

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

## SOHS PRESENTS!

**Hanley Farm Annual Heritage Plant Sale**  
Saturday April 29-30 - 10am-3pm  
Members only Sale - 9am-10pm

Come see the Hanley gardens in bloom!

Our annual sale features over 50 varieties of heritage plants from flowering quince to purple lilacs. Iris, peonies, old roses, daylilies, Lenten roses and herbs are among the heritage plants on sale.

Visit the historic Hanley Farm [no house tours during plant sale]. Take a wagon ride, enjoy lunch, kite-making and more!

No Charge for Plant Sale Admission.



*Historic Hanley Farm is located at 1053 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR*



# THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER

## HANLEY FARM: CRADLE OF SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORY

*It began on a rural farmstead with memories, stories, and the yen of a young woman for preserving the past.*

Born of pioneer parents on a prosperous stock farm two miles northeast of Jacksonville, Alice Eliza Hanley grew up as the eldest girl in a large family, surrounded by first-hand accounts of the Southern Oregon gold rush, Indian wars, and local society. As she matured, a reporter described her as "tall, poised, stately, intelligent," and noted that over her "hovers a past that only those who have lived it can fully understand." Having been part of local history, she was fiercely dedicated to protecting Southern Oregon's heritage.

During a long life as a prominent rancher and civic leader, Alice Hanley gathered manuscripts, photographs and artifacts. She preserved her childhood home in pristine condition making it, in the words of a 1936 Portland Oregonian article, into a "beautiful museum of the early Oregon period." Alice also freely shared her knowledge and was able to hold audiences spellbound with her first-hand accounts of early "weddings, hangings, and gambling houses." At the time of her death at the age of 82 on July 3, 1940, Alice was one of the region's foremost experts on the pioneer period.

During her lifetime Alice Hanley and her niece Claire, whom Alice had raised at Hanley Farm, collected over 1000 pioneer items. In time, these became the core of the Southern Oregon Historical Society's large holdings, regarded as among the most extensive regional history collections in the United States. Hanley Farm, with its carefully preserved home, barns and gardens, remains the historic jewel of Jackson County. It is listed on the National Registry for Historic Places and is the focal point of Southern Oregon Historical Society programs, tours, and gatherings.



The Hanley home completed in 1875 was for many years the showplace of Jackson County.



SOHS #13270

Alice Hanley as a young woman developed a love of the region and its history.

## Markings of the Past

Few of its many visitors realize that Hanley farm is a significant archaeological site. Because native peoples used this area over the course of thousands of years, the recent decision to install a new septic drain system to service the farm presents unusual challenges.

The drain field's construction involves trenching and other digging

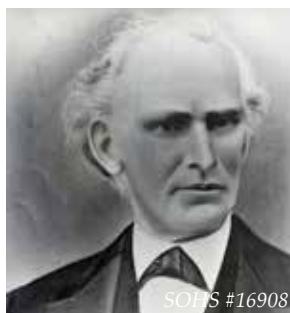
within the Hanley Farm archaeological core, so the Society along with Oregon's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Southern Oregon University's Laboratory of Anthropology (SOULA) are working together to ensure that the site's archaeological values are preserved.

This is done by means of careful, professional excavations within

the area to be disturbed by the new drain field.

The drain field project will accomplish two important goals. It will enhance our knowledge about the past while enabling Hanley Farm to better serve as a centerpiece of Southern Oregon's cultural and historic events.

## SOHS TO LEAD PEAR BLOSSOM PARADE



*The Southern Oregon Historical Society is this year's Medford Pear Blossom Parade Grand Marshal. The selection of SOHS to lead the April 8th event is especially fitting in light of this year's parade theme: "Our Valley—Our Heritage."*



Representing the society, Michael Hanley IV - historian, artist, author and cowboy rancher - will lead the parade's Grand Marshal entry driving a horse-drawn carriage. The resident of Jordan Valley, Oregon, is an expert on folkways of the Far West. He is named after his great-grandfather Michael Hanley, who along with his wife Martha, established SOHS's showcase Hanley Farm near Jacksonville 160 years ago.



As Grand Marshal, the Southern Oregon Historical Society joins illustrious company. Past Grand Marshals have included a governor, an Olympic gold medalist and a future President. 1960 was an election year and then Senator John F. Kennedy agreed to be the Grand Marshall. Governor Robert Holmes came in 1957 and Olympian Frank Shorter in 1977.

Several movie and TV stars have been Grand Marshals. Perhaps the best known was Leonard Nimoy of Star Trek, who lead the parade in 1967. Other years have featured Winnie the Pooh, Roger Rabbit, Goofy and Medford's own Huggy Bear as Grand Marshals.

In commemoration of the event, Pear Blossom posters for the past ten years, created by artist Debby Elder, are on display in the History Center's front windows, facing 6th and Central, in downtown Medford.

Michael Hanley IV will lead a group of Society members of all ages, many in pioneer costume, helping to celebrate the 64th Annual Pear Blossom Parade.

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the coming of Michael and Martha Hanley [above] to their So. Oregon homestead. [Below] Michael Hanley IV.

## What's in a Name: The Pear Blossom Festival Parade

The Pear Blossom Festival Parade celebrates the industry that put Southern Oregon on the map. Commercial pear orchards were introduced in the Rogue Valley in 1885 by Illinois nurseryman Joseph H. Stewart. The growth led to the rapid increases in population and building in the early 1900s. By 1915 the Medford area's many orchards were producing 15,000 tons of export pears a year.

In 1935, amidst the woes of the economic depression, Raymond Ritter of the Pinnacle Packing Company initiated a "pear blossom festival" modeled after Wenatchee, Washington's "apple

blossom" celebration. It featured concerts, agricultural exhibits, and a 30-mile long "Pear Blossom Way" through the orchards. The festival lasted until World War II.

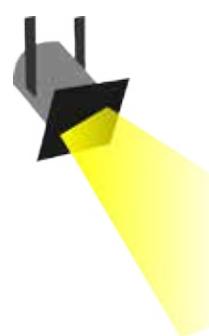
In 1954 the Medford Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups restored the festivity as a children's parade for youngsters 12 and under. Floats were built on their wagons and could not be pulled by any animal larger than a St. Bernard dog.

Today, the Medford Pear Blossom Parade involves nearly 4000 participants with over 30,000 people lining the route.



John F. Kennedy, soon to be elected US President, served as Parade Grand Marshal in 1960.

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: DIANA MARMON



*Have you ever wondered who tracks your Southern Oregon Historical Society membership and reminds you when it's time to renew? The current answer is Diana Marmon, an SOHS volunteer and Treasurer of the Gold Diggers Guild.*

Diana holds a BA degree in cultural anthropology, but says she has been an accountant all her life. "Accounting put my kids through school!" Before she retired a few years ago, Diana was the Chief Financial Officer of an engineering firm in Seattle. "Ironically, I only have an AA degree in accounting, but I actually like working with numbers. I learned on the job and worked my way up." However, Diana has never lost sight of her original passion. "History keeps things interesting," she explains. "I love antiques and old stuff. I'm currently restoring an old home in Medford's historic district and having a ball!"

Diana also describes history as "contagious." When circumstances forced SOHS to transition to a volunteer-based society, Diana wanted to do something to help rebuild the organization. She has put her accounting skills to good use maintaining the SOHS membership database. She works two days a week at the History Center entering information for all new members and sending out renewal letters to individuals whose membership is lapsing or has expired. "SOHS is a membership organization—we currently have over 700 members. But our goal is to increase that number by 10% each year. We have so much to offer the community in terms of programs, events, and activities!"

The Gold Diggers Guild, an SOHS support organization founded in 1977, is helping with that effort. Gold Diggers' members assist with SOHS mailings, raise funds, provide educational programs, and are some of SOHS's most reliable volunteers.

"We each do what we can to help preserve local history," Diana emphasizes. "Our history is important. We don't want it to go away; we don't want to lose it. Besides," she adds, "volunteering for SOHS makes me feel good!"



Membership secretary, Diana Marmon is only one of over 100 volunteers who work behind the scenes keeping history alive in Southern Oregon.

## Spring 2017 Event Schedule



Nine-year-old Margaret Turso enjoys a pioneer-era experience at Hanley Farm.

**April 1 Hanley Farm Clean Up**  
(Members only event)

**April 5 & 12 Windows in Time**  
Southern Oregon Smoke Jumpers  
Paul Fattig

**April 8 Pear Blossom Parade**  
SOHS is Grand Marshal

**April 29 & 30 Hanley Farm**  
Heritage Plant Sale

**May 3 & 10 Windows in Time**  
The Show Started on the Sidewalk  
George Kramer

**May 20 Hanley Farm**  
Children's Heritage Fair

**June 7 & 14 Windows in Time**  
Michael Hanley and His Friends  
Larry Mullaly

**As it Was :**  
History vignettes from SOHS can be heard every weekday on JPR.

### SOHS Research Library:

106 N. Central  
Medford, OR:

Open Wednesday through Friday from noon to 4 pm.

For further details on events and services visit the SOHS website at: [www.sohs.org](http://www.sohs.org)