



# 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  
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The museum is open  
**Wednesday and Sunday  
12:00PM to 4:00PM**

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*The Historacle* is published quarterly.

Editor: Tiffany Dunn  
Assistant Editor: Crystal Dunn  
info@talenthistory.org

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

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## Eli Anderson's "Forty-nine Diggings": Talent's other big hydraulic gold mine



*The Anderson Family Home*  
Part of the Talent Historical Society's digital collection

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The largest part of the mine is situated on the southeast slope of the hill, extending above Adams Road. A second, portion of the mine is on the north slope of the hill (which drains into lower Coleman Creek). Some of the people now living within and adjacent to the extensive area of Forty-nine Diggings have long known that it was "hydraulically mined-out ground." However, none of the residents that I've spoken to actually knew of the abandoned mine's identity and historic significance. (Please note that the area of Forty-nine Diggings is privately owned and the mined area includes current-day homes; it is definitely not open to the public.)

**What is hydraulic mining?:** There are two basic kinds of gold mining: "lode" (or underground "hard rock") mining on the one hand and "placer" mining on the other. The latter involves recovering gold from ancient water-deposited sediments, typically located in, along, and near streams and rivers. Because placer gold is much easier to discover *and* is faster to mine, it was the first kind of gold mining to occur in California and south-

ern Oregon. Think of hydraulic mining as kind of an "industrial-scale" form of placer mining. Conventional placer mining during the 1850s and 1860s typically involved a small gang of stream-side miners with hand tools, shoveling placer gravel into a set of wooden sluice boxes — time-consuming and back-breaking work! In contrast, hydraulic miners used the force of high-velocity water to blast hillsides and move huge amounts of gold-bearing placer ground in a day, washing the gravel through often-enormous sluice-box systems.

Hydraulic mining was most definitely not a "solitary sourdough"-kind of enterprise. It employed crews of men hired to operate the mine once it had begun operating. In addition, before mining could even commence, the huge volume of water needed for mining required the hand digging of lengthy ditches — work that was often done by contracted Chinese laborers. The Forty-nine Diggings mine used water that was diverted from well upstream on Wagner Creek into the "Anderson Ditch." That ditch then carried the water for some

five miles around the contours of the hillsides until the ditch was directly above (and some 200-300 feet higher in elevation than) the area to be mined. At that point, water was fed into an iron "penstock" (a large-diameter pipe) that went straight down the steep slope. The steeper the slope, the faster the water's velocity. At the bottom of the penstock was the "giant," a large nozzle-like apparatus where the penstock's water emerged in a powerful spray with sufficient force to move large boulders with ease. The giant — operated by at least one man, who aimed the giant's jet of water (which was many times stronger than that of a firehose) against the ancient placer deposits of sand, silt, cobbles, and boulders — thereby excavating big gouges and steep-faced headwalls into the hillsides being mined. Additional water was allowed to flow freely downslope to the mine from certain points along the ditch (the water's unrestricted downward flow thereby eroding vertical "chutes" into the ground between the ditch and the mine). This water

*Continued on Page 4*

## Talent Poker Tour #55



**Jon Peters**  
**Talent Poker Tour-LV Champion**

Thanks to everyone who came out to our tournament on June 29<sup>th</sup> and congratulations to our winner Jon Peters.

## Talent Poker Tour #56



**Bon Stewart**  
**Talent Poker Tour-LVI Champion**

Thanks to everyone who came out to our tournament on August 24<sup>th</sup> and congratulations to our winner Bon Stewart. The November 23<sup>rd</sup> tournament will be covered in our next newsletter.

The tournament is open to THS members only, with a membership level of Family or above and pre-registration is required.

The No-Limit Texas Hold'em tournament will feature a buy-in of \$50.00 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](mailto:info@talenthistory.org) or call the museum at 541.512.8838 for additional information.

## Eli Anderson's "Forty-nine Diggings"

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was used to wash the finer-sized material into the mine's gold-recovery sluice-box system, as well as to push hydraulic mining's resultant waste rock — the larger cobbles and small boulders — off to the side, where they would often be stacked into piles of "tailings." After a mine was finally abandoned, the often deeply eroded landscape, along with piles of waste-rock "tailings," would remain as a testament to the force of hydraulic mining.

**(Re) Introducing E. K. Anderson:** For long-time readers of *The Historacle*, Eli K. Anderson, the namesake of Anderson Creek and Anderson Butte, needs no introduction, so often has the man been the subject of articles in this publication. However, for newer readers, a brief review of his life story is warranted — particularly as it relates to his long-term mining at Forty-nine Diggings.

Eli Knighton (sometimes spelled Knighten) Anderson (who would become, for some unexplained reason, known to many of his Jackson County neighbors as "Uncle Joe") was born December 20, 1826, on a farm in southern Indiana's Monroe County, near Bloomington. When he was thirteen years old, the family moved northward to Putnam County, Indiana. There, at age 22, while working as a carpenter, Anderson heard of the gold strike in California. In the spring of 1849, he joined two companions in purchasing a wagon, a yoke of oxen, and supplies. They headed west, one of his friends dying on the overland trail from cholera in present-day Wyoming.

Arriving in northern California via the Applegate-Lassen Trail in late 1849, Anderson at first mined for gold near Redding, but in early 1850 he joined three other men in felling timber. They whipsawed the logs into boards and built a small boat to carry supplies down the Sacramento River for sale at other mining communities. This endeavor (which included selling their skiff for \$500) brought a tidy profit, and so they went on to San Francisco, where the men purchased a whaling boat so as to transport from that city more supplies back upriver to the mines near Marysville. This turned out to be another profitable enterprise. During 1851, Anderson earned good wages as a carpenter near Redding and — now joined by his brother James F. — did considerable (if largely unsuccessful) mining in the Trinity,

Scott, and Salmon River diggings of the Klamath River watershed.

In January 1852, having decided that farming could prove a better path to financial wealth, the two brothers traveled north to Oregon's Rogue River Valley. They settled on adjacent donation land claims along Anderson Creek in the fertile Wagner Creek Valley area, building a small log cabin that sat astride their two claims' shared boundary. With gold having just been discovered in nearby Jacksonville, the Anderson men had a ready market for flour, vegetables, and other produce. Eli Anderson prospered. His farm, which included a fruit orchard, became known as among the most productive in the southern Bear Creek Valley. Marrying Elizabeth Myers, the daughter of another up-and-coming settler, in 1856, he built a comfortable home. They would go on to have eight children. (In 1889, after the house burned, Anderson built a new, much larger house — one of the most ornate "Queen Anne-style" homes in the county; this impressive historic home burned in 1960.) Casting his first vote, in 1850, for Whig presidential candidate Zachary Taylor, Anderson, like many other early settlers in the Wagner Creek/Ashland vicinity (but, unlike most other Jackson County men, the majority of whom voted Democrat), became a staunch Republican. A member of Ashland's Masonic lodge, Anderson also was part-owner of that town's woolen mill and its McCall-Atkinson Store — all while continuing to reside on his farm.

**Forty-nine Diggings:** Throughout the 1850s, Eli Anderson had continued to invest in both placer and "quartz" (lode) gold mining operations, mostly on Wagner Creek. In the late 1850s, a couple of miles northwest of his farm, he evidently began mining for gold at what would become his long-lived hydraulic mine at Forty-nine Diggings, less than two miles north of his farm. Located on the slopes of a foothill over half a mile west of lower Anderson Creek, he realized that this gold deposit would need a considerable supply of water for it to be worked.

(Note: Wagner Creek and Anderson flow separately into Bear Creek, the former through Talent and the latter joining Bear Creek just south of Phoenix.) In 1861 Anderson must have hired a crew to dig the large-capacity "Anderson Ditch" that brought water diverted from Anderson Creek to a point directly up slope from his Forty-nine Diggings mining claims (it is unknown whether the crew was Chinese). In a likely reference to Anderson's operation, the May 16, 1861, issue



of the Jacksonville *Sentinel* reported that the "upper diggings, near Gasburg [i.e., Phoenix], which have been worked for a few years, continue to pay fully as well, if not better, than any other in the neighborhood. Water has been abundantly supplied."

According to the 1919 court-adjudicated Rogue River Water-Right Decree, the Anderson Ditch possessed a 1861-priority water right for "E. K. Anderson" to the amount of 6.00 second feet of water solely for "Mining (Nov. 1- May 1)." The 1919 Decree describes Anderson's "place of use" as "Placer mines in Sections 16, 21, and 28, Tp. 38 S. R. 1 W. W.M.)." (The restriction of Anderson's use of the water to only during the winter and spring months ensured that his ditch would not conflict with farming irrigators who relied on the waters of Anderson Creek.) In addition, it seems likely that Eli Anderson's ditch was an extension of the Farmers Ditch, which brought water diverted from Wagner Creek towards the Anderson Creek area, because the 1919 decree shows that Eli Anderson also had a 1862-priority right to "5.00 second feet" of the "Farmers ditch...for Mining only," with the place of use being "Mining ground" at the very same location given for the Anderson Ditch, Sections 16, 21, and 28.

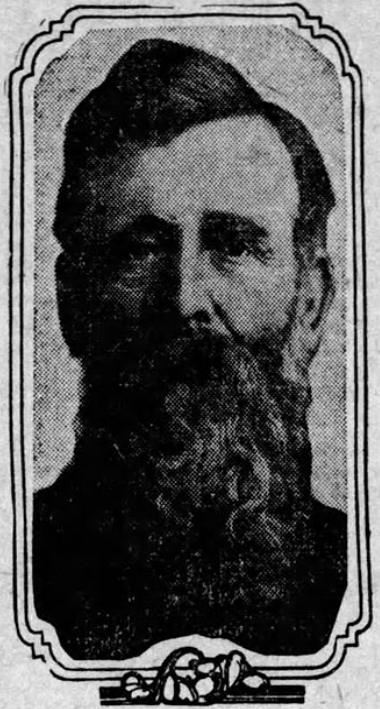
Anderson blanketed the Forty-nine Diggings vicinity with over 230 mining claims, but, based on the hydraulic mining scars still present on the landscape, it appears that mining at Forty-nine Diggings almost exclusively within Section 21. The area Anderson mined features a distinctive reddish-orange, clay-like material that, in places, is up to fifty or more feet deep. Much of the gold-bearing/mined-out area is located on the hill's lower slope, next to the valley floor. This placer deposit is apparently derived from the metamorphic "Applegate Terrane" rocks that are located well up the slope of this hill (this bedrock dates to the late-Jurassic/early-Cretaceous periods — i.e., roughly 175-million-to-90-million years ago, during the Mesozoic Era, aka the "Age of Reptiles"). In contrast to the many river-deposited placers in the Applegate Valley and elsewhere that were hydraulically mined, dealing with immense amounts of waste-rock tailings does not seem to have been much of an issue at Forty-nine Diggings; the deposit contains relatively few rocks and therefore piles of rock tailings are few.

With business partner Woodward Reames, Eli Anderson began serious mining at Forty-nine Diggings in 1861. (Reames, who owned and lived on property adjacent to the mine, seems to "drop

out of the picture" early, and subsequent newspaper accounts repeatedly give Anderson as the sole owner.) The first phase of mining at Anderson's operation probably started somewhere at or near what is the lowest-elevation part of the mined area, close to the junction of Colver Road and Adams Road, at the very bottom of the hill's southeast slope, which drains east towards Anderson Creek, gradually extended upslope. From the lowest-elevation section of the mine, during the succeeding four decades the mined area would have grown ever wider in extent, and it also would have progressed gradually upward in elevation. It is unknown how many men Anderson hired to work the mine; the number likely varied between four and eight. One can assume that Eli Anderson, with many of his farm's needs dormant at that time of year, was frequently present at the mine, and quite possibly he was often fully in charge of its daily operations. Almost certainly he would have been present for the periodic "clean-ups," when accumulated gold was recovered from the sluice boxes.

In its June 1879 issue, San Francisco's *Mining and Scientific Press* (a monthly publication that collected and compiled news items about mining endeavors from all over the Far West, including Jackson County, Oregon) reported that "E. K. Anderson, at the Forty-Nine Diggings near Phoenix, has washed considerable ground during the season, and is sanguine of excellent results." In February 1880, the *Press* stated that "pipe laying at the '49 Diggings, owned by E. K. Anderson, was completed on Saturday and work commenced in earnest." Two years later, in 1882, the same publication recounted that "piping is now progressing in earnest at the Forty-nine Diggings near Phoenix, which are owned by E. K. Anderson." The *Press* gleaned similar items from subsequent issues of Jackson County newspapers. In 1884: "[o]ne thousand dollars' worth of gold dust was cleaned up at E. K. Anderson's [Forty-nine] diggings, southwest of Phoenix, this season," and in 1887: "E. K. Anderson is making a big run at the '49 Diggings in Eden precinct. There has been a large supply of water and prospects are good." (It was also in the 1880s that Anderson partnered with his brother-in-law, prominent Ashland businessman John McCall, to hydraulically mine what was known as "Davenport Diggings," which was located "on the hill northwest of the Eagle mills," i.e., along Wildcat Gulch, behind Butler Ford on the northeast-facing slope above the

## DEPARTED '49ER WAS THIRD ROGUE SETTLER



E. K. Anderson of Ashland.

(Special to The Journal.)

Ashland, Or., March 18.—E. K. Anderson, oldest living and best known pioneer of the Rogue River valley, and up to within a few days of his death last Wednesday a familiar figure on the streets of Ashland, is said to have been the third man to settle in the Rogue River valley. Until three years ago he was active in improving his splendid farm home near Talent. He has been closely connected with the growth of Jackson county from the time of his entrance into the valley and leaves a host of friends in all parts of southern Oregon. Funeral services were held at the residence Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Anderson was born in Indiana December 20, 1826, and crossed the plains to California in 1849. In January, 1852, he came into the Rogue River valley with his brother and settled on the old home place near Talent, a part of the Anderson creek bottom land, the creek itself being named for him. Here he and his brother lived in the same cabin, half of which stood on one claim and the other on a second. The brothers went to the Willamette valley to get grain for seed and brought it on pack horses. In the defense of his property and that of his neighbors, he was a leader among the pioneers during Indian troubles, doing his share to bring the country out of difficulties.

Mr. Anderson was engaged in the mercantile business in Ashland for several years. He operated the first flouring mill in the Rogue River valley, paying as high as \$5 a bushel for wheat and getting 15 cents a pound for the flour. He also, with his son, G. N. Anderson of this city, operated the only woolen mills in this part of the country. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Myer in 1856. He moved to Ashland in 1909 and has since been a resident here. He is survived by six of the eight children besides a number of grandchildren and other relatives.

Departed '49er Was Third Rogue Settler. *The Oregon Daily Journal*. pg 5. 18 March 1912.

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## Eli Anderson's "Forty-nine Diggings"

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railroad tracks; the impacts of hydraulic-mining remain clearly evident there).

While most of Anderson's mining at Forty-nine Diggings occurred on the southeast slope of the hill upslope from Adams Road, the final phase of mining took place after 1900, and in an entirely separate location from all its previous activity. This operation occurred near the top Carmen Road, on the north-facing slope of the hill — an area that drains northward towards Coleman Creek, not towards Anderson Creek. Two ditches (with 1900-priority rights for up to a total of 2.5 second feet) diverted water from Coleman Creek, carrying it to a point above the deposit (which was much smaller in size than the heavily mined placer ground on the hill's lower southeastern slope). The water, stored in two reservoirs, was then directed into a penstock that led downslope to the relatively steep-faced area to be mined (evidence of hydraulic mining on this slope can be seen from below, on Carmen Road). This ground proved neither as extensive nor as profitable as the earlier-mined portions of the Forty-nine Diggings property.

Anderson's mining of Forty-nine Diggings lasted from the 1860s into the first decade of the twentieth century (by which time one of Anderson's sons-in-law had taken charge) — far longer than most hydraulic mines in southwestern Oregon. This fact may be due in part to the limited extent of Anderson's yearly operations. But also, by around 1910 or so, controversy with neighboring farmers (over both water and disposal of the mine's tailings) — along with declining yields of gold from the mine — served to bring Forty-nine Diggings long, profitable run to an end. An early twentieth-

century "historical sketch" (written by geologist F. M. Anderson) states that, from 1860 through the mid-1890s, Anderson's Forty-nine Diggings mine was usually worked for only "a few months during the winters" and that the it "yielded generally from 60 to 150 ounces of gold" each year. The mine occasionally produced nuggets of moderate size but most of its gold ranged "in size from 'dust' to 'flaxseed' gold." A historical-interest article in the May 24, 1959 issue of the *Medford Mail Tribune* states that Forty-nine Diggings "is said to have produced \$170,000 in gold" over its years of operation, an amount that would equate to nearly \$6,000,000 in 2024.

In conclusion, Eli K. Anderson's Forty-nine Diggings hydraulic mine very likely enriched him considerably over the years, possible as much or more than his farm did. We cannot know just how much the mine's earnings supported his construction of the big 1889 house on Anderson Creek, his investment in various Ashland business ventures, or his late-1880s purchase and underground development of what became as the Ashland Mine (a solid producer of gold, located a short distance northwest of that town). In 1909, at age 83, Anderson moved permanently to Ashland, where he had previously built a commodious house on East Main Street (near 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, in what soon became downtown Ashland; that house remained standing until the 1970s). He died in Ashland on March 13, 1912. Clearly, Eli Anderson was an enterprising, thrifty, shrewd man, and the former '49er remained just as much of a miner as he did as a farmer during his long adult life.

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# The Case of the Missing Historacle, Volume 30, Issue 3

## by Harcourt F. Hippo, Detective Extraordinaire

It was a dark and stormy night in early September. I had been expecting my quarterly delivery of my favorite historical mag, "The Historacle", published by the Talent Historical Society. It didn't come and didn't come. What was up?

I checked, and my membership hadn't expired without me noticing, where was it? I started asking around the burg. Alli French at Talent Maker City said she didn't know the reason. Rick Chester over at Medicap Pharmacy said he had heard bupkis. Then I remembered the guy who always has his ear to the ground about goings on in our little city, Jack Latvala at Star Properties, surely he'd have some info for me. I stopped by Jack's office to get the down low.

Jack leaned in and said, "From what my sources tell me, that Ron Medinger character, who has been the temporary newsletter editor since the much-loved Myke Gelhaus passed away a year and a half ago, has been asking for someone to step forward to take on the editor gig for all this time with no response. I think he finally waved the white flag; threw in the towel; called it quits; tapped out; dropped by the wayside; admitted defeat; you know just stopped making the effort."

I thought, "Criminy, this Latvala dude is a walking thesaurus!"

Sounds like I need to go to what appeared to be the source, this so-called "temporary newsletter editor." I stopped by the Talent Historical Society Museum one Wednesday afternoon to talk turkey with this turkey.

The first thing he said when I came through the door was, "Dude! Where did you get those giant sunglasses?" I shot back, "Don't try and change the subject on me Bub! What's up with no Septem-



ber issue of The Historacle?"

"Oh that," he says. "Well let me give you the 411 on that situation. I wear plenty of different hats in this organization. I kept the newsletter going as long as I could and then just came to a breaking point. It was the newsletter or what was left of my sanity. I chose sanity."

"Couldn't somebody else around this joint help out?" I queried.

He responded, "We have a small volunteer force, and everyone is pretty much working as hard as they can to keep up. We need more bodies."

I quizzed, "So what's the skinny? What's the answer? Out with it!"

He popped back, "Well, luckily we got a small breath of fresh air around here...actually two small breaths of fresh air."

I drilled down, "Give it up, share the news buster."

He smiled and said, "Tiffany Dunn and Crystal Dunn."

I tipped my sunglasses low on my nose, peaked over and said, "So who are these two?"

"They are a dynamic mother-daughter team who have come on to the scene these last few months. Tiffany has taken on the task of helping us get the donations to our collection properly recorded and Crystal is doing a bunch of digitizing so we can make some of our collection more readily available to the public. When they heard I'd finally reached my limit on producing the newsletter, Tiffany called out to Crystal and said, 'Hey Crystal! Sounds like it's time for us to take a swing at the newsletter, you with me?' Crystal responded from the next room, 'You bet!' It was a grand day for me."

The former temporary newsletter editor said, "So, while there never was a Volume 30, Issue 3 of The Historacle, there will be a Volume 30, Issue 4 produced in December."

I posited, "But isn't that going to be confusing to people? You're going from Issue 2 to Issue 4 with no Issue 3 in between?"

"Not when you write a little article for Issue 4 summarizing what you found out in your investigation." He retorted.

"Dang! This guy was good!" I tipped my hat to him and said, "It will be delivered to the Dunns by the newsletter deadline."

Case solved.

**Happy Birthday to  
Talent Historical Society**  
Celebrating our 30th year of recording and preserving the history of the Talent area in southern Oregon!

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**Harry & David**

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**OREGONIANS HOLD A  
UNIQUE POWER FOUND NO-  
WHERE ELSE IN THE  
COUNTRY - THE  
CULTURAL TAX CREDIT.**

By matching any qualifying non-profit donations you've made this year to the Oregon Cultural Trust, you can earn up to 100% back as a state tax credit. This means supporting Oregon culture becomes practically free. Visit [cultural-trust.org](http://cultural-trust.org)

## Talent News Flashes Now Available Online!

“Talent News Flashes was a mimeographed newspaper and advertising device started by Ray’s Market in 1934. It continued until 1989 and represents a vibrant picture of the Talent community and the adjacent area for more than fifty years. While started by Ray’s, the Flashes are most remembered for their longest serving editors, Mae Lowe and Alice Burnette. The surviving paper copies were donated to the Talent Historical Society; the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society scanned them into digital form and Ben Truwe’s online pages are hosting the transcription while the Southern Oregon Historical Society is hosting the images of the original pages. We invite you to learn about the Talent area in these pages as they are transcribed year by year and added to the collection.” Go to:

<https://truwe.sohs.org/files/talentnewsflashes1934-48.html>



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](http://culturaltrust.org).

## Renewal of Life After Fire Bird Reports from the Greenway

by Debra Moon and Emmalisa Whalley

Emmalisa Whalley, THS Board Member and volunteer Bear Creek Burn surveyor, is part of a team surveying the return of the birds to the Greenway after the Alameda Fire. She is an excellent photographer, providing us with amazing photographs of



*Red-shafted Flicker at North Mountain Park in Ashland*

our birds and producing a bird calendar. If you are interested in purchasing a bird calendar for 2025, or buying as Christmas gifts, call the museum at 541-512-8838. The following information is just a snapshot of the observations, if you are interested in the complete survey data, contact Klamath Bird Observatory, <https://klamathbird.org/>.

The most recent reports we have for Birds on the Greenway were done in late summer. Since the last update, Emmalisa has reported on trips to Lynn Newbry, Suncrest, and North Mountain Park areas.



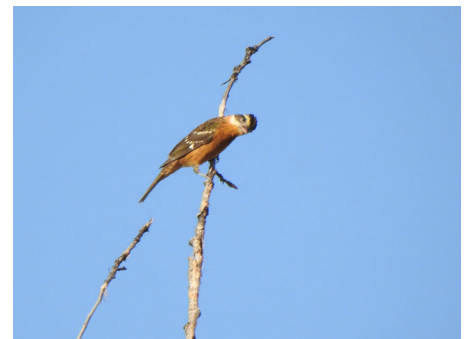
*Bullock's Oriole at North Mountain Park by Emmalisa Whalley*

Highlights of her observations include Western Tanagers in Lynn Newbry transect A, a couple of Black-Headed Grosbeaks, one in Suncrest and the other in Lynn Newbry transect B. It was getting near the time the Grosbeaks leave for the winter, so these are special sightings. Emmalisa reports, “We were fortunate enough to hear and then see a pair



*Great Blue Heron caught on camera by Emmalisa Whalley at Lynn Newbry Park in an early morning survey*

of Belted Kingfishers working the big pond and Bear Creek.” They saw 12 Turkey Vultures in the Suncrest transects, adults and juveniles hanging out together, lower than normally sighted. On August 24<sup>th</sup> in the Lynn Newbry transect B, Emmalisa sighted her first Oregon Junco, a fall and winter seasonal bird here. There were also sightings of



*Black-headed Grosbeak, on their way south for the winter, sighted once at Suncrest and once at Lynn Newbry by Emmalisa Whalley*

Green Herons, Great Blue Herons, Mallards, Canada Goose, Starlings, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Red-Shafted Flickers, Lesser Goldfinch, Acorn Woodpecker, Scrub Jays, a huge flock of Bushtits, Bullock's Orioles, and many more.



## Happenings at the Museum



*Photo Courtesy of ¡Ballet Folklórico!*

### ¡Ballet Folklórico! ¡Ritmo Alegre! by Debra Moon

In the evening of Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Talent Historical Society was blessed with a performance from a local dance troupe, ¡Ballet Folklórico! ¡Ritmo Alegre! THS was able to rent the Community Center behind the City Hall building and pay for the performance with generous funds from the Jackson County Cultural Coalition.

The group's Director, Yanneli DeLaTorre, gave a presentation about the regions of Mexico where the traditional dances and costumes originate, and also the ethnic backgrounds of the peoples who developed the dances and costumes. Surprisingly she revealed that some of the regional dances had African or Asian influence as well as Spanish and indigenous Mexican influence. The performance given for THS at the October Night at the Museum focused on the dances and costumes from the Jalisco region. The costumes were wildly colorful, adorned with ribbon, and gave an undeniable flair to the performance. The swirling skirts and moves of the male and female dancers, were fascinating to watch. The audience witnessed about 45 minutes of various dances, ending with the famous Mexican Hat Dance, which does have its origin in the Jalisco area.

The troupe includes dancers from 4 years of age up through adults, with the majority of dancers being middle school, high school, and young adult ages. Some of the dancers had been in the troupe for twelve or more years. They were definitely skilled and practiced. The youngest of the dancers, two little girls were so cute, and very accomplished!

Refreshments, traditional Mexican pan dulce sweet pastries, were served in an informal gathering at the Talent Museum afterward, just a short walk across the parking lot from the Community Center at 105 N. Market Street. Night at the Museum is presented by THS monthly and features different aspects of our community history and cultures. The events are free to the public. All ages, shapes, and backgrounds of people are welcome!

#### **Volunteer positions available at the Talent Historical Society include:**

*Board Members, Librarian, Accessions Intake Data Entry, Article Contributors for the Historacle, Museum Cleaners, and Museum Docents*

**If you would like to help us keep our museum open and healthy and have an interest in any of these positions, please contact us by emailing [info@talenthistory.org](mailto:info@talenthistory.org) or leave a message on the museum phone at 541.512.8838.**

## Santa Visits

Santa made history on Friday, December 6, 2024 when he received a police escort to the Talent Tree Lighting Event and then led the local children to the Talent Historical Society Museum. The children and their families waited for some personal Santa time and took photos.

Santa was interviewed for the KOBI 5 news and shared some well-timed advice. If anyone needs to get off the "naughty list" then they should be filled with the Christmas Spirit, be kind to their brothers and sisters, and tell their parents they love them.



*Santa photos courtesy of Crystal Dunn*

**Museum Hours  
Wednesday & Sunday  
12:00 p.m. to 4:00  
p.m.**



# Lynn Newbry: Orchardist, Farmer, Statesman, Conservationist from Talent's History

by Debra Moon

Lynn Newbry was an Oregon State Senator and so was his father, Earl T. Newbry. The family-owned farm and orchard land in the area and had fruit packing and storage facilities in Talent and Ashland. Lynn was born Lyndel Warren Newbry on July 18, 1923. When he was just a teenager, his father was in

They took care of a little sister eight years younger than Lynn and cooked and did laundry for the two children.

Lynn attended college, still managing the business, and at age 24 enlisted in the Air Force during World War II. Back from his service in the military, he took over the entire family business. In

but also in private enterprise, a great example to us all in today's world. He believed strongly in both for a healthy society. A Republican himself, he helped form a coalition of progressive Republicans and conservative Democrats that voted as a block and got a great deal done in Oregon government during his time of



Salem serving in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and was eventually appointed Secretary of State of Oregon. Lynn's mother accompanied his father working as his secretary. They left Lynn in charge of the farm, orchards, and packing and storage business. He made the business prosper while still attending high school. He milked half a dozen cows each day as well, and planted and harvested a hay crop for the livestock each year. Luckily, Lynn's grandparents were his next-door neighbors.

1961, Lynn became southeastern Jackson County's State Senator, where he served for 14 years. For 11 of those years, he was the founding chairman of the Oregon State Parks Trust, spending thousands and thousands of dollars establishing state parks throughout Oregon. It was during this time that the land for the Lynn Newbry Park was set aside and designated as a park in Talent. Lynn gained a reputation of working across the aisle in many bipartisan efforts and deals. Lynn believed in social programs,

service in the congress.

I obtained the information on Lynn Newbry through donations made by Mike Schilling to the historical society, an obituary of Lyndel "Lynn" Warren Newbry from Rogue Valley Genealogical Society published in *The Mail Tribune*, a recorded live interview with Lynn Newbry on May 6, 1993 by Clark Hansen from the Oregon Historical Society, and information that Dave Hodson, Talent Historical Society member and volunteer, directed me to on Find-a-Grave.



*All Lynn Newbry photos except the park sign are courtesy of Mike Schilling.*





# The Talent Historical Society Membership Application

The Talent Historical Society was founded in 1994 as a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of the Talent area in Southern Oregon. By becoming a member of the Society, you provide valuable support of the Society's ongoing work.

To become a member, please select a membership level, complete the form below, and return the completed form along with your membership payment. All memberships, regardless of level, are greatly appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing/Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone	e-mail
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Member Type:            ☐ New            ☐ Renewing

Membership Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (12-18) - \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Individual - \$200
	<input type="checkbox"/> Business - \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Family - \$300
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family Sponsorship - \$100 or more		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsorship - \$100 or more		
	Donation in addition to membership: \$ _____		

Amount Enclosed: \$

Dues include our quarterly newsletter: *The Historacle*

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

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

Please make checks payable to:	Talent Historical Society
Send completed form along with payment to:	Talent Historical Society P.O. Box 582
Thank you!	Talent, OR 97540

## Talent Historical Society Board of Directors

Willow McCloud	President & Art/Design Chair
Tessa Deline	Vice President
Aida Taracena	Secretary
Ron Medinger	Treasurer & Membership Chair
Emmalisa Whalley	Webmaster
Debra Moon	Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator
Myke Reeser	Board Member
Tiffany Dunn	Newsletter Editor

The Talent Historical Society Board Meeting is held monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Museum Building at 105 North Market St. in Talent.



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



## Night At The Museum Presented Monthly at the Talent Historical Society Museum

“Tuesday Evening at the Museum” has become “Night At The Museum” and continues with a wide variety of topics to entertain and inform us while we meet together every month at the museum. All meetings are free for THS members and the general public to enjoy. Light refreshments are served. Programs start at 6:00 P.M.

As with every year, this schedule depends on the availability of speakers and may be updated throughout the year. Look for updates in future newsletters and in emails sent to members.

Mark your calendar. Our Annual Meeting is set for January 5, 2025. More details are forthcoming.