

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

July 2017, Vol III

<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.



Civil War Re-Enactment/Vintage Trailer

Brooks Historical moved their food vending tent to the west side of Powerland Heritage Park to be near the action at the Civil War Re-Enactment July 1, 2, 3 and 4. Members were able to break away to observe the re-enactment.

We enjoyed serving the Vintage Trailer club members who had parked their exquisitely restored trailers under the trees in the "Infield," as well as the army and camp members who strolled about in period dress during the event. We even had a "ride-in" request for a donut by a cavalryman on a horse!



The Union Army marches by our tent.

Brooks Historical Society Schedule

Can you help us out for 4 hours or more at the museum or in the food vending tent in exchange for free admission to an event at Powerland Heritage Park? There is always so much going on, and so much to see!

Here is our schedule for the remainder of 2017:

July 29 and 30 and August 5 and 6 ---

Great Oregon Steam-Up. We will be selling our famous breakfast, snack and lunch menu items, and a huge variety of used books, all for incredibly reasonable prices. Plus the Kids Passport program directs crowds of curious kids to our museum with their parents, requiring at least 2 docents at all times.

August 18, 19, 20, 21 Great Oregon Solar Eclipse Camp Out. At this time we are just looking for docents for the museum from 9 am to 4 pm each day.

August 25 and 26 – Pacific NW Truck Museum Truck Show. Again, we will be selling breakfast, snack, and lunch menu items, and opening our museum to visitors.

Call Dorene Standish at 503-393-2053 to join us.



"If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten."

— Rudyard Kipling, *The Collected Works*

Brooks Then and Now: Entertainment

Historically, people worked hard in Brooks, as they do today. They also took time out to enjoy themselves. How people had fun nearly a century ago and today has changed with innovations in communications and transportation.

Entertainment before and after the turn of the 20th century was largely centered around social events. These took place in homes, the schools, churches, the grange, and businesses.

Some examples for 1901, gleaned from the Gervais Star newspaper:

April 18 – a community party for the Finney family.

May 3 -found men and women preparing May baskets to place at sweethearts' doors after dark.

May 10 - There was an ice cream social at Perkins school.

May 31 - There was a dance at the hotel.

April 19 - The Evangelical Church sponsored entertainment that included solos by Mrs. Dorcus and Albert Egan, and performances by the Mission Bottom Quartette.

In the first decade of the 20th century, the Brooks Grange held Strawberry Festivals. On January 1, 1909, a skating rink opened in the hall above the Ramp Store.



And, in the first decades of the 20th century there were many gatherings of these groups; The Garden Club, the Ladies Aid Society, Sunday School entertainment, Brooks Community Club, quilting parties, old fashioned tent meetings, and old-time dances.

There were Halloween parties, Easter egg hunts and 4-H lawn parties at the school.

There were other outdoor activities: on June 12, 1909 PH Fitzgerald and J. W. Knight went fishing on Labish Lake.

Then there was baseball. On April 4, 1924, the Hopmere Colts played the Salem Yeoman with Mike Ramp as umpire.



In the 1920's and 1930's cars began to influence spare time. Families took drives into the country after church. Some visited family on a weekend as far away as Portland. The Brook Nook (now Iggy's Bar and Grill) became a gathering place, serving food and spirits. It was remembered that there was illegal gambling and lady escorts. It was also remembered that there was a lookout in the upper story to watch for the law.

World War II added activities. Brooks School children did programs to benefit the Red Cross. Parties were held to gather scrap iron.

After the war, the number of social events became fewer or changed, as people took their entertainment from radio, television and movies.

Some movies were viewed from cars. Perhaps you remember the North Salem Drive-In located along 99E in the Lake Labish area. Drive-ins were not as comfortable as a walk-in movie. However, you could bring the children along and skip the babysitters. Cartoons were shown before the double feature. Some places had pony rides up front before dark. As dusk came, attendees would use spotlights on the screen, and then play a game of having the spotlights chase each other across the screen. There was a snack bar. People would start honking their horns when it became dark, and they thought the show should start.

There were problems, too. Sometimes a fog would come rolling in and you could not see the screen. Some people would drive away without disconnecting the speakers. Some kids would steal the speaker insides, and then use them as their own tinny stereo system in their cars.

Adult baseball, which was very popular before the war began to lose its popularity. One Brooks local, Larry Mahan, provided entertainment and interest in Brooks and beyond as a national Rodeo figure in the late 1960s and early 70s.

Today there are a few activities of earlier times: there are still a few church parties, the firehall breakfast and of course the Powerland Heritage Park.



Brooks native Larry Mahan, six-time World All-Around Rodeo champion.

But the men's baseball team is gone. The Ramp store and the entertainment hall is gone. The Brooks public school is gone. The Brook Nook remains as a tamer version of its earlier self. And Larry Mahan has ridden off into history.

From a presentation by Dan Groah at the "Brooks Then and Now" Celebration, June 17, 2017. Other BHS Members, community members, including Diane Froode, descendant of Linus Brooks, gave presentations on Brooks history. A video of the program is available.



Wanted- Amber Lantern

Brooks Historical Society would love to have an amber railroad lantern in early 1900s style to complete their collection of lanterns at the Brooks Depot Museum. We have red and clear lanterns- ten of them in the Agent's office alone!



If you have an amber lantern to donate, please call Dorene at 503-393-2053.

Brooks Historical Society

1 (503) 390-0698

3995 Brooklake Rd. NE
Brooks, OR 97303

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9265
Brooks, OR 97305



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)

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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 - June Gibson

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