



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)
[www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/](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, Brooks, OR 97303

Interested in Powerland Heritage Park?
Visit antiquepowerland.com

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

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<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.



Grants Awarded

Three museums at Powerland received grant awards from the Marion Cultural Development Corporation, which awards grants from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Receiving the grants at the January 10, 2019 awards ceremony were Brooks Historical Society, the Oregon Electric Railroad Historical Society, and the Oregon Fire Service Museum Memorial and Learning Center.

Photo

Standing - Frank Cunningham-BHS, Gene Fabryka- OERRHS
Seated- Vicki Cunningham-BHS, Vicki Fabryka-OERRHS, Jim Tormey and Shirley Tormey- OFSMM&LC



The Brooks Historical grant award will be used toward repair the exterior of our 1911 CBQ Waycar (caboose). We also have over \$2,000 in donations toward the repair. We intend to use the caboose as an office and meeting room, freeing up the customer area of the depot, so that it may be restored more nearly like it was in 1900.

Donations toward repair of CB&Q 14411 are gratefully received. Use the address on the back of this newsletter

Results of the BHS Annual Meeting -November 3

The BHS annual meeting was held November 3 at the Masonic Lodge in Brooks.

Some last-minute changes were made in the slate of officers with approval by the old and new candidates. Elected by unanimous vote were the following

- President – Frank Cunningham
- Vice-President – Dan Groah
- Treasurer- Dorene Standish
- Recording Secretary – Vicki Cunningham
- Corresponding Secretary – Marilyn Barner
- Director 1 - Louis Sowa 2019-2021
- Director 4 – Carl Barner 2019-2021

Continuing Directors:

- Director 2 – Leah Duda 2018-2020
- Director 3 – Sharon Shelton 2017-2019

Brooks, Oregon in 1910

Brooks Depot Museum *Exhibits* indicated by **bold italic**—and there are many more! Come see us!

By 1910, **Brooks had a Railroad Depot, a Post Office, 3 churches, a grocery store, a junk yard, 2 hotels and 2 sawmills.** As automobiles were just beginning to be introduced, roads were primitive. Most of the businesses were along the railroad track, the principal means of transportation, besides horse and wagon. Electricity was being introduced into some urban homes, but rural Oregon homes had no electricity yet. **So wood stoves, ice boxes, hand powered butter churns, and foot powered organs and sewing machines** were common. Telephones were more common in urban areas. A **1913 Telephone Directory** proudly boasts 51,214 telephones listed in Portland, Oregon City and Salem.

Brooks was described as “a station on the Southern Pacific Line at the end of the famed French Prairie, 8 miles N of Salem and 6 miles west of Wheatland, the nearest (Willamette) River landing.



Though the first school had been built by Linus Brooks in the 1850’s, students now enjoyed **the second Brooks school,**

which was built in 1890, and was a short walk for Brooks students. (The first Brooks school is now a museum in Bethel Park, two blocks north of the Brooklake Road and Hwy 99 intersection.) Other rural schools popped up within walking distance for children in the area. Children sat two by two in **wooden desks** with wrought iron frames.

Farmers made up about 31% of the total US population of about 92 million, but Brooks was decidedly rural. In 1912 the nearby **boggy Lake Labish** was drained and onions were being produced on 1400 acres and shipped by train along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California. The **onions and other crops** such as vegetable seed were housed in former grain warehouses along about a quarter mile of the railroad track. Also along the railroad track was the **first Brooks Post Office,** just recently moved to a separate building from its home in the **Brooks Railroad Depot.**



Also near the railroad track was the Catholic Church of the Assumption and Parsonage, where the **Rev. Father George Schoener was hybridizing roses,** for which he later became world famous. A story is told that the passenger train to Salem would stop for 10 minutes during

the blooming season to allow the passengers to stroll by the gardens and enjoy the roses, then continue their trip. Many families treasured their own **historic roses** with their own family stories.

The **Ramp family** was a prominent Brooks family in these days. Mrs. Mary Ramp became a life member of the Oregon Women’s Christian Temperance Union, and had a **fine certificate** to display to prove it.

Home life did not include TV or even radio, as regular broadcasts, and even electricity for homes, was still several years away. Many learned to play **the piano** or a **foot pump organ,** and people would gather around and sing the popular songs of the time; “In the Good Ol Summer-time,” “By the Light of the Silvery Moon,” “Sweet Adeline.” “Ida, Sweet as Apple Cider,” and “In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree.” A **hand-cranked phonograph** could also provide popular songs such as “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” “Down by the Old Mill Stream,” and “Tiger Rag.” Families would play lawn tennis or **croquet.** Leisure time could be spent in **needlework,** sewing (with a **treadle machine**), or reading.

Zippers and brassieres were not invented until about 1913 so men relied on buttons and women on corsets until then. By 1900, women were wearing at-home gowns, sometimes called tea gowns, with minimal corseting and a long, slim shape. Between 1908 and the end of the 1920s, the tubular silhouette, with its emphasis on slimness and the natural motion of the body, remained fashionable. But a “short” gown was still one that showed your shoes.



Your Dues are Due!

If you have not already, please pay your dues for 2019 BHS Memberships soon as possible. See the back page regarding your membership dues amounts, and how to remit. Thanks for your support!

The tax deductible portion of your dues qualifies as a donation and makes you eligible for the **cultural tax credit.** You can donate, and then double your gift for free by making a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust and claiming a cultural tax credit on your Oregon income taxes. Donate at culturaltrust.org or by mail.

Looking Ahead

- April 1. - Powerland Heritage Park opens for visitors
- May 18 - S.T.E.A.M.ED Up with Kids - hands on family activities involving Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.
- June 8-9 - Japanese Vintage Vehicles
- June 15 -Brooks Historical presents French Prairie Days
- June 15 - NW Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum Rendezvous
- June 21-22 - Antiques and Collectibles Swap Meet **Also Brooks Historical begins their annual Used Book Sale!**
- July 1-July 7 - All American Vintage Trailer Rally
- July 4- July 7 - Civil War Reenactment
- July 27-28 & August 3-4 - Great Oregon Steam-Up



Even more events and information, are on the Powerland Heritage Park wesite.
<http://powerlandheritagepark.com/>