

Talent Historical Society

Is proud to host

“Tuesday Evening at the Museum”

A series of presentations and discussions featuring topics of interest to our members to be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at the THS Museum.

The Thirty-ninth Presentation in our Series:

“Poop, Piss and Spit: How the Sanitarians Saved Lives in 1927 Southern Oregon”

September 25, 2018 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Featuring Maureen Battistella

1927 was a magical year: the Great War was a fading memory, the Spanish Flu epidemic had run its course, and the cities were crowded with people seeking adventure, fame and fortune. The United States was in the midst of an economic boom, and here in Southern Oregon, the timber and pear packing industries flourished, and the Medford Water Commission was successful in bringing clean water to the city. Medford was growing like topsy. It was the calm before the storm of the Great Depression just two years later, but who knew what the future would bring.

This presentation examines the state of medicine in Jackson County in 1927: the physicians who practiced here, the diseases that killed the citizens of Medford, the medical practices and public health initiatives that saved lives in Southern Oregon. Using diaries, the records of health organizations, and regional medical journals, the wonder of modern medicine in 1927 is revealed. And even though pox, pestilence and miasma were largely concerns of the past, pus, poop and spit were still big problems when it came to health in Jackson County.

Before moving to Southern Oregon, Battistella was a librarian and clinical faculty member at hospitals and medical centers in Alabama and South Dakota. Now in Ashland, Oregon, Battistella is a research affiliate in the SOU Sociology/Anthropology program.

You do not need to be a member of the Talent Historical Society to attend.

Well behaved children are welcome and encouraged to attend.

There is no admission charged but donations are gladly accepted.

Talent Historical Society Museum is located at 105 North Market Street in Talent, Oregon