Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

January 2015 Vol. I

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.

Farmhouse Annex News

The concrete at the Farmhouse has been poured for the handicap ramp, and the new flooring has been delivered, thanks in part to a grant to Brooks Historical Society. Once the flooring is in, the two-room period museum in the Farmhouse can be furnished. Many items have been purchased and borrowed. But we still need small items from the period 1900 to 1930 suitable for a kitchen and parlor: kitchen utensils, kerosene ceiling lamp, sink or counter, and small items in the parlor such as an area rug. If you have items to consider, call Dorene Standish, 503-393-2053.

Volunteers Needed

In keeping with our mission of preserving and passing on the history of Brooks, Brooks Historical could use some volunteers. Comfortable around computers? Perhaps you could scan historic documents. Love to interact with people? We train docents to show visitors around our museum. Contact Dorene Standish, 503-393-2053. Antique Powerland staff could use a volunteer to help with the Steam Up Swap Meet. Call Scott Smith 541-484-6844.

BHS Happenings

We are on TV! Silverton Union High School may broadcast edited videos from the BHS video team on Scan TV, a cable channel in Silverton. It allows students to show their editing work, while providing BHS with editing services on the videos we make of historic people and events in the community.

In our Nov. 1 annual meeting, current officers and board members were re-elected. See the box on the back page for a listing.

See you at the Ag Show! We share a booth with APMA on January 28-30 at the Portland Expo Center.

In Memoriam ...

Loren Grove Bosten - d. Nov.6, 2014.

Maxine Wargnier Hawks- d. Dec 23, 2014. Joined BHS in 2005, a key person for BHS fundraising.

tember 20, 2014. Past depot agent at the Brooks Depot when it was a working station. He was instrumental in moving the depot to Antique Powerland and in refurbishing the depot for use as a museum. He also donated many of our railroad related artifacts.

Deweyville

By Louis Sowa

I suspect many living or that have lived in the Brooks/Gervais area don't know how Deweyville came about.

First a little background. I understand that Harrison Jones owned the land around Deweyville in the 1930's. He donated the land that Pioneer school is on with the understanding that it would revert to the Joneses if it should ever not be used as a school, however that is another story.



Pioneer School Today

Harrison Jones sold the property from the railroad on the West to Pioneer school to the East to a man named Falker (I may have misspelled that name). I think it was Mr. Falker who built the original house on the East side of 99E intended for a hired farm couple. Mr. Falker lost three fingers in two separate incidents while mowing hay. I'm pretty sure this was a major factor in his desire to sell.

My parents, Louis and Evelyn Sowa

purchased the property, which included the hired couple's house on the East side the old barn in 1942. Louis and Evelyn Sowa made payments on the down payment until 1944 at which time we moved to the property on the East side.



Ramp/Jones House today

The property on the West side was divided up into smaller lots, I think by a developer. Carl Martin bought the largest piece which included the still existing Ramp/Jones house. Carl was a carpenter and built the Rose Motel north of the house. Later he sold most of his property and the house to Tim and Mary Deviney. The next piece to the North of the Martins was purchased by Lyle and Bertha Sartain.

The next piece to the Sartains on the North was purchased by Dewey. You may remember this story is about Deweyville. At that time the area was called Manning's Corner to which one could buy a Greyhound bus ticket. The bus stop was at the corner of 99E and Waconda Rd., then called the Jackrabbit Highway. I think once the Mannings lived in the house on the

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Southeast corner of this intersection (this house no longer exists). The predecessor for Pioneer School was the Manning school which was on the North East corner of 99E and Waconda Rd. Mr. Dewey built a small grocery store and Richfield gas station for his semi-retirement. He probably thought it might improve his business and maybe for ego to move the bus stop from Manning's Corner to his property.



The Deweyville Grocery Store is now J. Ruiz Farm Labor

Someone in the community said it should be named after my dad since we were then the longest resident there. My dad said there was already a prominent Louisville, so didn't think there needed to be another. So Mr. Dewey applied to the County for the name change and got it. So that is the story of Deweyville.

A little information about Mr. Dewey (I don't know his first name). He was a fairly large man and had a 'wooden' right leg. He said he smuggled illegal alcohol in that leg during prohibition. He seemed very old but may not have been 80. He shoveled grain for us and was quite strong. He spread gravel with a wooden drag which he pulled with a harness

that he had made. One very hot summer day he had gravel delivered and was spreading it with his spreading device and had a heart attack and died on the spot. He was a pretty imposing character but we could charge at the store and he kept account on a piece of paper under the counter. He had a service station in Salem prior to Deweyville. A granddaughter still lives in the area, Oregon City.

Dean Martindale bought the property next and ran it for several more years until he retired and moved to Woodburn. I did not live in the area after the Martindale's moved so don't know the more recent history.

My disclaimer is that I write this from memory, but do believe this story has a close resemblance to the facts.



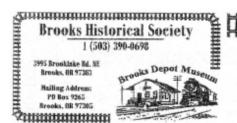
The Buffalo Café and Curios

from the 50's and 60's on the east side of 99E was the site of the former restaurant at Deweyville.



Welcome New Members!

Tamara Voget Solem, Robert Albright, Larry Siegner, Louise Clements and Greg Bennett.



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 - Louis Sowa

Vice-President - Bob Brown

Treasurer - Dorene Standish

Recording Secretary - Vicki Cunningham

Correspondence Secretary - Texie Lou Hilyer Price

Board - Position 1- Mary Ray

Position 2- Leah Duda

Position 3- Marilyn Barner

Position 4 - Dan Groah

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 Antique Powerland:

From I-5 - take Exit 263 -- go west approx. 1/4 mile to: Antique Powerland, 3995 Brooklake Road, Brooks, OR 97303

Interested in Antique Powerland? Visit antiquepowerland.com