has served many businesses over the years including the Kandy Kitchen, La Belle's Bakery, Boyd's Market, the original Talent Café, an antique store, a pottery studio, and today is a used book store called The Hermeticus.

Taken from our "Walking Tour of Historic Talent" Booklet which may be purchased at the museum or at our online store: store.talenthistory.org. Purchase price is \$3.00 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: info@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.

ACCESSIONS — A PIECE OF HISTORY REAPPEARS

by Jan Wright

In October, a message from Jim Terrile, a Washington state resident, came to the Historical Society informing us that he had an old wooden counter that was supposed to have been a part of the Talent Post Office and wanted to know if we were interested. Well of course we were! Mr. Terrile, the former owner of the Log Cabin Tavern in Ashland, had purchased the counter from Marie Long in the 1970s and it was Marie who told him it came from the old Post Office.

When I heard Marie's name, the chance of the authenticity of the piece increased. Marie and her partner, Lillah Parker, operated the Talent Café in Hanscom Hall from WWII to the 1970s. Marie was likely selling off some of her Talent artifacts when Mr. Terrile entered the picture and bought the counter. Though he intended to use it in the bar, it sat in his garage in Ashland until 2019 where the Historical Society team examined it for the first time.

I admit my heart skipped a beat when I saw it but it did not speak "Post Office" to me. The six-foot section was more ornate than expected and looked as though it was intended for a bank or some other business. A few days later, when it made the journey back to Talent the counter was



News Flash!!

The Talent Historical Society has just received news that the Jackson County Cultural Coalition has funded a grant for an additional \$2000 to help with the development and production of the two curriculum units and the new museum exhibits for the "Making Local History" project reported in the article on page 7 of this issue of *The Historicale*. Some of the funds will also go toward hosting community events related to the new exhibits and showcasing the student work.

compared to an interior photo of the Bank of Talent (see above) and sure enough, it was identical to the counter used in the bank. It is unknown how the counter was used from the time the bank closed in 1927 until Marie Long obtained it and sold it to Mr. Terrile. You are invited to come to the museum to see the counter section and more importantly, search your garages and attics for more pieces of Talent History. We are very grateful to Jim Terrile who unwittingly preserved an impressive part of our material history and willingly donated it to the museum.

CULTURAL TRUST
98,000 SQUARE MILES OF YES

The Talent Historical Society is a qualified Oregon Nonprofit participant of the Oregon Cultural Trust, and we encourage your support of this innovative, uniquely Oregon organization. For more information, please go to culturaltrust.org.



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

Upcoming Events

Dec 5	Talent Quality Book Club	6:30-8:30 PM	At the Museum
Dec 12	THS Board Meeting	6:00 PM	At the Museum
Dec 17	Holiday Open House/Annual Report		
		6:30-8:00 PM	At the Museum
Jan 14	THS Board Meeting	6:00 PM	At the Museum
Jan 23	Talent Quality Book Club	6:30-8:30 PM	At the Museum
Jan 28	Tuesday Night at the Museum - Movie "Redwood Highway"		
		6:30 PM	At the Museum
Feb 11	THS Board Meeting	6:00 PM	At the Museum
Feb 25	Tuesday Evening at the Museum	6:00 PM	At the Museum
Feb 27	Talent Quality Book Club	6:30-8:30 PM	At the Museum
Feb 29	Talent Poker Tour	1:00-9:00 PM	At the Museum

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!!
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1125614>

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.