

# BHS Newsletter

July 2022

<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.*

North Howell, Fairfield, Gervais, Quinaby, Waconda, Parkersville, St. Louis, Lake Labish

Check out the BHS Facebook page.



## Brooks Depot Museum Re-Opens



On Tuesday, June 14, Brooks Historical Society unveiled their updated freight room and new exhibits in the Brooks Depot Museum. Those involved with helping update the museum were especially invited, enjoyed a tour, conversation and light refreshments.

The process began when a committee began to examine existing exhibits and artifacts in late 2020. They wanted the museum to be inviting to visitors and new members, accessible, and tell the history unique to our area. After coming up with around 30 potential exhibits, they chose 6 for the current plan, with the idea that a few exhibits would be rotated each year.

The committee's museum plan was approved by the board in June 2021. Through the Mentor program of MentorCorp, a program of the Oregon Heritage Commission the exhibit committee signed on with a men-

tor, Sara Cantor. Sara is the Director of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Heritage Center & Province Archives in Marylhurst, Oregon. Throughout the ten-month mentorship, she provided advice on inventory, collections, and displays. Her final report included some glowing praise:

*".....Brooks Historical Society was several steps ahead of many organizations I have helped in that it had a few willing and capable volunteers, a collections committee that had committed to an exhibition plan, a healthy budget for implementation, and already recognized the importance of weeding out the collection and loans to better reflect its mission. Even more impressive, BHS followed best-practice protocol for the return of loans and deaccessions."*

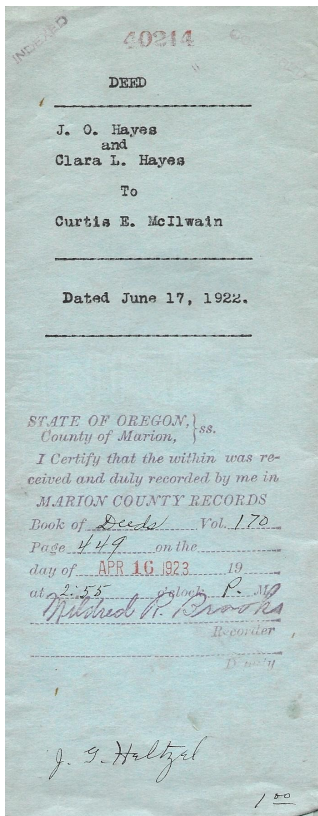
*"Touring the completed exhibit space, it was clear that BHS has taken itself from an old-school institution to the 21<sup>st</sup> century."*

Come by and see our updated museum. If you cannot visit in person, view the pictures on our Facebook page.



## The Hayes Family on Lake Labish *by Dan Groah*

This early family that came to Lake Labish was a huge influence on the development of tillable agricultural land and the expansion of new crops that would grow on that land. E.A. Hayes and J. O. Hayes drained Lake Labish in 1903 after having success in Wisconsin and Central California. The first major crop was potatoes which was irrigated by putting a dam on the Little Pudding River.



In 1922 J.O. Hayes son, Orlo came from California to manage what would become the Hayes Labish farms. Orlo may have done some re-consolidating of properties because a parcel just south of the quarter mile long bridge on Rambler Drive was sold to my great-grandfather, Curtis McIlwain by J.O. Hayes in that year. Orlo started raising peppermint and built a four pot still.

In 1925 Orlo returned to California with his wife Daphne (Evans) who was born in Brooks. E. A. Hayes son A.F. (Tody) Hayes replaced Orlo. Tody planted onions and began to improve the Oregon Yellow Danver variety.

In 1929 the Beechnut Gum Company signed a contract for peppermint oil at five dollars a pound for ten years. At the end of the year the great depression started and the price of mint oil dropped to fifty cents a pound nation-wide. However, the Beechnut Company honored their contract. This

money paid the wages of farm employees as most other crops were unprofitable.



In 1940 corn became a major crop. By 1943 a crate of corn sold for \$4.50. At the end of that year many farmers also planted corn. The next year the price fell to fifty cents a crate because of over production. Also, during these years of WWII, the Hayes farms started growing celery and lettuce which had been raised by the Japanese-American farmers before they were moved to the relocation camps. However, the Office of Price Administration put a cap of fifty cents a crate on this produce. It cost more than that to raise, so new crops were plowed under.

In 1946 the Lake Labish farm was broken up and sold to friends and employees. Before this time in 1935, Tody Hayes and Blain



*The Hayes house today*

Brown bought Wapato Lake near Gaston, Oregon. This was diked and drained and planted to onions. Around this time, Tody Hayes became unhappy with produce brokerages that would not always honor price contracts, so he formed the Labish Brokerage Company to get a good deal for onion farmers.

SOURCE: Jack Hayes in *The Sons Of Labish* book [The Pioneers of Lake Labish](#)

## Parkersville Cider Mill

*By Dan Groah*

Years ago, the Alfred Schaffer family operated a cider mill near where the Parkersville School is today. The family pressed their own apples but neighbors' apples were converted to apple juice also. Fermented apple juice became apple cider. Garry Jebousek thought the Schaffer family might have charged around eight cents a gallon to run neighbors' apples through the family press.



*At the Cider Mill L to R: Jenny Mc Dougal, Arlene Schaffer, George Richie, Ross McDougal, Jack Schaffer, Ellis McDougle, Alfred Schaffer*

The press could squeeze out twenty-five gallons at a time. Garry said that bees were a problem. Anyone who has seen decaying apples under a tree in the fall and the bees they attract could understand this.



There are many old apple trees in the mid-valley. Garry says his family has a hundred-year old apple tree. My grandfather planted an orchard with apple trees in the nineteen thirties but many have died in the last twenty years. I don't know what conditions

led to a century old apple tree. I do know that in my time, I have seen abandoned homesites with bare remnants of building next to vibrant orchard trees.

## Steam-Up News

The Great Oregon Steam-Up will be held July 30 and 31 and August 6 and 7. Come join us for a great family event that just won gold for "Best Annual Event" by Best of the Willamette Valley. The 2022 Steam-Up features Fire Apparatus.

There will be trains, trolleys, and steam powered tractors and machines. Youth passport, a tractor parade and kid tractor pulls will appeal to the younger set. A swap meet, flea market and souvenirs are offered for the shopper. And don't forget the delicious food.

Though Brooks Historical Society will not be selling food this year, tour our updated museum, and browse our **used book sale**. Once again we have over 1000 used books for you to browse and buy for bargain prices. A hardback is 50 cents and paperbacks are 25 cents, with discounts for bulk purchases, available on all open days.



## Upcoming Events

**July 30-31 and August 6-7**— Great Oregon Steam-Up

**August 13**—Capitol Area Mustang Show

**August 26, 27**—Pacific NW Truck Show

**September 18**—3rd Annual Oregon Classic/Antique Bicycle Swap Meet

**October 1**—Hops & Vines

**October 14, 15 & October 21 & 22 & October 23 & 29** Powerland Halloween. 11 am to 5 pm

**Dec 9, 10, 11 & 16, 17, 18**—Holiday Sparkles 5 pm to 8 pm

**Brooks Historical Society**

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Brooks, OR 97303

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9265  
Brooks, OR 97305



**Brooks Historical Society**

**Membership**

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

Name:

Address:

City/State/zip:

Phone

E-mail

*Checks should be written to:*

**Brooks Historical Society**

*Mail to:*

PO Box 9265

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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**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 NE, Brooks, OR 97303. We are in Building 6.

**Interested in Powerland Heritage Park?**  
Visit [antiquepowerland.com](http://antiquepowerland.com)