

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

January 2010 Vol. 1

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

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

Happy New Year

Membership dues are being accepted as well as some donations. We appreciate the membership support. Dues are what helps keep our Museum open. Maybe if you have a small photo of the museum add to this message.

Brooks Catholic Cemetery

Located on Brooklake Rd is now under new ownership. A group has formed an association that oversees the running of the Cemetery. A new Cross was donated to replace the one which stood in the center of the Cemetery in the 1940s. Also a kiosk and sign was donated by a member. Take a drive down and take a look at the beautiful Historic site once owned by a Brooks pioneer family, Edward LaFlemme. There is much history in the Brooks Museum on the family as well.

Information and questions contact 503-393-2053 or go to our web page a link off Oregon Pioneers.com.

2010 NW Ag Show

Our Museum will be represented in Portland at the EXPO Center January 27, 28 and 29th. We are part of Antique Powerland one of 15 Museums. There will be a huge variety of antique cars, tractors, truck and so much more. A variety of artifacts, some never seen at Powerland before. This will give you an overview of the large site

and exhibits in Brooks. Antique Powerland will be housed in Exhibit Hall C. Please promote this show if possible and stop by your Museum booth.



American Flyer Train At Brooks Depot Museum

Alfred Carlton Gilbert

Was born Feb. 13, 1884 in Salem, Oregon. He was an Athlete, inventor, toy-maker and businessman. Alfred attended schools in Salem, Pacific University. 1913 ran the A.C. Gilbert Co. During World War I in 1918 a ban was put on toy making. In 1938 he acquired rights to the American Flyer toy train line from W.O. Coleman moving from Chicago to New Haven. He adopted the 3/16 scale for this train line while keeping the three-rail O-gauge track now associated with Lionel. Gilbert was lauded for his strict adherence to scale realism; making the American Flyer trains look more real and less toy-like. Upon his retirement in 1954, his son took over the business.



Come visit our **Brooks Depot Museum** and look at our newly acquired American Flyer O gauge, Toy trains donated by The Bob Brown family. Bob had played with these rare toy trains as a youngster and now are for the enjoyment of generations to come. A museum in Gilberts birthplace Salem, Oregon, A.C. Gilbert Discovery Village, is named in his honor.



Brooks Area Location Project

Brooks location project-Can you remember or help- we are trying to put together a map that will include Route 1, Brooks, Oregon—As well as any buildings that were at past locations and are no longer there. If you lived on the route when each house had a rural route box number rather than a street address where did you fit on our map and who might have been your neighbor and their box number back in the early 1950's (earlier or later too.). EX: Jones/Manning School, Parkersville Hotel -Ramp Markets-Churches of Brooks- Anyone who can remember please contact BHS-503-390-0698

Site Meeting January 5, 2010 Notes

- 1- Fees for camping
- 2- No early set up before Thurs and Friday
- 3- Steam Up entrance not before Thursday
- 4- Drainage having issues with the French Drain
- 5- New house to replace caretakers is moving forward, will be modeled after 20s and 30s style
- 6- Boy Scouts, about 800 on grounds
May 14-15 and 16
- 7- Landscaping project moving forward
- 8- Steam Up for 2010 will be 40th year at Powerland International is the theme
- 9- Billboard or Advertisements discussed
- 10- Jan 19, next Board of Governors
- 11- August 13 and 14 Sac mini rail group will be hosted by Willow Creek
- 12- Security- quite lengthy discussion, lock down property at 10 pm, card lock, of immediate attention lighting repaired and added to the site, especially on the West side.

Antique Powerland Reaches 40

The significance of this year for Antique Powerland is that it is the 40th year and the twentieth year since the dedication of the Depot on the Power Land Grounds.

The Historical Society began with an Eighth Grade History Project in Brooks, Oregon in 1985, and was chartered in March of '86. The Brooks Rail Road Depot was offered in 1988. In April of '89 the offer of donation was accepted and moved as a donation by Rainbow moving company on August 20, 1989. The shop class from Gervais High School had built the forms for the foundation and Ross Brothers hauled the concrete. After the building sat in a state of disrepair The WAPI group enlisted the aid of The Trolley clubs and Greg Bonn with John Nagy and his wife stepped up and started replacing rotten wood and making the place usable. Various member clubs and personnel assisted them. I did not get all the names but Harvey Hilands and Les Layton were on the top of the list. These folks worked through the winter getting electrical permits and wiring, putting the windows in and much more. Later Greg Bonn installed the heating system.

The original understanding was that the Depot was to be used jointly with the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society and they did keep many Items on display for several years. We owe a lot of thanks to these clubs and people.....



Health Notes: Phyllis is not driving and gave her car away. Lena is going in for breast cancer, Adele needs a new hip, and so does Frank Cunningham, Dorene needs new knees. George needs new ears. These golden years are getting rusty.

THE BEERS HOUSE

The Brooks Historical Society is the recipient of a very old picture of the historic Beers House, which was from the sale of the Paul Witteman farm on Wheatland Road N. This is a treasured artifact as the Beers Family played an important role in the beginnings of the Euro-American settling in the Willamette Valley and the forming of a new government.

Alanson Beers, his wife and three children were members of the First Reinforcement to the Methodist Mission established by Rev. Jason Lee in 1834. A Blacksmith by trade, he was a lay worker. They arrived on the brig Diana in 1837. Rachel brought a cutting of her favorite rose. She was the first American white woman in the Willamette Valley.

After the second reinforcement came by ship in September of 1837, new buildings including a granary, blacksmith shops and the doctor's residence and hospital were constructed, one mile south of the mission and on higher ground.

In 1841 the Mission moved to what is now Salem and Alanson Beers purchased the Mission Farm claim, including the granary, hospital and blacksmith shops.

The Granary for the Mission Farm was prominent in early Oregon history. It was an integral factor in the first Missionary establishment, and early development of agriculture in the Willamette Valley. It is especially important because the first Legislative committee held their meetings there. It was also used as a schoolhouse and church from time to time.

The Board of Missions sent Rev. George Gary to replace Jason Lee as Superintendent of the Oregon Missions. In 1844 Rev. Gary sold the mission farm, granary, hospital, smithy and one log cabin to Alanson Beers. The Beers DLC was a special grant to protect his property rights acquired from the Methodist Mission. The hospital site had been surveyed by Jessie Applegate in 1843.

Rachel Beers died in 1848. When Alanson Beers died in 1853, he left seven orphaned children. Although Alanson was a very wealthy man with business interests throughout the valley, his children were left penniless as the administrator of the estate was converting the property to his own use. After a two-year court battle, the Mission Farm was the only asset left for the Beers children.

Oliver Beers, one of the seven-orphaned children of Alanson Beers, started farming the home place at 16 and at 24 bought out his siblings' interests in the farm.

He married Margaret Meyers in 1870 and then he built the existing house over the hospital site. This was also in the 1870s. There had been considerable damage to the place in the 1861 flood. Rachel's rose, now known as The Mission Rose, still blooms by the old home.



Picture is Paul Witteman on the front porch of his house 10602 Wheatland Rd N talking to a group historians during the Mission Bottom

Memorial Remembrances

Fred Pugh
Edna LaFlemme(Granner)
Rudy Austad
Merle Hap Hampton
Bob Appledoorn
Connie Uppendahl
Jim Manning



Brooks Historical Society

1 (503) 390-0698

3995 Brooklake Rd. NE
Brooks, OR 97303

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9265
Brooks, OR 97305



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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Adult Member ----- \$12.00

Student Membership ----- \$ 5.00

(Elementary and High School)

Business Membership ----- \$30.00

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**

OFFICERS and BOARD

President - Larry Leek

Vice-President - Louis Sowa

Treasurer - June Smith

Recording Secretary - Dorene Standish

Correspondence Secretary - Texie Lou Price

Board - Position 1 - Bob Brown

Position 2- Ray Smith

Position 3 - Frank Cunningham

Position 4 - Dean Cuff

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