

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

April 2019

<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.



Celebrate Brooks History! Potluck June 15

The Brakeman is waiting to greet you in our newly designed Brooks railroad depot agent's office, as we celebrate Brooks History on Saturday, June 15 from 10 am to 3 pm. All are invited, including members of the community and surrounding area, members of our Powerland museum community and our own BHS members who have not been able to visit for a while. Come as you are but if you have it, 1900s period dress would be appropriate.

See how the Agent's office might have looked in 1910 as you left for your trip on a train. The office is newly repainted and re-designed due to the hard work of members Leah and Ed Duda.



Enjoy tours with a knowledgeable docent giving details about the artifacts.

Learn about the Brooks Garden Club, active in the 1950s.

We will bring out our local schools

collections, including yearbooks from Gervais High School from the 1920s to 2008. We would love additions to our collection. We also have information on the local grade schools, now gone due to consolidation, such as Parkersville, North Howell, Buena Crest, Eldriedge, Waconda, and Brooks.

See our relics of home life, and farm life in our museum. Browse through our family history collection and our histories of "ghost towns" in the area, now gone and nearly forgotten. Bring your own personal or school histories and community historical stories to share.

Inspect our progress on repairing our 1910 caboose, which will house our office and meeting room in the near future.

Tours of the Farmhouse museum nearby on the Powerland Heritage Park campus will also be available. Marvel at the detail of the realistic kitchen and living room from the early 1900s. The French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden should be in full bloom in June.

The event is 10 am to 3 pm with a potluck lunch at noon. Picnic ware, coffee, tea, and soft drinks will be provided.



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

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

Interested in Powerland Heritage Park?
Visit antiquepowerland.com

From *A Rural Education in
Hayesville, Oregon, 1927-
1934* by Alan Beers Smith

“Hayesville School was located in the Willamette Valley on the west side of Highway 99E, now known as Portland Road. It was approximately four miles north of the center of Salem, the state capital of Oregon.....

“Two miles north of the school was Lake Labish, a drained lake bed with rich, black “beaver dam” soil about five feet thick, below which was water. On this ideal location a colony of industrious Japanese truck gardeners raised the finest celery, lettuce, carrots and onions that I have ever seen. In the beginning, their children walked four to six miles to and from school each day. Needless to say, as soon as they were able to do so the boys rode bicycles. The girls either walked or, if lucky, rode on the back of some father’s truck as he took crates of vegetables to the early morning market in Salem.

These old flatbed Model-T Ford trucks



were often used to transport the Hayesville softball team to play at rival schools such as Keizer, Middle Grove or Hazel Green. Hazel Green, which was situated on the top of a hill, had the only ball dia-

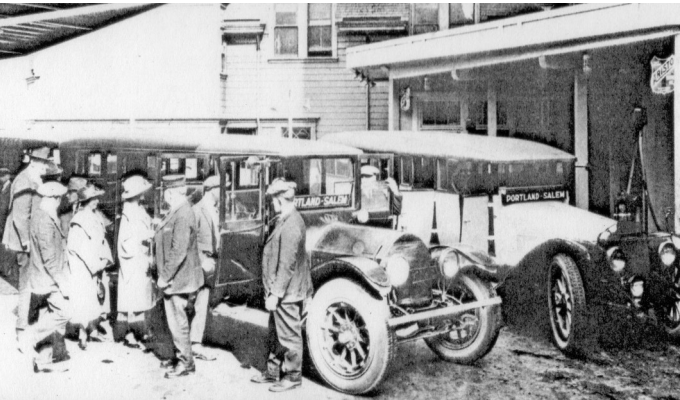
mond I have ever seen where if the right fielder failed to catch the ball promptly it would roll back down hill, in a road beside the school, until the fielder would have to make his throw from behind home plate. That is, he could make the throw if he caught up with the ball before it fell into the Pudding River which flowed past the foot of the hill behind the school house. Those Japanese farmers’ vegetable trucks also were often our means of transportation to outings and school picnics in Hazel Green Park on the Pudding River.

“Loaded trucks and heavy tractors, if the drivers were wise, kept to heavy plank roads on berms between the vegetable fields of Lake Labish. Otherwise they might bog down in the almost peat-like soil. Tractors on occasion were known to become hopelessly mired and to sink slowly out of sight into the water below. At the west end of Lake Labish the Southern Pacific Railroad crossed on a trestle bridge. Boys hoeing in the field to the east of the trestle would sometimes resurrect a wheel or some other part of a freight car that had jumped the track in an accident years before and that had disappeared below.

“Adjoining Lake Labish to the north was French Prairie, a farming are settled in the 1830’s by French Canadian fur trappers of the Hudson’s Bay Company. ...

“About a mile to the west of the school was the north-south line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Two miles to the west was the track of the Oregon Electric Railway. Its local freight trains would stop to pick up milk cans and other produce from platforms farmers had erected along the

way. The trains also contained one or two nearly empty passenger cars with woven-straw-backed seats. A passenger getting on in Salem could get off at a lean-to type shelter across the track from the small combined country store and post office at Claxter, or at the Chemawa Indian School which was two miles northwest of Hayesville. Such a journey to or from Salem was leisurely, and schedule and finances permitting, people usually preferred the Pickwick Stages, replaced sometime in the late 1920s by Greyhound busses. These ran along highway 99E, the main north-south road through the valley and would stop for passengers who waved them



down along the road.

“About three miles to the west of Highway 99E was the parallel River Road, which ran from Salem through the prune and walnut orchards around Keizer and the hop yards to its north. Five miles to the west was the Willamette River on which moved great log rafts enroute to sawmills and paper mills. Logging was a major industry in Oregon. Also, from time to time, paddle-wheel steamers carried freight and passengers between the falls at Oregon City and various up-river ports.”



Waiting for the Sun!

It is hard to believe that our museum has been on site for 30 years! In that time there has been some deterioration in the wood frame building, which we are determined to repair. Our first project is the south wall of the depot, which has some rotted window frames and weathered siding. We have purchased two new windows in period style and allotted some money for Hardie plank siding on the south side. Now we just need some fairly warm, not rainy weather to put it all together. Though it will be a great improvement, we plan that it will not change the period look of our building .

And in the Meantime

Work continues on refreshing some of our exhibits. The newly designed agent’s office has caused us to rethink a lot of our “furniture” and exhibit space, as well as our storage space. And, there is filing of some generously donated historic materials to be done. Our inventory of books and artifacts, last reviewed four years ago could definitely use some attention. Let Vicki Cunningham know if you could help and she will refer you to the right team. 503-390-6697.



Hops and Vines September 21

Sample fabulous wines, beers and brews during the Hops and Vines tasting celebration at Powerland Heritage Park, scheduled for September 21 from 11 am to 5 pm. Brooks Historical will be joining the celebration for the first time this year.

And this year, participating museums can share the profits **and you can get a price break** by signing up online, if you sign up using our discount code. Watch our Facebook page or visit us at the museum as our plans develop.