

“What’s past is prologue” — Shakespeare



GRAVE CREEK CROSSING, O & C. R. R.

The O & C Railroad — seeds of prosperity and of future distress

The arrival of the Oregon & California Railroad in the Bear Creek Valley in the 1880's allowed the Valley's farm and forest products to reach far-away markets, and stimulated much commercial activity. Talent experienced a major building boom around the turn of the Century, ultimately leading to the town's incorporation as a city in 1910.

Derailed by Greed & Corruption

In 1866 the US Congress had established a Land Grant to promote settlement and the rapid completion of a railroad between Portland and San Francisco. The O&C Railroad earned the right to alternating square-miles of land in a strip 20 miles wide on each side of the rail line. The Railroad was required by Congress to offer the grant lands for sale, but only to “actual settlers,” in parcels no greater than 160 acres, and for prices not to exceed \$2.50 per acre – terms intended to encourage settlement and development, while compensating the Railroad for construction costs.

Before the railroad was even finished, land fraud of many types sprang up. One scam had fraudulent “settlers” rounded up from various saloons near Portland’s wharfs to sign forged applications to purchase 160 acre parcels of O&C lands, which were then transferred to corrupt middlemen and consolidated into large blocks held by corporate interests.

President Theodore Roosevelt vowed in 1903 to clean up the O&C land fraud mess. It took two years, but Roosevelt's investigators got the evidence needed. Over 1,000 politicians, businessmen, railroad executives & others were indicted and many were tried and convicted for fraud, bribery and other corruption charges. The government took action to recover over 2 million acres that the Railroad still held. This untaxable federal property is today known as the O&C Lands.

Key pieces that fell into place for our Library to happen

- A location: City takes over old school as Town Hall designating one room for community use - 1914.
- An advocate for the library: Talent Community Club (later known as Federated Women's Club) - 1912.
- A national “Free Public Library Movement” energized by the rising middle class and by the philanthropy of self-made steel mogul, Andrew Carnegie, who helped build half of the US public libraries, from 1889 - 1919.
- A town with a progressive tradition and a state and national period of progressive and reform politics.
- Women's suffrage: Oregon women finally obtained a vote at the end of 1912.
- Establishment of the Ashland and Medford Carnegie libraries and the Woodville (Rogue River) Library.
- Changes in state library law in 1919 that allowed citizens to petition to form a Jackson County Library System, with the Medford Public Library contracted to operate the system.

WOMEN VOTE ON EQUAL TERMS WITH MEN

WYOMING UTAH IDAHO IN COLORADO WASHINGTON CALIFORNIA

WHY NOT IN OREGON?

VOTE 300X 'YES' AMENDMENT NO. 1, NOV. 5, 1912



Abigail Scott Duniway with Governor Oswald West signing Oregon's Equal Suffrage Proclamation.

Women's Suffrage

It is a common misconception that ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 was necessary for women to gain the right to vote. Prior to passage, many states had on their own granted suffrage to women, with the right to vote in local, state, and federal elections.

A leading champion of women's suffrage in the West was Abigail Scott Duniway. A genius in journalism, public speaking and grassroots organizing, Duniway provided the glue for a cohesive movement. Her extraordinary rapport with the region's women helped propel each of the Pacific Northwest campaigns to victory: Idaho in 1896, Washington in 1910 and - after five failed tries - her home state of Oregon in Nov. 1912. Duniway started her movement in 1870 and blamed her brother Harvey Scott, editor of *The Oregonian* and leading opponent of suffrage, for the many defeats over the years.

The same Women's Clubs that were invaluable in starting local public libraries often were bastions of suffragette activities. We don't know the sentiments of Talent's Community Club women, but we have record that the women who had organized to obtain the Carnegie Library for Medford were rather unfairly denied use of its Community Meeting Room to hold a suffragette rally in 1912.

Progressive and Reform Politics

Talent had a long-standing reputation as a progressive region going back to the 1850's with John Beeson's *Plea for the Indians* written during the Indian Wars. The progressive thread continues in Eddie Robison's *Talent News* (1892-1894), the “anything-goes” lectures and debates held at the Universal Mental Liberty Hall in the 1890's, Willis J. Dean's *Diaries* (1912-1919), the 1912 election of socialist William Breese as Mayor and Miss Leta Luke as City Recorder — and the appointment of Mrs. Minnie Vogeli, to the City Council in 1913.

Talent's home-grown progressivism dovetailed with a state progressive movement lead by William U'Ren who successfully championed the 1902 adoption of the Oregon System of “Initiative, Referendum, and Recall”, which quickly spread to other states — and with a national Progressive Party lead by Theodore Roosevelt who declared in 1912: “To destroy this invisible Government, to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of the day.”

Women's Suffrage and oddly enough Prohibition were also associated with progressive agendas. Some felt that adding the woman's vote would “purify” politics, while the Anti-Saloon League sought to break the vote-buying and fraud that too easily took place in these all-male sanctuaries for the price of a few beers. Note the example at top of the O & C railroad land fraud perpetrated in Portland's saloons.



John Beeson



William S. U'Ren



Willis J. Dean



Theo. Roosevelt

Issues & Events Leading Up to Founding of Talent Library

New Schoolhouse and Town Hall

Our current Community Center was built as a two-room school in 1899. In ten years' time the town had outgrown it, and in 1911 a new 3-story brick school opened on the site of our current Talent Elementary School.

In 1914 the City purchased the old school property, dedicating the east room to town government business—and the west room to community activities and events such as those held by the Talent Community Club that had formed in 1912.



Medford Library

The Medford Library began as a private “subscription” library in 1903, when fifty citizens donated two dollars each for books. In 1907, the Greater Medford [Women's] Club began agitating for a public library that would serve every citizen, not just paying members. The City Council approved of the idea, and in 1908 Medford opened a public library in the City Hall. But the Greater Medford Club had more ambitious plans. In 1908, when they applied to Andrew Carnegie for a grant, the application was rejected: he considered Medford's population - reported as 1,791 in the 1900 census - too small to support a library. In the 1910 census, Medford's population had quadrupled to 8,000. The next year the *Mail Tribune* said in an editorial, “We need the library now more than ever since we are in danger of submergence in a tide of materialism.” In a special election that year, voters approved a measure to provide 10 percent of the cost of a new library building. The Library Board successfully applied to Carnegie for the rest, and the Medford Public Library opened its doors on February 8, 1912.

In 1919 the Medford Public Library was contracted by the County to run the newly-formed Jackson County Library System, which opened in 1920.



Carnegie Libraries

The “Carnegie Formula” required matching contributions from the town that received the donation. It must:

- demonstrate the need for a public library;
- provide the building site;
- annually provide 10% of the cost of the library to support its operation;
- provide free service to all.

One of the requirements was the willingness of people and government to raise taxes to support the library.

The standard Carnegie library interior had a centrally located librarian's desk and innovative open stacks, unlike the locked stacks then typical of academic libraries. This design encouraged communication with the librarian and created an opportunity for people to browse & discover books on their own.

Women's Clubs started 80% of US Public Libraries

Women's clubs supported social welfare goals, such as building schools, public libraries and hospitals. They helped establish 80% of our nation's public libraries. The clubs were an integral part of the building of cultural institutions that occurred in the years 1870-1930 throughout the United States. Talent's Community Club changed its name when it joined the national General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Woodville (Rogue River) Public Library

In 1919, when Jackson County contracted with Medford to operate libraries in smaller communities, the city of Rogue River (called Woodville until 1912) had already been operating a library for nine years. In 1910 the Woodville Women's Civic Improvement Club organized a “book social” in the old opera house. The thirty-eight books collected became the nucleus of a public library which has been ardently supported by their women's club and later the Friends of the Library ever since.

Rogue River's women's club and Talent's women's club both became members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Perhaps because of this common link, there has been a “connection at a distance” between library supporters in Rogue River and those in Talent over the decades. Talent's Federated Women were no doubt inspired by the Woodville women to open a provisional library in Talent Town Hall in 1919 in anticipation of establishment of the County System. And when the Friends of the Talent Library held its first meeting in 1973, Anna Classick of Rogue River was present to mentor and inspire the new group.

Ashland Library

Ashland started as a subscription library in 1891 by the Epworth League of the Methodist Church. In 1909 the name changed to the Ashland Free Public Library, when the City took over responsibility. The library moved from City Hall to a new Carnegie building Sept. 16, 1912. State library law allowed Ashland to remain separate from the County System. But in 1970 Ashland joined a newly reformulated Jackson County Library System and became the regional headquarters of the south region that includes Talent and Phoenix.



1919: Birth of Jackson County Library System

JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY, MEDFORD, OREG.

"The county library brings books to the boy on the farm." This slogan was responsible for the establishment of the Jackson County Library. With a side reference to Abraham Lincoln the slogan carried the day in the petition to the county court in the campaign of the county people for equality of library privileges.

Two petitions were circulated, one for taxpayers and one for non-taxpaying voters. Both were simple and advocated 0.2 mill tax for maintenance and included the actual amounts that the tax would raise on assessments of \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000, respectively. The county court voted the 0.2 mill tax, \$5,000, and entered into a contract with the existing Medford Public Library to extend its service to rural people by the purchase of additional books, by opening its doors to country people, and by the establishment of rural branch and school station libraries.

The county has an area of 2,794 square miles and a population of 20,465. The library is not located at the county seat town which is smaller and less accessible than Medford, which has a population of 5,736. Ashland, with a population of 4,385, located 16 miles from Medford, remains outside the county-library system in accordance with the State county-library law which permits cities of over 4,000 population that give over \$2,000 annual support to an existing library to so elect. (Fig. 10.)

Throughout the county there have been established 9 branch libraries, 26 deposit stations, and 80 book collections in schools. Branch libraries are permanent in nature. Some of these towns had had small libraries previously and have local library boards. Library headquarters and small stipends for librarians are provided locally, usually by women's clubs from receipts from entertainments. The county pays \$5 per month to some of the librarians to encourage responsibility. From 400 to 500 books, changeable yearly or sooner if requested, are sent to these branches. The 20 library stations are all in farm homes for community use. Fifty books are sent to each, changeable trimonthly. Books for children are sent to the 80 schools, 25 books at a time, changeable trimonthly or oftener if wished. Twice a week a trained assistant goes to one of these schools, each in turn, to instruct teachers and children in the care and use of books and to hold story hours to encourage good reading. Tabulations for 36 schools revealed that 5,514 books had been read in one year. Black Beauty had been the most popular book.

All mail shipments of books are paid for by the county library. Direct mail service of books also is given to any resident of the county upon request; the county library pays the postage.

On January 1, 1927, there were in the library 12,590 books owned by the city and 8,324 owned by the county, an increase during the year of 974 and 1,783, respectively. Newspapers and magazines in the library totaled, respectively, 172 and 134. In 1926 the central library reported a circulation of 87,423 books, the branches 43,327, stations 2,518, and schools, 7,305. The total reported circulation was 140,604. Children's books circulated from the central library totaled 28,452. Special books borrowed from the State library and circu-



FIG. 10.—Branch of the Jackson County (Oreg.) Free Library, located at Talent; population, 275.

lated numbered 937. Per capita circulation in Medford (1926 population estimate) was 9.9 books; circulation per capita outside Medford and Ashland was 3 books; county circulation, including circulation in Medford, 6.7 books. Thirty-eight per cent of the population outside of Medford and Ashland are reported to be borrowers of county library books. The number of borrowers' cards in force January 1, 1927, was as follows: City, 5,181; county, 1,437; total, 6,618.

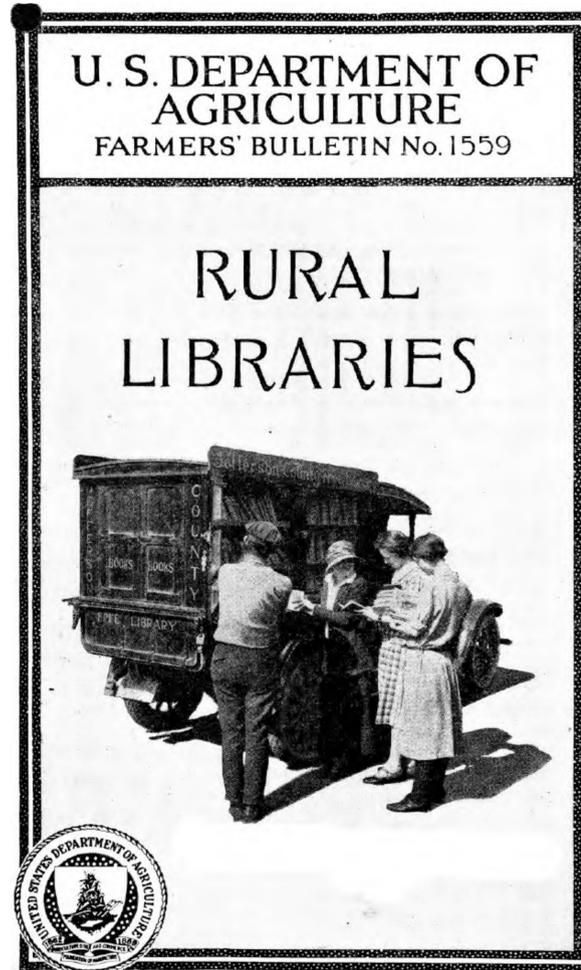
The library has a good collection of public documents, including many farmers' bulletins. These are well arranged by subjects in numerical order. Much effort is exerted by the librarian and the county agent to inform farmers of publications available for particular needs and to extend their use. When questioned concerning



Earliest Photo Talent Public Library, 1922

Located in northwest corner of Town Hall (now known as Community Center)
Library opened April 24, 1920.

Photo was later reprinted in 1928 USDA Farmer's Bulletin (right) about Rural Libraries, where a history is given of the formation of the Jackson County Library System -- and Jackson County is held up as model rural system.



Mid-1920's

Federated Women's Club meets at a wisteria-covered Town Hall
Sign over door says "Talent Public Library"
(see enlargement to right)

This Women's Club paid Librarian's salary until 1933,
when it became a City budget item.



This Talent Centennial Poster Display
"History of the Talent Library"

by

Jim Bradley & Patricia Remencuis

sponsored by the Friends of the Talent Library

RURAL LIBRARIES 29 30 FARMERS' BULLETIN 1559

the attitude of numerous librarians who have said that, on account of difficulty of handling bulletins, they preferred to let the county agent take care of agricultural bulletins, the librarian replied that while she wanted the assistance of the county agent, she saw in such work a great field for usefulness open to the library, that she recognized her duty, and that she welcomed the opportunity to perform it.

| Financial statement of Jackson County (Oreg.) Free Library, January 1, 1926, to December 31, 1926 | | City funds | County funds |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|
| Receipts: | | | |
| Balance Jan. 1, 1926 | \$3,445.83 | \$4,418.01 | |
| Tax receipts | 7,681.61 | 5,236.50 | |
| Desk receipts | 926.04 | | |
| Total | 11,823.48 | 9,654.51 | |
| Expenditures: | | | |
| Books | 1,857.25 | 2,581.49 | |
| Periodicals and indexes | 345.25 | 308.53 | |
| Salaries | 3,489.79 | 3,045.79 | |
| Janitor | 511.40 | | |
| Heat | 129.09 | | |
| Light | 110.84 | | |
| Water | 39.00 | | |
| Telephone | 64.25 | | |
| Repairs and improvements | 647.96 | | |
| Furniture and fixtures | 389.59 | | |
| Insurance | 145.87 | | |
| Printing | 227.55 | 201.15 | |
| Shipping supplies | 318.85 | 159.22 | |
| Postage, freight, express | 64.03 | 2.20 | |
| Current expense | 219.99 | 68.59 | |
| Total | 8,537.04 | 6,766.77 | |
| Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1926 | 3,286.44 | 2,887.74 | |

Cost per capita in Medford, \$0.83; in county, including Medford, \$0.24.

Medford Public Library, with which the county contracts for service, is governed by a library board appointed by the mayor. The county superintendent is an ex officio member. It is administered by a staff of six, consisting of the librarian and the first assistant librarian (trained), two clerks, a stenographer, and a part-time cataloguer. One-half of the salaries of the two trained librarians and one clerk, and all of the salaries of the stenographer and the part-time cataloguer, are paid by the county. The remainder of these salaries and the wages of a page and a janitor are paid by the city.

The library building was provided for the city by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. It is located in the heart of the city on extensive improved grounds furnished by the city. (See fig. 1, p. 2.)

Constant efforts are made by the librarians to keep in touch with the book needs of the country people and to advise them of available assistance. Methods used include: (1) Library exhibits at all fairs; (2) publication in county papers of book news and items of special interest; (3) distributing new book lists over the country; (4) talks

* Taxes are not paid until Apr. 1, which accounts for Jan. 1 balance from previous year.

given at club meetings; (5) annual celebration of children's book week, including extensive advertisement by means of book posters; and (6) publication and distribution to rural people and county branches of special library pamphlets.

One of these pamphlets entitled "Procedure for Branch Librarians," in addition to instruction in technical details, emphasizes the desirability of neatness, attractiveness, pool order, and discipline in branches and closes with a call to all librarians to familiarize themselves with the contents of books, to anticipate the needs of borrowers, and to offer each something that will give pleasure, broaden experience, or solve difficulties.

Central Point Branch Library.—The village of Central Point has a population of 582 and is situated in an orchard district 2 miles from Medford. It had never had a library previous to the establishment of the branch in 1920. There are 400 county books, and 250 books have been donated locally. Fifty county books are changed each month, the branch paying expenses one way. Borrowers in 1925 numbered 402. The circulation was 63,000 books. The library was open two afternoons and evenings weekly. The librarian received \$10 per month salary, \$5 furnished by the county and the remainder by local organizations, including a farm women's club. The village government furnished only the library room, fuel, and lights. The people seemed well satisfied with the library service, especially considering that it had no financial support from the town government. The librarian believed that without this branch the people would not have had a library.

The following is a digest of the contract between the county of Jackson, Oreg., and the library board of Medford, Jackson County, Oreg.:

Whereas, the County Court of Jackson County, Oregon, has letted a contract with the Public Library of Medford, Oregon, for the use of the Library Board of said county for the purposes specified in Chapter 357 of the General Laws of Oregon for 1919; and whereas, the Library Board deems it advisable to extend the use of the library of Medford to the residents of Jackson County; and for that purpose; and inasmuch as the County Court of Jackson for the use by the Library Board of the library fund created by the tax levied by the County Court of Jackson County; and that it is the policy of the County to be used for holding and deposit in branch libraries, and the Library Board shall operate; and the Public Library of Medford for the free use of the inhabitants of the County of Jackson; saving and excepting as to such cities as shall elect not to come under the provisions of said Act; and that the County shall pay by warrant, as provided in the Library fund of said County, provided however, that such payments shall be made only for books and periodicals which become the property of the County, and the services of a trained librarian and the necessary assistants for County service; and for necessary transportation and traveling expenses, including postage and telephone, in maintaining the County system; and that the Library Board agrees to establish a system of branches, deposit stations, and travelling libraries, and individual service, upon request, with free transportation, except within incorporated cities where a deposit of books is maintained, and to provide books and supervision in such communities of the County outside the City of Medford as will agree to maintain any such branch, deposit station, or travelling library; and that all books belonging to the Public Library of Medford, Oregon, shall be free to all residents of the County to be used for holding and deposit in branch libraries and other libraries participating in the County Library service, on the same terms provided for books bought with County funds. That any city library within the County of Jackson, state of Oregon, already established shall, upon request, be furnished with a deposit of books proportionate to the share of such County library tax paid by such city; or with any larger deposit as shall be equitable in the judgment of the County Court and the Library Board. The Library Board shall on or before the first day of January of each year submit upon request of either body a report to the County Court of Jackson County, Oregon, and to the Trustees of the State Library, stating the condition of their trust; the various sums of money received from the library funds and all other sources.



1919 - 1957: Library located in northwest corner of Town Hall

When bookcases acquired locking doors, books didn't have to be put away in a trunk when the library was closed and the Hall used for other purposes.

Town Hall originally retained an interior wall that had divided the 1899 School House into lower and upper grades. Major renovation in 1928 removed this wall, laid new flooring, and added a dining room on back of the Hall.

The 1949 Campfire Girls photo (above left) shows the locked bookshelves in the extreme right corner. A curtain used to split the room is visible at the top of the photo, as is the new wood floor.

Location, location, location ...

Talent Library was in at least 4 different locations in Town Hall between 1919 and 1975



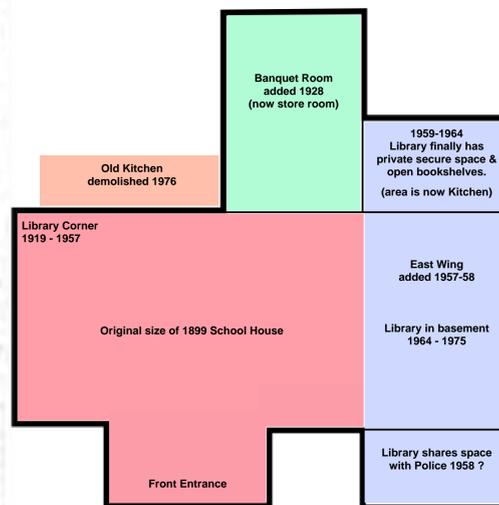
1930's to 1940's: Movies at the Library

During the Great Depression and the 1940's free or inexpensive movies were shown in Town Hall, adjacent to the Library corner, which is just out of sight to the right in the above photo. The Friends of the Talent Library have revived this Talent tradition with Free Movies in the Library Community Room most Fridays at 6 pm.

COMMUNITY HALL AT TALENT NOW NEAR COMPLETION

TALENT, Mar. 29 — The work on the community hall is rapidly nearing completion. A call was sent out to the carpenters of the town for free help Monday. Seventeen responded Tuesday and 12 Wednesday, while a good number are still on the job. A large banquet room has been built which will seat about 100. The partition between the two larger rooms has been removed and will be replaced by folding doors which can be removed, throwing the two rooms into one. Wednesday afternoon the workers began laying the new floor which was laid over the old floor and will extend over both rooms. The ladies of the club served dinner each day, which was greatly enjoyed by the workers. Charley Estes is overseeing the work and every effort is being put forth to have the building ready for the party Saturday evening. When completed it will be dedicated as Talent's Community Hall. There has been quite a need for this kind of a building in Talent, and every one is overjoyed by the prospect of having a building of this kind in town.

3-29-1928



Addition of East Wing to Community Hall

Like the 1928 renovation of the Community Hall spear-headed by future Mayor Charley Estes and built with the unpaid labor of local carpenters, the addition of a new East Wing in 1957-58 was championed by Mayor Frank Christian and mainly paid for by the Talent Lions Club.

The town Marshall and the Talent Library initially moved into the front room of the addition. But from 1959 to 1964 the Library finally had its own separate, lockable quarters in the rear of the addition — the area that is now the kitchen.

By 1964 both the Police Chief and the Library were again close neighbors, this time in the renovated basement of the East Wing addition. In 1971 the Police vacated the basement and moved to the newly-built City Hall to the west of the Community Center, and the Library had the basement to itself.



Mary Withrow, 1970

Librarians

- 1919-1920 Mary Jacobs (Withrow)
- 1920-1928 unknown
- 1928-1932 Bell LeVander
- 1933-1941 Edith Cochran Coffman
- 1941-1949 Lelah Jones, *et al.*
- 1949-1969 Alta Estes
- 1969-1990 Hulda Sommer



Bell LeVander, 1970

What was the 1919 Library?

Changes in Oregon library law in 1919 made it possible for citizens to petition for the creation of a tax-supported Jackson County Library System, with branches in towns like Talent.

In anticipation of petition approval, the Federated Women's Club set up a provisional library in Town Hall, using make-shift bookshelves, donated books, and a rotating collection of 50 books borrowed from the State Library. They hired Mary Jacobs, age 16, as their librarian. Their initiative paid off: Talent was the 2nd branch to join the county library system — on April 24, 1920.



Alta Estes



Hulda Sommer in basement library, 1969



1958 Class Trip to new East Wing

We went to the City Hall and Mrs. Holdridge took our picture in front of the new part. There is a basement in the new part. People have meetings down there. Mr. Young, our Talent Marshall, has his office in the new part. The library is there, too.



1964 - 1975: The Basement Library

The move to the basement ostensibly was a great improvement for the library.

It had a bit more space, a gas heater for winter, and it was cool in the summer.

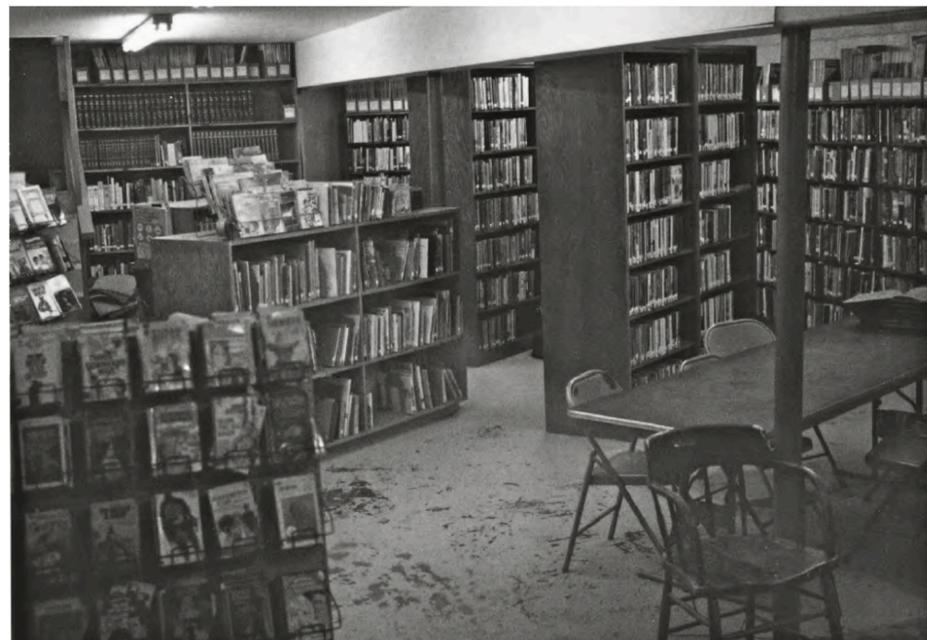
However, there was one big drawback: it was wet and moldy.

According to Hulda Sommer, water oozed through the walls when the lawn was watered; dripped through the ceiling when the floor above was mopped; and spurted through the west wall when it rained.

During one storm the sump pump failed and the librarian arrived to find books and magazines floating on water higher than her boot tops.

"It's only 900 square feet — and it leaks!" was how in 1973 Robbie Miller, President of the newly formed Friends of the Talent Library, characterized the need to move out of the moldy basement into freshly built quarters ... above ground.

And by 1975 the Talent Library did move into its own new 2305 square foot building north of Community Hall.



August 3, 1973

LIBRARIES
ASHLAND
BUTTE FALLS
CENTRAL POINT
EGG HARBOR
GOLFVIEW
JACKSONVILLE
MEDFORD
PRINEVILLE
ROSEBURG
TALENT
TILLAMOOK
WHEAT RIDGE
YAMHILL

Mr. Donald Miller, Sr., Chairman
Talent Parks and Recreation Committee
c/o Mrs. Harold Gordon
Talent City Recorder
City Hall
204 East Main Street
Talent, Oregon 97540

In response to the request expressed at the Talent Park Commission meeting of the evening of Wednesday, August 1, 1973:

This letter is to inform the Talent Park Commission and the Talent City Council of the Jackson County Library System's interest in the 41' x 70' parcel of property located in lots six (6) and seven (7) of Block "L" of the City of Talent as a possible site for the Talent Branch of the Jackson County Library System.

Thank you very much for the invitation to and the time afforded me at your recent meeting.

Sincerely,
Frank J. Swan
Extension Librarian

Library system plans new branch in Talent

By MICHELE La BOUNTY
Tidings Staff Writer
Talent - The Jackson County Library System is planning to build a \$50,000 branch library in the City of Talent, according to county library director Harold Smith.

Smith said barring any unforeseen problems construction should begin this fall. The building will be located behind the Talent Community Hall.

The Talent City Council recently dedicated the property for library use. Smith said construction of the new library depends on county approval of the library system's budget request. The first hearing on the budget will be held April 23 in the Jackson County Courthouse auditorium.

Smith said plans for the building are conventional. It will cover about 2,500 square feet with expansion possibly later to 4,500 square feet.

Talent now is served by a one-room library in the basement of the community hall. It's open 40 hours a week and closed Saturday and Sunday.

Librarian Mrs. Hulda Sommer said plans for the new and much larger library are "wonderful. We'll be able to serve the people a lot better."

She said the additional space provided in the new building will probably mean a reduction in the number of books that have to be specially ordered from other branches in the county system. There are about 7,000 books in the Talent library now.

Almost 700 people checked out books from the library in March, Mrs. Sommer said. During the winter, most of the library users are adults. In the summer, she said the use switches to young people.

Mrs. Sommer's duties are shared by substitutes Mrs. Betty Smith and Mrs. Joy Dickson. Three Neighborhood Youth Corps high school students also work part-time at the library. They are Ruth Starkey, of Ashland High School, and Phoenix High School students Mike Larangiera and Bryan Short.

The library is open from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday.

We Need a Library Building

1973 The year it all comes together: the growing need for a larger library space; Jackson County willing and able to finance new library buildings; community support for a new library reaches critical mass.

In August, Talent Parks & Rec. Committee sends a letter to JCLS with City Council approval proposing a piece of land for a library building site. Two days later, the reply from the JCLS is positive though non-committal. By April 1974, only 8 months later, JCLS has approved a library building for Talent with the groundbreaking in December of that year.

Friends of the Library is formed

In the same month of August 1973, a group of local women established the Friends of the Talent Library. Their first meeting was held in early August with the main objective being a "New Library building".

They immediately began soliciting members and publicizing the need for community support. A fund was created to finance items for the new library building and children's reading programs were promoted. In just two months they already had 65 members. The minutes of their October 9 meeting high-lighted the importance of building membership by noting that the Rogue River Friends of the Library had facilitated the speedy approval of their new library by turning out in large numbers at the County Commissioners meeting and would get a library building in one year.

Group wants Jackson County library to establish branch outlet in Talent

Talent - Several Talent citizens, interested in obtaining a branch of the Jackson County Library for their city, have formed an organization called Friends of Talent Library.

The group's goal is to have a branch library built at the present location of the city shops near city hall. The city recently offered the site to the county system.

Some of the facilities the group would like to see in a new library include a student study and reference center and a "kiddie corner" where children could be read to without disturbing others in the library.

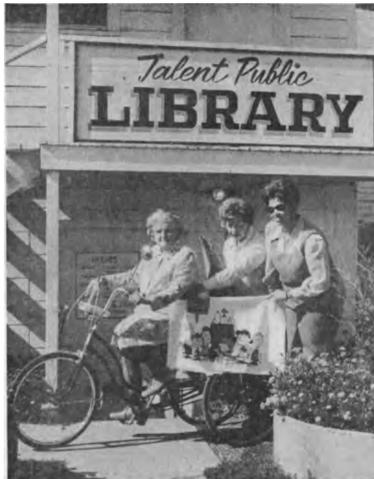
The organization would also like to see the library contain a community meeting room. The need for such an area will be increased when the gymnasium at Talent Elementary school is razed. Groups such as the PTA now use the gym for meetings.

Another goal of the Friends of Talent Library is to have the hours of the present library increased. It is now open 20 hours a week.

A special building fund has been started by the group, with the money collected being set aside for special equipment and furniture that might not be funded for by the county.

Youth representatives to the group are Mike Larangiera and Jesse Brabbin. The organization will be sponsoring a book sale at the Talent Harvest Festival, Sept. 15.

It will be having a public meeting at 2 p.m. Aug. 29 in the library.



At the door of the Talent Library, located in the basement of the Talent Community Hall, are members of the Friends of the Library, a group of women organized to raise money for a new library building. From left, Mrs. Neil Young, Friends Historian, on her three-wheeled vehicle which she also rides at the Talent Harvest Festival parade Saturday morning; Mrs. Ted Anderson, Friends vice president; and Mrs. Don C. Miller, president. The Friends of the Library is starting a membership drive, with memberships at \$1 a year or \$10 for lifetime.

Ground-Breaking

Hardin Smith, JCLS Director
Irene Anhorn, Library Board
Hulda Sommer, Talent Librarian
Robbie Miller, Friends President
Wanda Henry, wife of Mayor
Frank Swan, Asst. Director
(right)
Mae Lowe,
Talent Federated Women
Hardin Smith



Ground Broken for Talent Library

Talent - Ground was broken Saturday afternoon for Talent's new public library in city hall park. The building, concrete block with shake roof construction, will cost \$50,000, and replace inadequate facilities in the Community Hall basement. First shovel of dirt was turned by Mrs. Mae Lowe, who as a member of the Talent Federated Women's Club was instrumental in bringing a library to the city in 1912. Yesterday's ceremonies were attended by about 30 persons including county and city library officials and County Commissioners Marjorie O'Hara and Jon Deason.

Membership Drive Slated By Talent Library Group

Talent - A membership drive to raise money for a new library building is being locally sponsored at the Talent Harvest Festival next Saturday, September 15, in the Talent Community Hall by the Friends of the Library group.

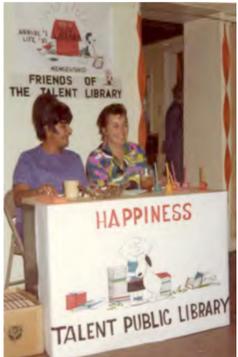
The membership table will be in the tea room at the flower garden.

The Friends of the Library also will sponsor a book sale in the tea room, along with small items such as a library face pin set and bookmarks.

The senior citizens honored at the Festival will be presented with a lifetime membership to the Friends of the Library, Mrs. Miller said.

The Friends of the Library have been formed to promote use of the library facilities, to expand the children's summer reading program, which has resulted in participating each year, to promote donations of material books, and to work towards a new library.

The new library is to be about 300 square feet in size and it looks, Mrs. Miller points out.



Memberships are \$1 a year or \$10 for lifetime, according to Mrs. Don C. Miller, Friends of the Library president. All ages are welcome and membership is not restricted to Talent residents. The membership drive is a special project not funded by the county.

The membership table will be in the tea room at the flower garden.

The Friends of the Library also will sponsor a book sale in the tea room, along with small items such as a library face pin set and bookmarks.

The senior citizens honored at the Festival will be presented with a lifetime membership to the Friends of the Library, Mrs. Miller said.

The Friends of the Library have been formed to promote use of the library facilities, to expand the children's summer reading program, which has resulted in participating each year, to promote donations of material books, and to work towards a new library.

The new library is to be about 300 square feet in size and it looks, Mrs. Miller points out.



2nd graders - first class visit

Brand new. With lots of room!



Open house in Talent Sunday
Library materials in Talent have been moved from the basement of the Talent Community Hall to the new library building next door. Part of the new adult reading area is seen in the photo. The new library building was constructed this spring by Murphy Construction Company, Roseburg.

Betty Smith, Talent Librarian 1990-2001

With the retirement of Hulda Sommer in 1990, the Talent Library got a seasoned veteran of library service as its new Head Librarian, Betty Smith. The profile to the left sums up her ideas about what library service is about - the people. Betty continued in her position as Head Librarian (now called Branch Supervisor) until 2001. Although retired, she continued to serve the library as the President of the Friends of the Library, guiding the organization through the Capital Campaign which raised one-third of a million dollars to enlarge the new library building completed in 2007. Ever faithful to her beloved Talent Library, Betty continues both on the Board of the Friends and as a volunteer for the library.



Listening to Penny Ethridge (from left) are Chris Empio, Lane Munroe, Isaiah McColgan, Sara Munroe, Brad Oakley and Brandie Mullin.

Stories draw children, parents

By Kevin Drew
Of the Tidings

Talent - Enthusiasm is running high among organizers of a story-telling program at the city library.

The program, which consists of frequent puppet shows as well as story reading, has been operating for more than four years, according to the current organizer, Debbie Mullin. Attendance has grown most since the summer.

Mullin, who operates a day-care center for about a half-dozen small children, became involved in the program after her first visit.

"I had such a good time that I brought kids from my own day-care center."

Attendance averages between 20 and 40 children at the story hour, which runs from 10:30 to 11 Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, Mullin said. A high of 80 children attended a program in October.

Enthusiasm isn't limited to children, however, Mullin said. Parents have been eager, too.

"I have had to put them on a schedule because there have actually been fights between them," Mullin said, laughing. "That shows how popular the program is."

Current story-tellers are Mullin, Patti Byrd, Denise Myers, Lunette Fleming, Connie Keith and Penny Ethridge.

Mullin said the program, aimed at children 2 to 5 years old, has several benefits for youngsters.

"It expands their attention and language skills," she said. "And it instills at an early age an interest in reading and books."

People interested in taking part in the program may call the Talent librarian, Hulda Sommer, 335-4143.



Listening to Penny Ethridge (from left) are Chris Empio, Lane Munroe, Isaiah McColgan, Sara Munroe, Brad Oakley and Brandie Mullin.



Storytime has always been a popular Talent Library activity. But during the 1970's and 80's, very large numbers of children attended, partly because the L.O.V.E. pre-school was next door in the Library's former basement quarters of the Community Center.

This tradition continues today as our Library offers a pre-school Storytime at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday and the Friends sponsor an Afterschool Storytime and Snacks at 3:30 p.m. Thursdays from October through May.



The Talent Sneak Preview

Profile Betty Smith

Name: Betty Smith
Job: Talent Branch, Head Librarian
Marital Status: Married, husband now retired from the Department of Public Works. We are long time residents of Talent.
Education: Graduated from Gold Hill High... and very proud that I am one of the rare, self-taught, learned-on-the-job librarians in captivity.
How did you get the job? I was, and am a library addict. One day I came into the Talent Library and the librarian needed a sub for a day (to go bowling) and asked if I'd pinch hit. From there, one job led to another... taking me to the Phoenix library for a number of years, but finally in '90, I graduated to this position.
What do you try to give patrons? Knowledge as to how to find what they want and to use the system. People come first, paperwork stays on the back burner. I don't have to know the answers to everything, just where to find it in our great Jackson County system.
What gives you the most satisfaction? Doing something for someone without realizing the impact I might. The greatest thrill I got was hearing from a man whom I'd helped, pass the U.S. citizenship test. He attributed this to my having worked with him.
Biggest challenge: After all my worry and apprehension, conquering the new computer program.
Who are your favorite authors? I love mystery/Gothic so Mary Stewart and Phyllis Whitney top the list. They are my escape.
How's local response to the Library? Fantastic. When we've asked for help, we've gotten it from the City Hall as well as the general public. We are blessed to have people here who really care.
How do you like the new Talent Sneak Preview? It's a real plus for the area. I open the paper to read our section first and read it all. It really fills a niche.
What do you see as the future for the library? We won't grow physically but want to become more involved with local events. We'll have access through the system to material other than just books. We will install more programs like our current Summer Reading Project for children and teens. Kids can still get involved since we start June 6th. There will be fun, challenges, prizes and the satisfaction of exciting reading.
(Ed. Note: Call Betty at 535-4163 for information on "Summer Reading" or donating books/videos to the library)

Computerization brings many changes

The Medford catalog went digital in 1991 and gradually the other branches were computerized - the card catalog was a thing of the past. Patrons were issued plastic cards and the librarians checked books in and out on computers. The change to computers was not without a down side. Staff found the transition daunting and many long-time volunteers decided it was time to retire from library service. By the 1990's, the configuration of our Talent Library had changed also. There was little space for library programs and it felt crowded when only a few patrons were present. The children's area, once host to 40-60 children at storytime was filled to overflow with books. The west corner of the library became a teen section and eventually the adjacent wall housed 4 internet computers. By the late 1990's the internet was well established and everyone was "surfing the web" as well as accessing the library catalog on-line and at home to order books to be delivered directly to their preferred branch library. Circulation was high but in Talent there was little sitting room to read a newspaper or magazine or peruse a book.



NEW CARD - Josephine Donald issues a computerized library card to Stuart Fawcett this morning at the Medford branch of the Jackson County Library. The library has converted to a computerized card-catalog system.

Library becomes computerized

By MARK FREEMAN
Staff Tidings Writer
The new plastic library cards beginning today pass the floating books as a modernization of the library, circulation systems that has been taking place in places, branch by branch, for five years, Budget said.

The new cards will have computerized bar codes enabling the computer to link patrons with the bar-coded books they check out, Budget said. That will enable library workers to better track check-out books instead of rummaging through "at least 10 different places" where the old check-out card could be filed, she said.

The computer circulation system also will be linked to the computerized card-catalog system already in place, enabling patrons to look up what books they have checked out, where they're due, what books are available and when other check-out books are due back, Budget said.

The computer will greatly improve the book-reservation process, especially for libraries in outlying communities, Eagle Point Librarian Rose Dreyer said.

Patrons will be able to tell where the books they want are shelved and can reserve them through the computer, have them sent from one library to another or travel to that library knowing the book they want is there, Dreyer said.

"We'll be able to get books for our patrons read quickly," she said. "It's wonderful for those who keep overdue books, because the system will enable better tracking of late books," Dreyer said.

The county's Data Processing Department developed the system, which runs off the county's main-frame computer. Patrons can begin exchanging their old cards which easily tore and often did not fit in wallets, for the new plastic ones, Budget said.

Re-Build Our Libraries. It's Time.

Looking towards a new Century and a new Library

As the 20th Century came to a close, the need for larger library buildings throughout the County became critical. Talent Branch Library was bursting at the seams as were all the other Branches. People were using the cramped facilities but it was harder and harder to provide the services the public wanted and needed. In 1999 the county commissioners authorized Bond Measure 15-6 to be placed on the ballot that would provide \$38.9 million for new or remodeled libraries for all 15 branches in the system. The Measure passed May 16, 2000 with overwhelming voter support and turn-out.

Talent's Growing Population

The Census figures below show our town's twenty-fold growth from our Library's beginning in 1920 to the passage of Measure 15-6.

| | |
|------|-------|
| 1920 | 278 |
| 1930 | 421 |
| 1940 | 381 |
| 1950 | 739 |
| 1960 | 868 |
| 1970 | 1,389 |
| 1980 | 2,577 |
| 1990 | 3,274 |
| 2000 | 5,589 |

Eternal vigilance is the price of an open Library

Keeping the Doors Open – Then

The history of our library would not be complete without mention of the financial crises.

At its beginning in 1919, the system was supported by a property tax levy. But by 1970, when the Jackson County Library System was reconstituted, it depended on the County General Fund (GF). The GF fluctuated yearly based on the amount of O&C monies received from the Federal Government. Although O&C Land money originally derived from the productivity of O&C forest lands, eventually it became a Federal revenue sharing plan—compensating Western States for the huge blocks of untaxable Federal lands in these states.

The amounts received by Oregon were unpredictable and unreliable, making budgetary planning a nightmare and pitting all programs funded from the GF against one another. Since the General Fund is allocated by the County Commissioners, the fate of the library was and remains at their discretion.

To alleviate these conditions, short-term dedicated library levies were passed during the period from 1970 until the 1990's. Newspaper clippings (below) show the on-going uncertainty that library supporters have experienced from 1970 to the present day.

The passage of Measure 5 in 1991 and Measure 50 in 1997 eliminated local levies and made establishment of independent permanent funding for the library difficult to pass. Nevertheless in the two recent attempts to do so, measures did achieve majorities in Talent and Ashland precincts and only narrowly failed in Rogue River, though they were not successful countywide.

Tidings 8-17-1972

Editorials

Choice not clear-cut on library operating levy

In 1970 the Jackson County Board of Commissioners rescued the city libraries of Ashland, Rogue River and Medford from slow financial starvation by consolidating them in one county library system. Since then the commissioners have infused the county library operation with a massive amount of money. The amount spent on the system has increased from 1970 to the present day.

clear choice: Do you want new library buildings or not? The choice on the operating levy isn't nearly as clear-cut. A vote against the levy would not necessarily mean a vote against library service. The levy is being proposed to remove the library system from the uncertainty of future funding with O&C revenue. It would, at least for a few years, set the library system free of the vicissitudes of the annual

Library bond issue loses by 269 votes

Tribune 4-20-1977

A proposed \$4,700,000 bond issue to construct a headquarters library in Medford... The choice on the operating levy isn't nearly as clear-cut. A vote against the levy would not necessarily mean a vote against library service. The levy is being proposed to remove the library system from the uncertainty of future funding with O&C revenue. It would, at least for a few years, set the library system free of the vicissitudes of the annual

Library branches raise funds to remain open

It's not a sure bet that all 13 branches of the Jackson County Library System will remain open through fiscal 1983-84, says Library Director Hardin Smith. Each community must provide money to pay utilities for each branch, Smith said. The only exceptions to that rule are the Medford, Ashland and Ashland branches. The county budget will provide money to pay utilities for the two largest branches, Smith said. City councils or library support groups have already raised sufficient money to cover the utilities for the Rogue River, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Gold Hill, White City and Applegate branches, he said. But money still is needed to support the library branches in Central Point, Shady Cove and Talent, Smith said. No report has been received recently

from the Butte Falls and Prospect branches regarding fund-raising efforts, he said. Supporters of the Central Point Library had raised more than \$3,500 at last report to cover rent and utility costs of more than \$7,000 for 1983-84, Smith said.

In Talent, a library support committee has raised about \$1,200 of the \$1,600 needed, he said, and more fund-raising events are scheduled.

Smith said, "I have assured them that they do have to raise money for utilities if they are going to remain open. If they raise part of the money by the end of June, then we will stay open as long as it lasts while they raise more."

Several communities, which have already raised enough to pay for utilities, are still hard at work raising more money to keep their branches open longer hours than the county budget will afford.

"We want the library," said Betty Hartman, a member of the library contributors committee. Hartman said Talent Librarian

Hartman said Talent Librarian Hulda Sommer, who was ill and couldn't make the council meeting, is willing to work for minimum wage—or \$3.65 instead of her current \$6.42 an hour salary — to keep the doors open to the public.

Ball raises \$403 for library

TALENT — Turnout was light at Saturday's Policeman's Ball, but a healthy sum of money was donated to the city's library fund just the same.

The fund raiser generated \$403.75, Police Chief Chuck Roberts reported this morning. All proceeds will go toward keeping the library operating in the event county budget cuts threaten to close its doors.

About 100 residents showed up at the \$1 per person fund raiser, Roberts said, explaining advance ticket sales made it a success. City Councilman Ed Lunsford and the Modern Westerners Band provided the entertainment at no charge.

Daily Tidings April 7, 1983

Talent women's club aids library

Guest speaker at the March 28 meeting of the Talent Federated Women's Club was Mary Esquill of the Talent Friends of the Library.

She said the Talent Library has dropped from 82 hours of service per week to 18 hours and the library is leaning 916 fewer books per week.

Librarian Hulda Sommer has accepted a decrease in salary to minimum wage in order to keep the library open on shortened hours. Members of the Talent Federated Women's Club voted to donate \$100 to the library and to donate cookies to the Friends of the Library rummage sale to be held April 23.



This library
(and all other public libraries in Jackson County)

will be CLOSED

as of Saturday, April 7, 2007,

due to a lack of funding.

Keeping the Doors Open – Now

What can we learn from our 90-year history about how to keep our Library open? **Three key elements** are apparent:

1) A successful library needs a local Advocate. The Talent Federated Women's Club was our first advocate, establishing a provisional library in Town Hall in 1919, paying the librarian's salary for the first 13 years, and fund-raising for library needs and emergencies for over eight decades. Other Talent Library boosters have included the Lions Club and Garden Club. Finally in 1973 the Friends of the Talent Library took up the challenge. This group of dedicated volunteers worked to guarantee that the town got desperately needed new library buildings in both 1975 and 2007.

2) A progressive and civic-minded City Council that realizes the immense value a library brings to its community. Our City Council provided locations in Town Hall for our early library. They provided building sites for our two library buildings. When our library reopened in 2007 with only 16 hours per week paid by the County, they courageously authorized funding for 20 additional hours per week, giving Talent the second best hours in the system.

3) A Citizenry that uses, appreciates, and supports its library. In city surveys, our library has consistently ranked as the most used public service in town. Community support allowed the Friends to raise one third of a million dollars to increase the public spaces in the new library building by 1420 sq. feet. Talent library users consistently check out more books than all but three other libraries in the 15-branch Jackson County Library System.

Our library with its ample spaces, responsive and knowledgeable staff, extensive services and many open hours is a magnet for the town, bringing together people of all ages and backgrounds in a wonderful synergy of expectation and fulfillment. It is a joy to use and a lure to anyone desirous of living in a community that cares about its people.

Tidings 6-5-1976

New hours announced for Talent Library

TALENT — New hours have been announced for the Talent branch of the Jackson County Library System. The new hours will take effect July 1. Monday through Thursday, the library will be open from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The program runs June 7 through Aug. 14 in all libraries in Jackson County system. Registration may be at any time through July 31. Each student reading five books in the club will receive a Liberty Bell button. Each student reading 13 books will receive a certificate and pass to Golf-O-Rama in Medford.

Tribune 6-16-1976

Libraries forced to reduce hours

The 1976-77 budget of the Jackson County Library System will be about \$150,000 below the 1975-76 budget. This necessitates a reduction in the number of hours open at all the 13 libraries in the system to 48 hours per week. The library has an opinion survey to determine how to reduce hours.

Tribune 12-12-1976

Longer hours begin at libraries Monday

By MARY ANN CAMPBELL, Mail Tribune Staff Writer. Open hours in all of the Jackson County Library System's 13 branch libraries will be restored to pre-July 1 schedules starting Monday. Last week, the board of commissioners replaced funds in the library budget from a new federal "counter-cyclical" employment act. The library's budget has been cut 18 per cent by the county budget committee last spring.

Open hours in all of the Jackson County Library System's 13 branch libraries will be restored to pre-July 1 schedules starting Monday. Last week, the board of commissioners replaced funds in the library budget from a new federal "counter-cyclical" employment act. The library's budget has been cut 18 per cent by the county budget committee last spring.

The Daily Tidings — Wednesday March 5, 1983 — Page 3

Talent library asks for help

By SUSAN SURGES

TALENT — A group of library supporters filed the City Council chambers Tuesday to request funding for the librarian's salary and some utility costs in the event county budget cuts threaten the library to close its doors.

"We want the library," said Betty Hartman, a member of the library contributors committee. Hartman said Talent Librarian

Hartman said Talent Librarian Hulda Sommer, who was ill and couldn't make the council meeting, is willing to work for minimum wage—or \$3.65 instead of her current \$6.42 an hour salary — to keep the doors open to the public.

one of those county services that is not mandated by the state — will be hit hard if a tax levy is not passed this spring.

Smith explained the county's library system has operated almost entirely out of Oregon and California timber revenues since it first became a county department in 1971. Those O&C monies have "dried up" the past few years, Smith said, explaining the department has gone from a \$1.2 million library budget in 1980 to a \$600,000 budget today.

Councilman Jim Walker stirred up some anger in the audience when he said he's never been in either Talent's or Medford's library, adding as far as he's concerned "they can close them down."

"Shame on you," said Betty Smith, who helps out in Talent's library. The council agreed it would consider the \$3,500 funding request as it plans next year's budget.

Book use holds, but library's open less

TALENT — Even though the branch library is open fewer hours, it is doing about the same business, says Librarian Hulda Sommer.

She said circulation figures for October of 1981, when the library was operating full time, showed 3,805 items checked out. Figures for October of 1982 show 3,484 items checked out, when the library was operating half-time.

In July, Jackson County Library System Director Hardin Smith ordered branch libraries to cut hours in half and made an 8 percent cut in hourly wages of branch library staffs, all because of reduced county income.

As a result, Talent's branch — a modern building near the fire station — is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday; and noon to 5 p.m. Friday.

Mrs. Sommer is glad that book, magazine and record circulation has held up. But she hates to see the short hours gradually deteriorating the library's community role, a role that she and her assistants have built up over the years by overcoming obstacles.

Mrs. Sommer became librarian in 1949. The main obstacle then was trying to maintain a library in the community hall basement, which often flooded.

"Very often, after a heavy rainfall, we were wading around in rubber boots in foal high water," Mrs. Sommer says. "And moisture and weather deteriorated books. Many afternoons we just mopped up water."

"We don't have that problem now. We just need money." Mrs. Sommer says the county's proposed \$3.8 million property tax levy, which faces a May 17 election, is essential to keep branch libraries open. "To help promote passage of the levy, the Friends of the Talent Li-

Tribune 4-12-1983

Mail Tribune Discover Life Daily



Friends of the Talent Library members Betty Smith, left, Rosemary Bevel and Judy Jordan gather every Thursday on the corner of Market and Main streets in Talent to share books and "wait for the library to open." 8/2/07 Denise Baratta



Talent head librarian Laurel Pechal reads to children every Thursday morning at the town's skate park while the libraries stay closed. 8/2/07 Denise Baratta

FOTL prepares for major Capital Campaign for new Library

With the passage of Bond Measure 15-6 in May 2000, Talent knew that we would be getting a remodeled or new library building.

To make sure that Talent got a facility that would serve its growing population and library use, the Friends of the Talent Library (FOTL) re-organized in 2003 as 501(c)(3) all-volunteer, non-profit corporation, a move that would allow the solicitation and raising of "serious" amounts of money to cover any unmet needs of the new building.

By carefully studying the other branch libraries that had already been built with the Bond monies, and by comparing what was proposed for Talent with our current collection and the City's growth prospects, the Friends decided that what the new library building mainly needed was more public space for meetings, patrons, computers, books, and sitting.

After over 8000 hours spent by FOTL volunteers and with the generous support of our Community, the Capital Campaign raised one-third of a million dollars, expanding our new building by 1420 square feet.

Early support from Talent Urban Renewal and two private donors allowed the Friends to solicit the local Carpenter Foundation and Gordon Elwood Foundation for matching grants.

A continued outpouring of local donations, large and small, demonstrated to the statewide Ford Family Foundation and the Meyer Memorial Trust that Talent was a town that truly valued both community and its Library – which resulted in our receiving very sizeable matching grants from these foundations.

A special thanks goes to the Laursen and Thirkill families for their exceptional generosity.

Design and Ground Breaking

In January 2005, a Design Committee consisting of representatives from the County, City, Library System, Friends, and the Talent community began work on the specific design of the new Library. By May 2005 the basic design was near final form. The detailed design went out to bid towards the end of the year. A ground-breaking ceremony (pictured below) was held March 12, 2006.



(above) Former Librarian Betty Smith, City Manager Betty Wheeler, Commissioner Dave Gilmour, unknown, Mayor Marian Telski, Jim Bradley, Librarian Laurel Prchal

Summer 2006 – Construction begins in earnest



July 31, 2006

August 13, 2006

August 13, 2006

September 17, 2006

January 25, 2007

A Year later ...
December 2007

Some Activities Since We Opened



It takes Community to Build a great Library

It takes Community to build a great Library.

A big THANK YOU to those who donated to the Campaign for a "bigger & better" Talent Library.

Reba Adams
Dan & Ellen Ahern
Lois Ahern
Elizabeth Aiken
Al & Sandy Alving
Bud & Krista Amundsen
Tina Anderson
Anonymous Donor
Kurt Bailey
Karen Basin, M.D.
Cecil Perry Benson
Fred & Lois Binkler
The Becker Family
Frank & Cheryl Behrke
Andy & Sherry Belden
Betty & Max Bellas
Rosemary Knott Bevel
Lori Bennett
The Biscayne Family
Dan, Bisk & Irene Brady
Don Black
Lorella Boggess
Ronald & Marilyn Bolstad
Phillip D. Bradley
Patricia Romanous & Jim Bradley
Vivian & Volney Triller
Nicholas & Diane Broussard
A. Marilyn Brownmyer
Charlotte Carlson & Patrick Moore
The Carpenter Foundation
Tammie Cates
Larry & Linda Caughan

Anita & Jim Chester
Janet Chase
Joan Clapp
Francis & Carol Coffey
Elizabeth Coker
John Dean
Mueli Decker
Richard & Virginia Di Muzio
Lucy Bolton
Downtown Coffee House
Bob & Annie Dreizius
Maxine Edwardsen
Gordon Elwood Foundation
Mary Beth Linnab
Fabricated Glass Specialties, Inc.
Jeffrey & Juanita Fagan
Elaine Fielder
Mary A. Ferreri
John & Barbara Fleezer
The Ford Family Foundation
David & Gladys Fortmiller
Josef & Aileen Frank
Friends of the Talent Library
Frederic & Tilly Gibbs
Randy & Rebecca Gold
Leslie Gonzales
Steve & Karen Good
Alta Grimes
Lloyd Holmes
Jenny Hamilton
Dale & James Harrit
Katherine Harris
Rick Harris & Ellen Dennis
Marilyn S. Havill
Dr. Marc & Beth Heller
Ron & Diane Henri
Bill & Jesse Hodgdon
Lloyd & Lani Holgate
Patrick Hovsinger M.D.
Ralph & Margaret Huukins

Anita Hyland
Dr. Dan and Linda Jackson
William & Sharon James
Bruce E. Johnson M.D.
Don & Judy Jordan
Stephen Joslin & Roberta Kaiser
Mary Koning
Diana & Ted Keller
Yvonne Kitchon
Douglas & Sharon Kodak
Bev Krasner
Roland & Sue Kretschmann
Sandy Kuykendall
Marilyn Kuykendall
S.V. & Ann Landreth
Diane Lane
Margaret Laursen
Ingrid Laursen
Michael, Graham & Logan Thirkill
Eric & Rebecca Laursen
Linda, Steve, Chris & Bryan Bahr
Larry Laursen
The Laursen, Thirkill & Bahr Families
Joyce Lee
Kurt & Laura Letspich
Rhea Lovdon
Elliot & Mary Lovelace
William Mansfield
Jolie Mathis
Michael Meister
Meyer Memorial Trust
Miro Trains Line Company
Anita Mignardet
Elsa Miller
John & Nancy Miller
Bill, Bonnie & Charlie Morgan
Donald & Tracie Moore
Joe & Lorraine Mussak
Mike & Gina Myers

ZM Suzanne Nadler & Rod Binney
Anita Neilson
Lynn & Charlotte Newby
Wendy Nowak
Peter, Pamela & Andrew Nordquist
Richard & Loretta Nordquist
Rick & Mary Ellen O'Toole
Lisa Odgaard
Ray & Jill Paschal
Mary Pfister & Sean Curry
Phoenix Grange #779
Mark & Laurel Prekal
Craig & Cynthia Previtt
Cathy Price
Riley & Noah Price
Shelley & Lou Ann Price
Steve & Leslie Primus
John & Nadine Purcell
Nando Reynolds & Sharon Bolles
Beverly Reem
Craig Reid
Oregon Institute of Aesthetics
Yvonne Reynolds
Geoffrey & Joi Riley
Chuck & Ruby Roberts
Nancy Rush-Yates
Sawyer Paddles & Coors
Teresa Slayre
Ide Solheim
Helen & Peter Scholom
S.S. "Paddy" & Margaret Schweitzer
Betty Smith
Dale & Rosalie Skallberg
Scott & Wendy Skunway
Gladys & Victor Sines
Craig & Karen Singleton
Poppy Beverage
SchoolHouse Retreat & Cultural Center
Dr. James & Alice Sours
Jeff & Kim Stein

... and all the unnamed supporters who put stamps on the Library board at TARKS Market and those who emptied their pockets change into the Friends' donation jar.

What the Capital Campaign Did

The shaded boxes in the floor plan (right) approximate the additional space that the Friends' successful Capital Campaign added to the Talent Branch Library – an additional 1420 square feet.

The event capacity of the Community Meeting Room was more than doubled.

The Study Room was increased from 2 to 8 person capacity.

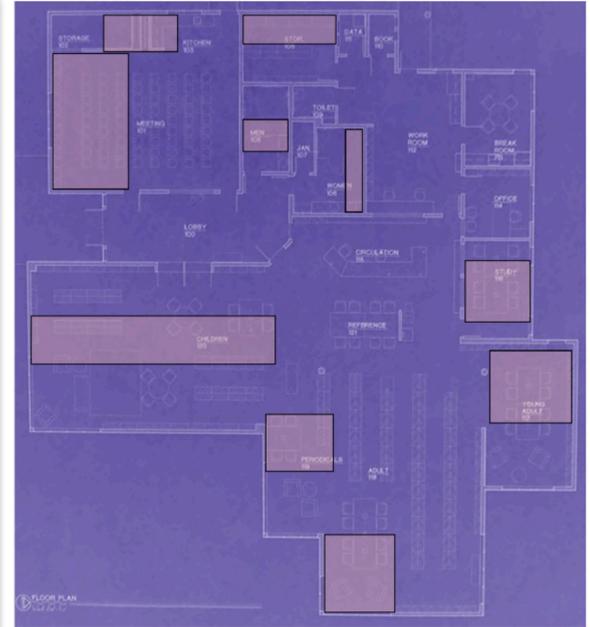
The Teen Area doubled its book capacity and acquired table seating.

The Children's Area picked up 300 sq. ft. for additional table and computer seating and more shelf space for books.

Periodicals and Large Print picked up table seating and more shelf space.

The Adult Area doubled its table and armchair seating.

Even the rest rooms are larger.



February 25, 2007 – Grand Opening

Huge numbers of library lovers turn out for a joyous celebration. A "book brigade" passes by hand the last volumes from our old library to the new. Librarian Laurel Prchal hands books to the great-grandchildren and the grand-daughter of former Librarian Hulda Sommer. Readers, young & old, pass books down the line to our new library. A giant symbolic key officially opens the new library. The standing-room only crowd fills the lobby and community room to listen to dedicatory speeches and the music of the Rogue Valley Peace Choir. Then it's time to enjoy the wonders of the new Library that our community has built.



What the future holds for our Community and its Library

Our 90 Year History is complete. What does it teach us? Certainly the growth of the town and the growth of the library have been integral to one another; that at critical junctures, an advocate comes forward to express the need for more and better library services; and that our community and city government have put forth effort to achieve goals set for the library. In summary, since early in its establishment as a city, Talent has wanted and supported a library and that support continues to this day.

What Does the Future Hold? Here is a list of **six community needs** have been identified that our libraries can and should fulfill – and some of the ways the Talent Library is meeting these needs.

First is **Early Literacy**. Our Talent Library has an on-going pre-school storytime program. And our Librarian has created a special storytime for the local Head Start program. We have experimented with innovative programs focused on helping parents teach their infants: Babies in the Library and Wobblers.

Second is **Adult, Teen, and Family Literacy**. Adult beginner's computer classes will start in 2010 at the Talent Library. Self-taught foreign language instruction is now available via a program called MANGO on JCLS.org website. Our library continues to host class visits from Talent Elementary and Middle schools. And our Friends group provides an after-school storytime on Thursdays at 3:30pm.

Third is **Lifelong Learning**. The Friends of the Talent Library sponsors programs by authors discussing their books – and by other community members with a special area of expertise. Programs have included The History of Talent, The Way of the Wolf, How to Grow Orchids without a Greenhouse, and a Tour of Japan. Currently being planned with Science Works is an interactive display, Outreach to Space.

Fourth is **Reading for Pleasure**. Talent has Book Discussion Group that meets at 5:30pm on the third Wednesday of each month. In addition to the Summer Reading program for children and teens, there is a Winter Reads program for adult readers. Part of reading for pleasure is the ability to browse the shelves; the Capital Campaign for our new library greatly expanded the shelf space in the Talent Library – and the Friends are working to expand the size of our library's collection.

Fifth is the **Library as a Community Commons**. When the Friends wrote grants to increase the size of the Community Meeting Room and the Study Room in the library, they were aware of the importance of our library as a place where people of all ages and backgrounds and interests have a chance to come together. To mention just some activities ... these rooms have been used for AARP free Tax Preparation, free Friday Night Movies, Tai Chi and Yoga classes, Games for Teens, a Clown Class for kids, Origami lessons, Musical programs, and tutoring and test-taking.

Sixth is **Free Public Access to the Internet and to Technology**. The need to access information and communicate through the Internet is becoming as important as having use of a telephone. Talent's library staff is always helpful in assisting patrons with using the Internet computers. Talent's computers are used for job hunting, preparing resumes, filing unemployment claims, researching and writing class papers – and for recreational use. In today's economy many who visit the library are in no position to own a computer, or to pay for Internet service at home. Additionally, the library provides access to private databases, such as Chilton's Automotive Repair and various business and newspaper databases, that would be prohibitively expensive for individuals to subscribe to.