



It's "Rollin' on the River" IV!!
48th Annual Gerking Family Reunion
Sunday, August 12, 2007

It's reunion time again — time for our annual get-together of John Gerking, Sr.'s descendants. The date is, as usual, the second Sunday in August, the 12th, at the Port of Cascade Locks' Marine Park. Many of you will remember that we met there several times in the 1990s because it's a convenient meeting place for those coming from either west or east. The park overlooks the beautiful Columbia River, and there's plenty of flat grass area for kids, and for playing or just strolling. The park has installed some very nice-looking playground equipment since we last met there in 1998.

Plan to start arriving around 11:00 a.m., and we'll aim to eat about 12:30. We've reserved a tented area again, and we'll have a grill, electricity, and running water for our use. Our business meetings are usually fairly short, and the rest of the agenda is flexible and open to all ideas and input. There will be plenty of time for socializing and renewing old acquaintances.

Looking to the Future

We'll be looking for ideas (and \$) for our 50th annual reunion in 2009, tentatively slated to be held in The Dalles. We did quite well raising some extra funds to go toward the 50th reunion at last year's reunion and hope we'll be able to generate more this year and next so we can make the 50th a really extra-special event.

What to Bring:

- A complete picnic-style lunch for your family, as well as your own table settings. In reality, most people bring more than enough food for themselves and we end up enjoying our usual delicious Gerking potluck. Coffee will be provided, and if someone would like to volunteer to bring soft drinks for the group that would be greatly appreciated.
- Lawn chairs, if you'd like — they're usually more comfortable than picnic table benches.
- Any family history items you'd like to display.
- A few card tables would be welcome as we usually have an overflow of family history items to be displayed.
- Games that can be enjoyed by kids of all ages are always welcome.
- Jackets or sweaters in case the weather turns windy.

Former Gerking Family Historian Florence Bowe is hoping to join us at the reunion, bringing along her wealth of knowledge about the Gerking family's history. We also hope the Bixby Family will be bringing their voices — maybe we'll drag out the old "Rooster Song."

Lodging

There are many hotels and motels on the east side of Portland that are within a 30-40 minute drive to Cascade Locks. You could also call the Hood River Chamber of Commerce (about 20 miles east of Cascade Locks) at (800) 366-3530. Their mailing address is 405 Portway Ave., Hood River, OR 97031. If you're on the Internet, the Chamber's web address is <http://www.gorge.net/hrccc/> and has a good web site for hotels and motels in the area.

Camping

There is a "dry" campground at our picnic site, with showers available in the Visitor Center.

Space is on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the Port of Cascade Locks at (541) 374-8619 for information about camping there.

There also are many Oregon State Parks in the area; however, you'll want to check on availability. For reservations or information on those sites accepting reservations, call (800) 452-5687. For information on non-reservation parks, call (800) 551-6949.

Things To Do

- The *Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge*, <http://www.sternwheeler.com/>. The sternwheeler plies the Columbia River from Cascade Locks to Bonneville Dam, usually accompanied by a live historical narrative. Reservations are necessary — call (503) 223-3928 or (800) 224-3901 for information.
- The *Mount Hood Railroad*, <http://www.mthoodrr.com/>. Shhhhh! Don't tell a soul, but word has it that the train will be robbed on its August 18th and 19th runs. Built in 1906, the train hauled passengers and freight between Hood River and Parkdale for many years. For more information phone (800) 872-4661 or (541) 386-3556 or send email mthoodrr@gorge.net.
- *Columbia Gorge Discovery Center*, <http://www.gorgediscovery.org>. Combined with the Wasco County Historical Museum, it offers a view of the entire Mid-Columbia region, both the past and the present, and from all accounts it falls in the 'Don't Miss It!' category. Phone (541) 296-8600, or write to P.O. Box 998, The Dalles, OR 97058 for more information.
- Almost directly across the Columbia from Cascade Locks via the Bridge of the Gods is the *Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center* (<http://www.columbiagorge.org>) run by the U.S. Forest Service. Phone (800)-991-2338 or (509) 427-8211 for information.

How to Get There

Take I-84 to the Cascade Locks exit (about 40 miles east of Portland or 20 miles west of Hood River). Follow the Sternwheeler/Port of Cascade Locks signs and turn north at the entrance. If you're coming from the east, this will take you most of the way through town before you get to the entrance. You'll go down a small hill and make a rather sharp curving turn to the right under the railroad tracks. Continue to the right and you'll see the picnic area on your left. We'll also have some kind of Gerking signage out.

Finally, my apologies to all for being so late getting this reunion invitation out. We'll keep you posted as to any additional details and web site updates.

Beth
(541) 265-7875

P.S. If you're receiving this via USPS snail mail it's because our records don't show an email address for you. If you do have email and would like to receive communications via that method, please email me at bpjohnston@charter.net to be added to the email list. It saves a bunch on postage and paper!

Executive Committee:

Lynden & Nancy Gerking
Florence & Larry Bowe
Kelly Gabel
Diann & Dan Hebert
Beth Johnston

Laverne & Helen Gerking
Trish & Gil Doebler
Kelly Thomas
Paul Lewis