

## Brooks Historical Society

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Brooks, OR 97303

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9265  
Brooks, OR 97305



# Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

**2007 Vol. 1**

**"PRESERVE to ENLIGHTEN"**

Brooks Historical Society  
Established 1986

We gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of Brooks and neighboring communities having natural, economical and cultural affinity

## Pioneer Family Of the Year 2007

### The Blanton Family

The Pioneer family Blanton connects to multiple families of the area. We would like you to contact as many people as possible who would like to share their Histories. We need pictures. Family stories or what ever you would consider sharing. Some



names that connect are: McClaughry-Russell-Jones-Harris Please contact 503-393-2053 or 503-393-1711 if you have questions? There will be a Recognition Ceremony this summer to honor the Blanton Families, Date will be announced later.



## Quilt Raffle

This quilt is several colors of green  
(can be seen at the museum)



Tickets for the quilt are being sold at Brooks Historical Society, where you can see it. This is a hand made quilt made by a member of the Museum. Size -King Size- Tickets are \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00 For tickets call 503-393-2053 or 503-393-1711 or write BHS PO Box 9265 Brooks, Oregon 97305

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR NEXT MEETING MARCH 3, 2007**

## The Museum

The Brooks Historical Society is housed in the Old Brooks Train Depot on property owned by Antique Powerland. maintaining the collections has become more of a challenge due to high costs of heating. We must maintain as even a temperature as possible. We house many books, files and artifacts which we wish to keep preserved. We need volunteers at the museum, people who can make the time to come here. Special projects are always going on. Staffing the Museum is important to treasure hunters as well as people looking for information on our founding fathers of the French Prairiewhich includes Brooks, Gervais, North Howell, Parkersville, Hopemere, St Louis, Mission bottom, Fairfield and more.

## 2007 Ag Show at Portland EXPO

Thanks to al who volunteered working the Brooks Historical Society Booth.

Volunteers included:

Carl and Marilyn Barner

Aunt Kay

Marie Madson

Louis Sowa

Bev and Paul Singer

Ellen and Odin Hollin

Karen Hughs

Kent and Joe Hynes

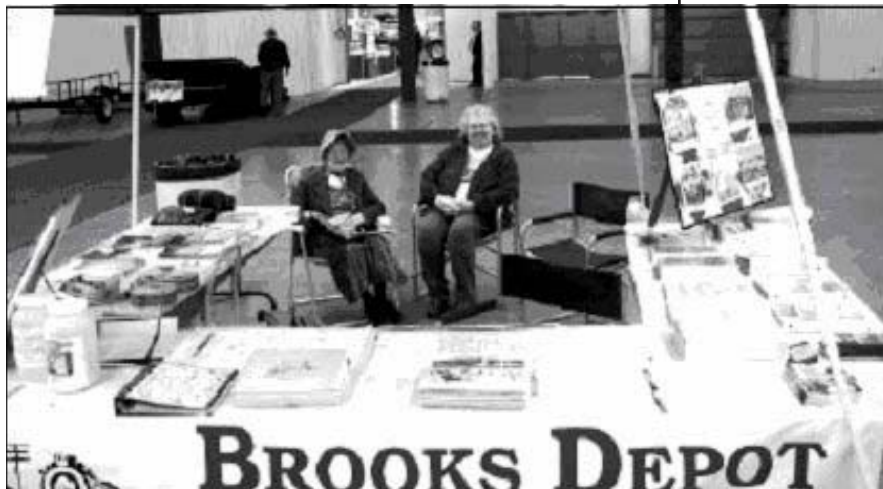
Robin Reed

Dakota Koenig

Frank Cunningham

Adele Egam and Dorene Standish

Your work is much appreciated.



## The 2007 Iris Festival in Keizer is coming up

May 18-20

We need volunteers to work in our booth



## The Sons of Labish have published their second book

**Titled: *Lake Labish***

***Early Land Owners & Events***

The book can be purchased through the  
Brooks Historical Society

Phone 503-393-2053 or 503-393-1711

## Dan the fence man

Dan Gibson was a very well liked man in the community, outgoing personality, loving husband and Father. Some of the Brooks locals remember him as “Dan the fence man” He is truly missed. by President June Smith

## Shipping Wheat

Wheat, the Willamette Valley cash crop, went to market by boat. First there were canoes, then flatboats.

In 1851 steamboats were built above Willamette Falls. Fairfield was a major landing where there were warehouses for storage. Steamboats lasted into the 20th Century but faded after the O & C. Railroad came through the valley in 1870.

# In Memory of Members of our Community

## William F. Koenig

February 6, 1924 - December 31, 2004

GERVAIS - Born in Berlin, Ore., William lived in Tillamook before moving to Gervais where he lived most of his life.

He served in the US Army during WWII and was married to Margaret Keene on June 19, 1947 in St. Louis, Ore. He owned the Koenig Building Company.

He served as a volunteer fireman for the Waconda area for 50 years. He was a member of the St. Louis Catholic Church.



## Earl Albert Cuff

October 29, 1937 - March 18, 2006

KEIZER - Born October 29, 1937 in Markum, Wash., died March 18, 2006 in Keizer, Ore. Worked his entire life in agricultural related business. Owned and operated Earl's Spray Service with his wife Margaret for 25 years in the Brooks area. Loved to fish and hunt. He was preceded in death by his son, Kevin; brother, Roy; father, Albert 'Bert'; and mother, Martha.

## Leoda (Cutsinger) Steele

July 19, 1953 - May 24, 2006

COTTAGE GROVE - After a five-year battle with cancer and many other illness, God called her Home!

She graduated from McNary High School in 1971. After her children were grown, she graduated from Roseburg Community College Nursing School in 1994.

There never was a more loving daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother. Her family was everything to her. She loved traveling and camping with her family!

## Elmer A. McClaughry

April 22, 1918 - June 1, 2006-

Elmer A. McClaughry, 88, was born in Salem, Oregon to Ora and Charlotte. He married the love of his life, Celia Jefferson on February 5, 1939; they were together for 57 years. He farmed onions in the Labish area all of his life, retiring in 1991 to take care of Celia.

The family historian, he encouraged families to write their history. Elmer was a charter member with Brooks RFPD and served as volunteer fireman for 20 years. He was a pioneer of the Sons of Labish and was honored as Man of the Year in 2003.

## Tatsuro Yada

Jane 8, 1916 - March 9, 2003

SALEM - Tatsuro Yada died at the age of 86 on Sun., March 9. Born in Portland. Mr. Yada moved with his family to the Lake Labish area at the age of two. He attended Lake Labish school, and Salem High School, where he was awarded the title of Oregon Heavyweight Wrestling Champion in 1933. He graduated from Willamette University in 1938. During WWII, Mr. Yada was sent to the Tule Lake Internment Camp for several months, before being permitted to take a job in Lincoln, Neb. In 1946, he married Masako Onishi and they settled on the family farm in Brooks. He retired in 1981.

## Annabell Catherine Prantl

July 1, 1922 - October 26, 2006

GERVAIS - Annabell Catherine Prantl passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, October 26, 2006. She was 84. Annabell was born in Sheridan, Ore. to Steven and Anna Hermle. Annabell was an avid historian and writer, who self-published two books: *The Gold on the Rubbery*, (1994), and *A Time of New Beginnings*, (2001).

## Elmer 'Ray' Cutsinger

October 4, 1923 - May 17, 2006

SALEM - Ray was born on October 4, 1923 to Charles R. and Augusta (Hahn) Cutsinger in Deer Park, Washington. He moved to the Salem area in 1924 and attended grade school in Brooks. He attended Leslie Junior High and North Salem High School. He served in World War 11 in the Army Air Force earning the Distinguished Flying Cross plus other air medals.

## Ruth Mae Henny

August 12, 1917 - November 24, 2006

PORTLAND - Grandma Ruthie, as she was affectionately called by her 6 grandchildren and 3.5 great-grandchildren, was born and raised in Pratum, Ore. After high school, Ruth attended Willamette University, and in 1939 she married Bob Nelson and moved to Portland, Ore.

Shortly after retirement, Ruth married Frank Henny, moved to Brooks and generally carried on with the art of living and her fondness for golf.

## Ruth Virginia Evans

September 12, 191 - November 27, 2006

BROOKS - Ruth Virginia Evans was born in Salem, Ore. to Jesse and Barbara Arnold, living in Jefferson 6 years then moving with her parents to Salem. Ruth loved the outdoors and athletics, holding a basketball record at Salem High School. She was a member of Mazama hiking climbing club, and hiked to the top of Mt. Hood. Ruth had a sense of adventure that she passed on to her daughters.

Her caring and generosity extended from furnishing school supplies to less fortunate children, taking a neighbor child clothes shopping when they were lost in a fire, and giving rides to a local who looked 'different.' She married 'Oz' Oscar Evans in December 1940, giving each other shotguns as wedding gifts, the story is that Oz was late to their wedding because the ducks were flying. Their first home was in West Salem before building in the North Howell area, eventually returning to Brooks

## Daniel Clovis Gibson

February 16, 1978 - December 30, 2006

SALEM - Born to Roger and June Gibson in Portland, Ore. He lived in Salem until 1988, then moved to the Gervais area. He attended Gervais High School. He was a wrestler there for 3 years and took 1st in State in 1995. He graduated in 1996. After high school he married his high school sweetheart in 1997 and had two children. He worked for Duty Fence Co. for 11 years then started his own mechanic business this year. But he was a man of all trades that helped anyone in need day or night. He had a race car that he shared with a Buddy of his that they raced every weekend in the summer from 1999-2002. His passion was his Harley Davidson, Yamaha Banshee, Chevy Nova and Paragliding.

## Other Deaths (Obituaries on file):

John Paul Berning 1922-2005  
Victor A. Berning 1931-2006  
Iris Mae Royston 1931-2005  
Howard Matlock 1926-2006  
Dorothy Veteto Wall 1919- 2006  
Harold Hannegan 1916-2006  
Harvey Leon Lea 1938-2006  
Clayton C. Koehler 1919-2005  
Oren Glen Sturgis 1919-2006  
Gustina Sturgis 2006  
Ida Alice (Dungey) Leshner 1921-2005  
Pete Joseph Miller 1908-2006  
Dorothy Bosch 1932-2005  
Luella Martel 1927-2006  
Cecil Sowa 1913-  
Mae Belle McElwain 1922-2006  
Joe Koenig 1948-2006  
Phillip Koenig 1955-2006  
Ruth Mae Henny 1917-2006  
Joseph L. Henny 1918-2006

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The objective of the Brooks Historical Society and Depot Museum is to be educational, to stimulate an interest in, and a knowledge of, the history of Brooks, Oregon, and the surrounding area.

**2007 Membership Application**

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Membership	\$12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (Elementary and High School )	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership	\$30.00
Donation	\$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks can be written to BHS.**  
**Mail to: PO Box 9265**  
**Brooks, OR 97305**

**OFFICERS and BOARD**

President - June Smith  
Vice-President - Frank Cunningham  
Treasurer - Dorene Standish  
Secretary - Adele Egan  
Correspondence Secretary -  
Marilyn Schlechter Barner  
Board - Kay White  
Bev Cuff Singer  
Ray Smith  
RaVerta Corbett

**MEETINGS**

The Brooks Historical Society meets at the Brooks Depot Museum at 10AM 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.