

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

April 2020

<http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm>

MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the Brooks Historical Society and Depot Museum is to educate and stimulate an interest in and knowledge of the history of Brooks, Oregon, and the surrounding areas.

Check out the BHS
Facebook page.



The COVID-19 response has closed Powerland Heritage Park and Brooks Depot Museum indefinitely. But we can plan for better days! Here is our plan for June 20, 2020! Check our Facebook and website and the Powerland website for recent updates.

Brooks Historical Society's Annual Celebration Day Saturday, June 20, 2020

The theme of 2020 BHS celebration will be the Aftermath of the Great Willamette Flood of 1861. Featured will be living history portrayers Mark and Donna Hinds and Richard Cassidy. The Hinds will portray survivors of the flood trying to put their life back together. Mr. Cassidy will be in costume as George Pease, the steamboat captain who saved 40 lives during the flood. Reading a book excerpt about the flood will Roger Shipman, who edited his great great grandmother's book, "Into the Eye of the Setting Sun." The book will be available for sale after the program. Gates open at 9 am, coffee will be available at 9:30, and the program will start at 10 am and again at 1 pm. Lunch will be available from 12 to 1pm. Admission is free for this event.



Brooks Historical Update

Caboose Project: Paul Duchateau, Frank Cunningham, Mark Bennett and Dean Mickey worked on the caboose January 22. Under-siding, window placement and building wrap were placed on the east side of the caboose. Thank you.

Discovery Day On March 7, members toured the Silverton Museum, and were warmly received.

Birthday at the Capitol Frank, Vicki and Dan manned a table and handed out our button spinners, Oregon's state rock, the Thunderegg, and information about our June 20 event.

Highway 99E Then and Now

*A Review of Historical Changes from
North Salem to Woodburn by Dan Groah*

Some of us are old enough to remember Highway 99E before Interstate 5 was built. Over a half century ago, 99E, especially closer to Salem was called Portland Road, and for good reason. 99E was the main connection between all points south and the city of Portland. Can you imagine all of I-5 traffic on 99E today? Since the 1950s and the construction of I-5, there have been many changes along 99E.

My remembrance of 99E north of Salem began in the years following World War II. One example of this was an appliance store on the corner of Pine Street and Portland Road. It was and still is a low-slung building with a front that is all windows. In the early 1950s the store management displayed a new kind of household fixture, television sets. And they were left on in those windows 24 hours a day.



Many people did not have TV then. Some had never even seen one before. To get a clearer view of this new miracle, people would nose their cars right up to the windows where on the other side of the glass images in black and white would convey a whole new world. Sound didn't transfer through the glass but people were mesmerized anyway. In those days, the TV stations would sign off about 10 p.m. Returning home late at night, my father claimed he saw people still parked in front of the store watching the test pattern, a still picture put on the screen when the stations were off the air. The building is still there but the appliance store is long gone. The current business

is an automobile performance shop.

Driving north from Pine Street, the street dips under the Southern Pacific railroad underpass. On a rainy day, water accumulates in the upper structure and randomly falls as large drops. I can remember driving my 1949 Ford under there and experiencing these liquid missiles hitting my windshield. The same thing happens today. No change here.

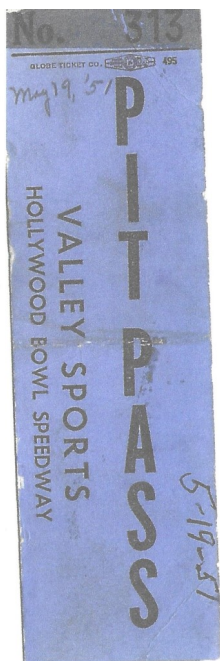
After clearing the underpass, you drive by a series of motels and restaurants, some dating back to pre-I-5 days. One of these restaurants was a drive-in, a recent adaptation to attract people in

their cars. On weekend evenings it attracted young people. Teens in their 50s and 60s cars, some hotrods with fast cam shafts and Laker exhaust pipes drove through Woodruffs Sandwich Shop to see who was there and who looked their way while young women on roller skates delivered burgers and fries. Hey! This was

"American Graffiti," and not in Merced or Modesto but right here in Salem. After the hotrod era cooled and the Woodruffs closed, the building became the Marion County ESD and is now a Hispanic shop at Portland Road and Carleton Street.

Continuing north past Frey Street and across from the Americold plant and behind the mini-mall was the Hollywood Bowl race-track. This was a quarter mile oval track where roadsters and midget race cars performed. Jack Griener raced here. As did Don Crockett. Paul Rickard was a timer and helped qualify racers. As north Salem grew around the track,





noise complaints started. The track shut down long ago. I don't know what's there now, probably houses.

I mentioned the mini-mall. At the north end of the mall for as long as I can remember, was a small myrtle wood shop. I bought unique Oregon gifts there to give to people when I traveled overseas. The shop is gone. It is now a tavern.

North beyond the I-5 interchange and at the intersection of Portland Road and

Hayesville Drive is Roth's food market. For many years this was Bill Frey's grocery store. Across Portland Road was the Green Apple fresh food market. The site is now the "Word of Life" church. And very close to here was Christenson's Country Kitchen Restaurant. It was famous for its chicken dinners.

Inside the intersection of Lancaster Drive and Portland Road is a Key Bank that was previously a bank with a Gervais connection. You can tell this because the front of the building was designed to look like the Sam Brown house of that area. Going north just past the 45th parallel sign and on the west side of 99E is Kale Farms, a landscaping company that used to be the Farley farm whose descendants include the Christofferson family.

Next at Hazel Green and 99E and on the northwest corner was the Chemawa School totem pole. Sadly, it's been gone for decades. The name did carry on for many years with the Totem Canopy business that was across the road. They are now gone replaced with a used car lot whose name does not include the totem name.

A short distance north and past the tavern on the right is Lake Labish. Also, on the right and at Lakeside Drive was the North Salem Drive-in movie theater. The entrance to Highway Fuel was also the way into the theater. Next to the theater was I believe, the original Salem Speed Shop. This was the age of crew cuts and hot cars.

Northward 99E passes Labish Village. And across the highway at Nevada Street is an old farmstead where the multi-storied house was recently torn down. However, the adjacent wind mill tower remains. Nearer Brooks and just past Quail Road is a distinct single-story house that belonged to Ronald Jones, an onion broker. As a kid, I looked forward to seeing Ronald's 1956 Mark II continental car in his driveway. I don't know who lives there now.

To be continued next issue- from Brooks on North to Woodburn.



Brooks Historical Society

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Brooks Historical Society

Membership

Adult Member ----- \$15.00
Student Membership ----- \$ 5.00
(Elementary and High School)
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Brooks, OR 97305

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BHS Officers and Board

President - Frank Cunningham

Vice-President - Dan Groah

Treasurer - Dorene Standish

Recording Secretary - Vicki Cunningham

Correspondence Secretary - Marilyn Barner

Board - Position 1- Louis Sowa

Position 2- Leah Duda

Position 3- Sharon Shelton

Position 4 - Carl Barner

Meetings

The Brooks Historical Society meets at the Brooks Depot Museum at 10 am the first Saturday of the month.

Directions to the museum at Powerland

Heritage Park: From I-5 - take Exit 263 -- go west approx. 1/4 mile to: Powerland Heritage Park, 3995 Brooklake Road, Brooks, OR 97303. We are in Building 6.

Interested in Powerland Heritage Park?

Visit antiquepowerland.com