


Brooks Historical Society
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Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

April 2018, Volume II

<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.



“Historic Gervais” Day Features Gervais Author

The annual Brooks Historical Celebration Day 2018 celebrates “Historic Gervais,” June 16 from 10 to 3 pm.

David Espinoza, a '78 graduate of Gervais High School and author of several books, will talk about Gervais when he was growing up, and also offer a cultural perspective.



He will have his books available for sale and for signing. See his website at www.davidespi.com/

Other activities include presentations, exhibits, museum tours and a potluck lunch. BHS provides main dish, dessert, and drinks.

We have invited high school students in the area to participate in an essay contest for the event. **Essay contest entry forms and rules are available on our website.** On our Celebration Day, the essay contest \$100 first prize will be awarded.

We would also like to include more information about more recent Hispanic and Russian settlers. Contact Vicki Cunningham at 503-390-6697.

Visit Us at Oregon Ag Fest April 28 & 29

Brooks Historical will be part of the Oregon Ag Fest, Saturday and Sunday April 28 and 29, at the Salem State Fairgrounds.

Kids and adults can enjoy our mini-croquet course and try out our button game. We plan to have a portable pump organ that children can play. Look over books and displays representative of what we have in our museum, and exhibits by other museums at Powerland Heritage Park. The event is free for children 12 and under, with free parking at the Oregon State Fairgrounds.

Remodeling the Ticket Counter at the Museum

In our keeping with our efforts to restore the Brooks Depot to more nearly as it was at the turn of the century, members Leah and Ed Duda are replacing the ticket counter area between the former Agent's office and the public entry (now used as our Society office).



Office equipment and club meetings will be moved out to the Caboose, making room for these improvements. And, this gives us an opportunity to reorganize our exhibits.

Brooks Historical Society Membership

- Adult Member ----- \$15.00
 - Student Membership ----- \$ 5.00
(Elementary and High School)
 - Business Membership ----- \$35.00
 - Donation ----- \$_____
- (Donors eligible for Oregon's cultural trust tax credit. See culturaltrust.org for details)

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 - Gary Clement

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 powerlandheritagepark.com

Historic Gervais Ravaged Several Times by Fire

Join us for the BHS Historic Gervais celebration on June 16, 10 to 3 pm. Here is a taste of Gervais history, abridged from the City of Gervais Centennial Celebration booklet from 1978.

From the Woodburn Independent, **October 17, 1893:**

“The neighboring town of Gervais suffered from the effect of a severe fire, on Tuesday morning last, in which two business buildings were burned. The fire broke out at about 8 o'clock in Coleman and Goulet's general merchandise store and was first discovered by the printers in The Star office, which occupied the room over the store. They saw smoke coming through the floor and went to the stairway to investigate the cause, when flames burnt through, cutting off their return. There was no one in the store when the fire started.

“The fire communicated with the building adjoining on the south, which was occupied as a meat market and shoe shop, and the building was burned, the contents being removed and saved.

“The next building was the brick bank, which although it had long since served as a deposit for the finances of the town and neighborhood, was now an effectual barrier against further loss by fire. The Masonic Hall across the street, north from Coleman and Goulet's store came near burning, but was saved through strenuous efforts with the hand fire engine. At the time it was feared the whole town was in danger and Salem was telegraphed to for an engine, which was quickly responded to and the engine loaded on a car and ready to start when the order was countermanded as the fire was under control.”

A second fire on **August 17, 1894** was also reported in the Woodburn Independent:

“At 9:30 pm last Monday the old church bell in the Catholic church at this place that has rang on various occasions for the past 20 years sounded its ‘death knell’ by three short strokes of ‘fire, fire, fire’, and in a very short time our citizens and firemen responded to the call to save the Catholic church which was on fire. The people responded quickly but were useless to do any good. ... In two short hours the familiar sounds of the old bell were hushed in silence and the grand structure was a mass of ruin. Father Sommers became prostrated and was carried from the house in an unconscious condition. It was with difficulty that the residence of Mrs. Mitchell near by was saved....”

The worst fire in the town's history was on **October 9, 1902**. From the Woodburn Independent:

“What was two solid blocks of business houses in Gervais Sunday was a mass of smoking ruins Monday morning. With the exception of M S Pechner's store, W Scott Taylor's harness shop, city hall and the livery barn, the entire business portion of the town was destroyed by fire Sunday night.

“At a little past 10 o'clock that night a confectionary store in the south block was discovered on fire and an alarm was at once given. Strenuous efforts were made to extinguish the flames and check the spread of the conflagration, but on account of inferior facilities for fighting fire at hand, nothing could be accomplished in that direction... The water tower, built by the town for fire protection, was soon destroyed, the wells were insufficient to put out the fire, and the melting of the telegraph and telephone wires deprived the people of summoning assistance from the outside. The bucket brigade and the old pump, worked by men, women and children saved the hotel building which was several times ablaze, and thus prevented the spread of the flames to the residence district. The Southern Pacific passenger station was saved by J P Duncan and his force of Japs. (sic)”

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Discovery Days

Members enjoyed our two “Discovery Days” when BHS members and friends toured other museums. January saw us at the B-17 Alliance Museum at the Salem Airport.

In February, flint knapper Bill Stoddard showed us the traditional way to make arrowheads out of obsidian at the Woodburn Museum. Members enjoyed socializing and viewing others museums' history exhibits.



With Bill Stoddard at the Woodburn Museum.

The Caboose project:

A workday has been set for Saturday, May 12 at 9 am to replace the caboose siding. Come if you can, and bring hand tools. Contact is Paul Duchateau, 503-508-6108.

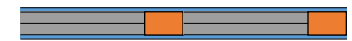


As the weather clears, we will construct a temporary ramp to the Caboose, and begin to work on the inside. BHS members agreed to make the outside of the caboose look as much as possible like a CBQ waycar (caboose), but the interior would be modified as necessary to make an office and storage and meeting space for the society.

Do You Like Books?

Enjoy our third annual BHS Used Book sale at most major Powerland Heritage Park events, as indicated on the schedule below. Extremely low prices and good selection.

Do you have books to donate to this event? We are especially looking for non-fiction on hobbies, cooking, sports, travel, etc, but are happy to accept any you have. Contact Leah at 503-951-9361.



Major Happenings at Powerland Heritage Park

BHS is open for major events at the Park. For details and updates see www.antiquepowerland.com/

May 19th - “Fun at the Park” with free admission and crafts for sale under the trees, All museums will be open 9 to 4. Lots of kids activities. *BHS Used Book Sale.*

June 16 - “Historic Gervais” see articles.

June 22 & 23 Friday and Saturday, 6 am to 6 pm - 38th Annual Antiques and Collectables Swap Meet. \$ 6 per person, 12 and under free. BHS Used Book sale all days. *BHS food vending, limited menu.*

June 24 - OVMM Annual Auction.

July 4-8 - Civil War Re-Enactment and Vintage Trailer Show. *BHS food vending, and Used Book Sale*

July 28 & 29 and August 4 & 5 - Great Orgon Steam-Up *BHS food vending (also on July 27), and Used Book Sale.*

August 25 & 26 Truck Show - BHS used book sale.

Sept 22 & 23 All Steamed Up Hops and Vines *BHS Schedule to come in next issue!*

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