

# Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

July 2010 Vol. 3

<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

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## CELEBRATE THE 40TH BIRTHDAY OF ANTIQUE POWERLAND



*REMEMBER - SILENT  
AUCTION FIRST SAT OF  
STEAM UP JULY 24. 2010...*

*More Donations Welcome*

*Call 503-393-2053*

**Volunteers** please park in the Spegel parking area and ride the shuttle to museum. There will be people to direct you.

We can use volunteers to help inside to speak with people, and children's passports and outside to help with vending, and on first Saturday to help with silent auction.

Volunteer passes still available.

Call Dorene at: 503-393-2053

**Buy your Food at our Museum**  
helping support Brooks Historical Society.

Park open for set up on the 23rd Friday, pass good for Friday and Saturday.

## Steam Up

July 23-24-25

And

July 31 - August 1



### Great Oregon Steam up

Starting July 23-24-25 then the following weekend July 31 and August 1.

We need volunteers to help any hours and any of these days?

Silent Auction July 24th the first Saturday of Steam up:

We need Auction items and help on the auction that day.

# 2010 Calendar of Events

**July 16, 17, 18 Fri, Sat, Sun** INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

**July 24, 25, 31 Aug 1** STEAM-UP

**Aug 28 Sat.** TRUCK SHOW

**Aug 29 Sun.** DEZOTELL CHURCH PICNIC PRIVATE

**Sept. 5 Sun** EXTREME EDITION CAR SHOW

**Oct.** MOTORCYCLE PRESENTATION

## Congratulations

The Marion County Historical Society is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. Founded in 1950, it was the first local society formed to gather and preserve the history and stories of the early settlers in this historically important mid-valley county.

The group did not then have a Museum, so the specific objectives were to discover, gather and preserve material. Representative of the early development of farming, government, education and commerce. This was achieved by collecting artifacts, conducting educational programs and tours, and publishing periodicals.

The Society was strongly involved in the movement to save the Deepwood Estates and Gardens, took little to the Rev. Jason Lee home and The Parsonage, the oldest existing buildings in the Oregon Territory, and help find a permanent home for them on which is now Mission Mill Museum Park. The Society eventually found itself a permanent home on this site.

As each small community in the valley started their own Museums to record their contributions to history, the Marion County Society became more of an umbrella organization, gathering artifacts as they became available and developing an extensive library and archive.

The latest turn of events is the combining of the Mission Mill Museum association, and the Marion county Historical society into the new Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill, where they can pursue their most valuable roles to the community of preservation, education and tourism.

**New Members:**  
Mary Mosley and Larry Siegner

**International Harvester Event** coming up- Mark your Calendar July 17 and 18th

**Adele is recovering** from an auto accident. Glad to have you back.

**Our fund Raisers are off and running** we are selling food for the rest of the summer when an event is going on -so far we have had 4 days.

**We are getting more and more people coming to the Museum/** Historical Society with research in mind. We have Family histories on about 20 of the local Heritage Families. We have a wonderful book on Linus Brooks who founded Brooks thanks to his family who are members. Copies of his original journals in which he brought on the wagon train out here in Oregon. New Family Histories we have added to our collection are Belleque and Fowler, If you have a local family history and you would like to share please let us know call 503-393-2053 or leave a message at 503-390-0698.

**We have available history of our 2 Brooks Cemeteries-** the newly owner transfer to The Brooks Catholic Cemetery has made many new improvements. There was a Kiosk and benches installed and the white cross was replaced. It was destroyed in the late 1950's.

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## Season Opens at Brooks Historical Society May 14-16

The Boy Scouts of America held their Cascade Trail Camperall at Antique Powerland. Five different Districts joined together to celebrate the 100th Anniversary. They represented Corvallis, Albany, McMinnville and Tillamook.

The easy access, space for parking and camping, and exposure to historic aspects of life 100 years ago, was an ideal experience for those young men. The steam tractors, sawmill, trolley, blacksmith was running and most and most Museums were open on Saturday. As part of the program, Thursday was for fun, performing a service project and skill competitions. Tractors, sawmill, blacksmith, were running and most Museums

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were open on Saturday as part of the program. This was day was fun.

Brooks Historical Society benefited by being open and providing work for a number of teams pulling weeds around our site. They were good visitors to the Museum too, enjoying the artifacts and asking sharp questions.

We would all gladly host a return visit, although it could be another five years to have this big a group- over 1000 Scouts and their support help attended.

## **KEY POINTS IN GENE SPERLE'S REVIEW**

### **HISTORY OF SHIPPING:**

*Continued from last issue*

Celery shipped before WWII. onions after the war.

Brooks was largest shipper in area of fresh produce.

Six large shippers with warehouses stretching half a mile along the tracks.

Brooks shipped 2500 car loads of onions in a season, 1020 cars a day. Each car held 600 sacks. The siding from the north held up to 70 or 80 car trains. There was also a shorter siding coming from the South.

Also, celery was grown from 1915 to early '40s. In 1928, shipped 411 cars of celery; by 1938 shipped 400 cars of celery and 900 cars of onions; in 1942 600 cars celery, 900 cars onions, per Salem City Directories. Prior to the fresh produce Brooks was a wheat-shipping center.

Station closed during Depression. Station operated 24 hours/day during WWII passenger service stopped sometime in the '30s.

## **ARTIFACTS**

Scales for Express packages sat on front counter. East of the counter was a small lobby area with benches.

Telegraph desk was much like the little one we have, sat at west window. Phone was on a scissor extension. Special typewriter and telegraph key here.

Agent's work desk sat at the North end of the roan, with Agent facing towards the room, his back to the windows.

Coal bin south of the East sliding door.

Stove where we have it, with stovepipe going up and over at a right angle to the chimney.

Yellow cabinet was a Records Cabinet kept all records 5 years.

LCL Freight scale near location of the cider press.

PMT truck threw in mail, express and parcel post at the East dock.

Red & Amber lanterns had to be burning at all times in the office. They sat in a two-foot-square box of sand used at Brooks as station was not on a regular schedule, had to be flagged down.

Six volt battery lantern came as early as 1947 for brakeman. Station agent used kerosene lanterns.

Regarding the special keyboard of the typewriter with the small letters filed off: Train orders were typed on an oilskin paper with 3-4 carbon copies, so needed large capital letters to go through all those copies. (Before carbon paper, a liquid was mixed, the paper was coated, then copies were typed.)

The scales were for Express packages and sat upon the front counter. Items for express were weighed as received. Above the counter was a screen with a window for receiving packages and money. East of the counter was the small lobby area with a couple of benches for waiting for service or the next train. The telegraph desk, much like the one we have, sat at the West window. The phone was on a scissor extension. There were four telegraph wires into the office; one was always left open for the dispatcher and message work. Use of the Morse Telegraph quit after the Columbus Day Storm October 12, 1962, as the storm wiped out all the telegraph wires and it was decided not to replace them.

*To be continued next issue*

**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