

# Talmage Historical Society *Museum Newsletter*

Volume 9, Issue 1

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## Calendar

**Saturday  
April 21**

*Plan to attend the Grand Opening and Open House of the Talmage Library and Event Center, from 2-4 p.m. at the Talmage School building at 2994 Main Street in Talmage.*

*There will be tours, refreshments, games, entertainment, and a chance to visit with old friends!*

**Memorial Day  
May 28**

*Join us as we honor our Vietnam Veterans at Prairiedale Cemetery and the Talmage Museum.*

## In Memoriam

**Alfred Koelling**  
6/4/1921 - 2/17/2018  
**Norma Jean Cooley Sanders-Mallott**  
11/25/1938 - 2/01/2018  
**John W. Ramsey**  
10/17/1932 - 1/26/2018  
**Sheryl Jean Rock**  
2/28/1952 - 11/21/2017  
**Johnnie W. Russell**  
4/29/1925 - 2/16/2018

## *Eisenhower Director visits local museum*

**By Kathy Coup**

The Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum Dawn Hammatt toured the Talmage Museum on Wednesday, February 21.

After the tour, she talked about preserving artifacts and different ways to obtain information, especially about obtaining information on WWII veterans.

"Many of our volunteers were present and all said it was very informative," said Talmage Museum Director Verl Coup.

Hammatt, a graduate of Louisiana State University, was raised in New Orleans and has worked at or been director of many other museums.

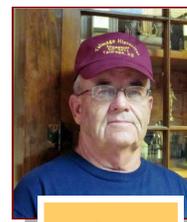
When asked why she chose Abilene, Hammatt said, "Who wouldn't want to be director of a presidential library?"



**Dawn Hammatt, Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum visits with Verl Coup at the Talmage Museum on Wednesday, February 21.**

## *Talking History with Verl Coup...*

Have you ever driven by the park in Talmage and noticed kids playing in the park? Or maybe when you grew up, you played in the park. Well, it was not always a park.



**Verl Coup**



**Locals constructing the park.**

Harrison Peatling built a building there in 1916 and sold Ford cars and Fordson tractors. He was the dealer in Talmage for seven years and Bennington for two years before moving to Salina where he sold Morman Cars.

**(Continued on Page 3)**

Noel remembers..

# School Days at Talmage Grade School

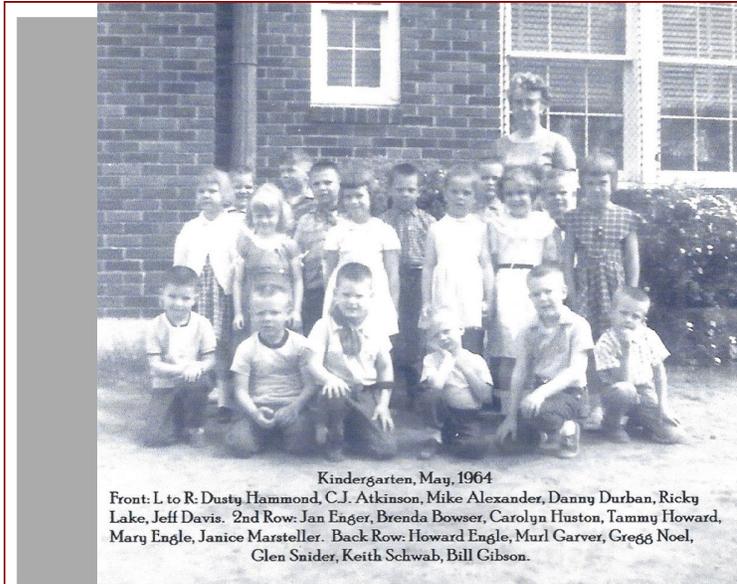
By GREGG NOEL

*Note: I have had many fond memories of students older and younger than myself, but for time sake, I will limit my writings only to my grade school class. I attended TGS for six weeks of kindergarten (just the second year for kindergarten) in the fall of 1963, graduating eighth grade in spring of 1972. We were the last class to graduate from Talmage Grade School...very special.*

Before the fall of 1963, the only children I knew my age, were my cousins and the kids who attended Talmage United Methodist Church. I was only five at the time, so my life experiences were few and far between. The students I knew at age five were my cousin Howard Engle and my Sunday School and Vacation Bible School classmates Glen Snider, Tammy Howard, Mike Alexander, Keith Schwab, Ricky Lake, Murl Garver, Carolyn Houston and C.J. Atkinson. At the time, Glen, Murl and I were the country kids. Everyone else were "city" kids, living in the Talmage metropolis.

Kindergarten was a new, up and coming concept for education, or at least for the rural schools. Talmage Grade School Board of Education implemented it for the fall of 1962. It lasted for six weeks, and they hired Wilma Luthi to teach these five-year-olds or five-year-olds to be. Back then, if a student was going to turn five sometime in that year, not the school year, in my case 1963, a student was eligible to attend school, so we had a few classmates who were almost a year older than another classmate. For example, my birthday was January 1958 and Ricky Lake's birthday was September 1958. Danny Wuthnow (who would transfer later to Talmage from Manchester) was born in December 1958, and Glen Snider was born in December 1957, so we had quite an age span in our class.

Kindergarten was the first time I met many of my classmates. We had a large class of over 20 students. (Apparently 1958 was a good year for



Kindergarten, May, 1964  
Front: L to R: Dusty Hammond, C.J. Atkinson, Mike Alexander, Danny Durban, Ricky Lake, Jeff Davis. 2nd Row: Jan Enger, Brenda Bowser, Carolyn Huston, Tammy Howard, Mary Engle, Janice Marsteller. Back Row: Howard Engle, Murl Garver, Gregg Noel, Glen Snider, Keith Schwab, Bill Gibson.

having babies.) Wilma Luthi was our teacher and every student enjoyed Mrs. Luthi, who had a kind demeanor and a soft voice. She was made to be a Kindergarten teacher. We really didn't do anything too special. We did the basics, making sure we knew our numbers, colors, how to stand in line, listen to instructions and just be able to get along with others. All of the students brought a rug or mat from home to lay on for a short nap. For some reason, they thought kindergarten children needed some down time. I think it was more for Mrs. Luthi. We only had kindergarten in the mornings. The country kindergarteners would ride on the regular bus (a personal car with a bus sign on it) with older students to be delivered to TGS. We would be dismissed to go home before lunch. The town students would walk home. The rural students would be picked up by our parents, usually our moms. Sometimes our mothers would pool rides and take turns taking children home.

At the end of six weeks, the school would celebrate by allowing the Kindergarten class to eat lunch at school. This was very special. You really felt like one of the big kids.

Fond memories.

*Continued from Page 1, Talking History with Verl Coup.*



**1925 Model T Ford Pickup**

**This pickup was sold new by Mitchell Brothers of Talmage, Kansas. It is now owned by Lease Duckwall.**

Harrison rented the Talmage building to Bert and Roy Mitchell, and they continued to sell Ford products. Richard Cowen remembers his dad working there.

For a period of time, the Banks family had a creamery and sold gas at the building. I remember a basement

under the back part where vehicles could be stored. Harrison gave the property to the Talmage Community for use as a park.

The Talmage Lions Club poured a concrete slab for a basketball court and installed slipper slides, swings, and a merry-go-round. The park looks the same as it always has, and Larry Coup keeps it neat and clean.

**Talmage Park Crew: l to r, standing, Carl Minick, Frank Coup, John Schneider, Lynn Meehan, & Virgil Bennett; kneeling, Ralph Snyder & Glen Gibson.**



***Did You Know?***

**By Kathy Marsteller Coup**



*We will soon be adding the “Willowdale Community” display to our picture board of special places in the Talmage area.*

*A special thanks to Pauline Houtz Dukalow and her daughters, Diane and Donita, for their contribution to this project.*

**TALMAGE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
TALMAGE MUSEUM**

2978 Main Street  
P.O. Box 766  
Talmage, Kansas 67482

**Museum E-Mail:**  
thsoc@live.com

**Tele# 785/388-2089**

**Winter Hours:**  
Mon., Wed., Friday  
Saturday-Sunday  
2-4 p.m.  
Closed Tues. & Thursday

**We're on the Web!**  
www.talmagekansas.com

Label

## ***Around Town...***

### **Library announces new hours**

The library, recently moved to the old school building, has set new hours of Tuesday through Friday, 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed for inclement weather. The building will also be open by appointment or reservation.

Families in the area are already enjoying family holidays and reunions, and groups have hosted meetings and events in the building as we renovate.

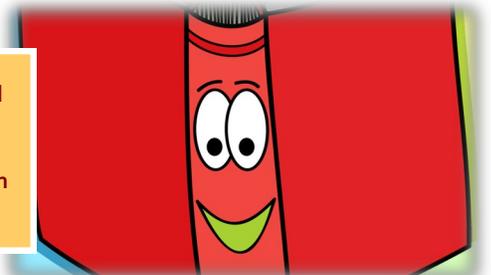
**"We are taking care of repairs needed in flooring, bathrooms, and already replaced burnt out gym lights with LED lights,"** said Library Board President Shawni Sheets. **"Because of these much needed repairs we are in need of donations. Other items, such as bookcases and furniture, have all been donated by community members."** The library could also use volunteers.

Anyone interested in making a donation of time or money, should contact Shawni Sheets at 785/643-9126 or mail a donation to Talmage Public Library at PO Box 807, Talmage, Kansas 67482.



Picture of the early Talmage School in 1927 prior to the 1930 construction of the brick building in use today by the Talmage Library and Event Center.

NCKLS delivered new books in February so visit the new library in the old school!



# Ice Cream Social kicks off celebration

The people of the Talmage community celebrated the 125th anniversary of their town with a well-attended ice-cream social and concert on Saturday, September 21, and their all-school reunion on Sunday, September 22.



The Marsteller sisters, Kathy and Virginia, served homemade ice cream to the crowd.



Above, Larry Bathurst and Verl Coup catch up at the ice cream social; left, Glen and Joan Dawson enjoy some of the homemade ice cream, along with Helen Fulton and Maridean Bebermeyer; below, Rhonda Noel Thornburrow, Manhattan, and her parents Alberta and Loren Noel enjoy a visit.



Above, Larry and Judy Coup visit with Roy Lantz, while Trudy Faulkner Pankratz and Katherine Taylor Worthington wait in line for the homemade ice-cream. Many formerly from the Talmage community came to celebrate the 125th anniversary and catch up with old friends.



# Innermissions Concert and All-School Reunion capped anniversary weekend

The Innermissions Quartet, a talented group of men who grew up in the Talmage community, entertained hundreds of locals and many who traveled to help the Talmage community celebrate its milestone. Kalen Bebermeyer, Gregg Noel, Arlan Bebermeyer, and Bill Gibson have been singing together since high school.



Above, Linda Smith Chindamo, Kathy Coup Marsteller, and Pat Herman Anderson share



Right, Howard Engle performs; left, Wayne Nichols, Marlys Langdon Rohrer, Tim Bathurst, Sheryl Guy McCosh, Pat Herman Anderson, Willa Thompson Danner, and Richard Romberger, all Class of 1963, reminisce. Below, right, Kaitlin Cole, pays tribute to her serviceman father.



Above, Sister of Hope perform; left, Faron Enger, shares her beautiful voice; below, Trudy Faulkner Pankratz visits with Jan Lambert Whaley and Cavin Lambert.



Left, Barry and Joe Stalder, Chapman, enjoyed the ice cream social and concert. Barry is a former teacher of Talmage Elementary.



These seniors once stood on this bridge, known as the senior bridge, when they were in high school. Pictured, l to r, Alfred Koelling, C'39; J.W. Romberger, C'36; Wayne Banks, C'42; Vivian Detrich, C'40.