

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

July 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.



Cruisin' Thru Powerland!

Brooks Historical Society and the other museums of Powerland Heritage Park are pleased to announce an alternate celebration of the innovations, stories, equipment and people that the Steam-Up honors, **Cruisin' Thru Powerland!**

During four glorious weekends this summer, guests will have the opportunity to wind thru Powerland's sixty-two acre campus and enjoy the sites and features the independent museums and organizations have to offer. Come take a drive with us and enjoy the sights of Oregon's early mechanical history from the comfort of your own car. Your gate fee of \$20 per vehicle will help ensure the future of the Great Oregon Steam-Up. We are thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity in a fun and safe manner. The July 4-5 exhibit was a lot of fun!

Join us these weekends: July 25 & 26, August 1 & 2, and August 22 & 23. Gates open 9am-5pm - bring the family - we have something everyone will enjoy!

Please note bathrooms are available throughout the route but not sanitized on

a regular schedule. Visitors must remain in vehicle at ALL times and follow the indicated one-way route through Powerland. Price is \$20 per vehicle, payable at the gate, with max 8 people.. Additional passengers are \$5 each.



Our BHS exhibit (below)

Built after Southern Pacific took over the Oregon and California Railroad line in Brooks, Oregon, the Depot building is about 112 years old.

During its life as an active depot, passengers depended on the Brooks Depot before the improvement of roads in the area. Freight shipments, including grain, celery, onions, apples and other food crops were vital to the economy of the area.



Highway 99E Then and Now

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

(Continued from the April 2020 Newsletter.)

On to Brooks. The older businesses like Ramp's store have given way to used cars sales and convenience stores. Ramp's store was also the 99E bus stop.



Today, there is still a bus that stops in Brooks, but of course not at Ramp's store. Brooks Hardware is still here but in a different location. The Brook Nook building still stands and after many different owners it is vacant. However, I hear there is hope. A new proprietor may be coming soon. Leaving Brooks, headed north, what was Bethel Park is on the left. The name has changed but it still a religious community. A little further on before the road dips down into a creek drainage and on the right was Mr. Ramp's harness racing oval track. I remember seeing him pacing his horse as he rode his two-wheeled sulky as I rode in the school bus on the way to Gervais High School. I think the track is now a grass seed field.

Going on, 99E intersects Waconda Road. To the left Waconda Road used to be a narrow- paved road about as wide as a single lane today. This was called the Jack Rabbit Highway. Today, eastbound Waconda road has two standard lanes. Next, on the right is Deweyville, which

was originally known as Manning Corner. Mr. Dewey came to the area in about 1947 and built a house and a Richfield service station and store. He decided that the community should be called Deweyville. Some folks wanted to name it after Mr. Sowa, but he declined and this small collection of businesses became Deweyville. It remains a small collection of businesses that have been here many decades. Some have died. Others have changed owners. And, of course, some are new. The café at the south end of Deweyville with its hard to miss buffalo statue did not survive. The Harchenko



agricultural air spraying business, while not real new, did replace the 1930's Stearman biplanes with more modern aircraft. Many was the morning that my alarm clock was the thunder of the rotary engine of a Stearman flying low over our house at 5 a.m. on its way to spray a nearby crop.

Next, 99E passes Wabash Road and comes to the intersection with Duck Inn Road. The early town of Waconda was here. Later a brewery was on the northeast corner. Nothing remains now but rubble. On the left, the old road from Gervais used to join 99E at a dangerous angle. That has been changed as has the name of the Checkerboard Tavern that sits near the intersection. Nearer the crossroads of 99E and the Mt. Angel

Highway on the west side of the highway was a safety rest area. This rest area closed and sold after I-5 came into being and many of the tall firs were cut. Interestingly, my Marion County road map I got from AAA has a copyright date of 2017 and still shows the Blue Star Safety Rest area here.

After the rest area, Mt Angel Highway crosses 99E with Gervais a quarter mile to the west and Mt. Angel miles to the east. Here on the southwest corner is the closed Fiber Fab Company. Back in the 1950's it was known for making fiberglass diving boards. Apparently, the company got in trouble with the EPA and the buildings are now vacant.



North again, and a short way on the right sits the 180 year old Brown house. Remember the bank front at the north end of Lancaster Drive? This house is one of the oldest structures in the Willamette Valley and it is still there, barely.

Onward once more to Boones Ferry Road where on the southwest corner of that intersection with 99E was a gas station with a bold sign that said "Hello World." Again, I saw this uplifting greeting every day on the bus to school. There is still a gas station there but the warm greeting in big letters is gone. Just a few hundred feet north on the right is Howell Prairie Road. This rural road served farms all the way

to Shaw. The farms are still there with the modern addition of Bauman's Country Market. Bauman's brings the city people out into the country much like the old Green Apple Market did north of Salem 80 years ago.

Lastly, as 99E approaches the Woodburn suburbs is a road sign on the left that identifies Belle Passi Road whose name is reminder of a long lost community much like the Waconda Road sign is a reminder of another pioneer town.



In Memoriam - Adele Egan 1925-2020

Adele Egan was one of the Charter members of Brooks Historical Society when it was founded in 1986. She helped bring the Brooks Depot to Powerland Heritage Park in 1989.



Serving often as an officer of the Society, Adele's ability to budget, plan, organize, file and research were valuable into her 90's. As secretary, she often used short-hand. Her energy also went in-

to our fundraising projects. She enjoyed sharing her knowledge with youngsters, and was highly involved in creating interesting and educational questions for children in the Steam-Up Passport Program. She was also a generous contributor to the Society and to Society projects such as the Farmhouse Museum, the French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden, and the Ca-boose project. Her legacy lives on.

Brooks Historical Society

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Brooks Historical Society

Membership

Adult Member ----- \$15.00
Student Membership ----- \$ 5.00
(Elementary and High School)
Business Membership ----- \$35.00
Donation ----- \$_____

Name:

Address:

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Checks should be written to:

Brooks Historical Society

Mail to:

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Brooks, OR 97305

Videos, Books, & Research Collections for

sale: Visit our website at [http://](http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm)

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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