Historic Hanley Farm

1053 Hanley Road, between Central Point & Jacksonville
(541) 773-6536 • sohs.org

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday through September 30
11AM - 4PM

Admission: $5 adults, $3 children 6-12 & seniors 65+, children 5 & under and SOHS members free

Arrive in style!

Jacksonville-Hanley Farm TROLLEY
tickets sold at the History Store
California & 3rd, Jacksonville

Special Theme Weekends include:

• Native American Lifeways
  August 3, 4 and 5
  Tom Smith will demonstrate flint knapping and tool making. SOU intern Justine Ritchey will interpret an archaeology site with hands-on activities.

• Pioneer Lifeways
  August 10, 11 and 12
  Soap making demonstrations. Dairy days on Saturday and Sunday with visiting calf and making butter. Enjoy wagon rides, talks with “pioneers” and “travelers” of the Oregon and Applegate trails, and heritage craft demonstrations of blacksmithing, pottery, woodworking, and spinning.

• 20th Century Farm Life
  August 17, 18 and 19
  Friday at 2 p.m.: “Food Preservation Methods through the Years,” will look at old and new ways of preserving home-grown bounty. Focus is the Hanley family, their interests, and their lives. Explore farm chores, rug hooking, and gardening. Guided garden tours. Special oral history collecting program Friday and Saturday at 3 p.m., “Remembering the Hanleys.” The Early Day Gas Engine & Tract Association will visit the farm on Saturday and Sunday.

• 19th Century Farm Life
  August 24, 25 and 26
  Friday at 2 p.m.: “A Celebration of Stories,” presents authors Jane Kirkpatrick, Sharon Heisel, and Bernice Curler exploring the power of stories in everyday life. A book signing will follow their program. On Saturday and Sunday, wagon tours and horse-drawn farm equipment demonstration by the Southern Oregon Draft Horse Association will take place. Saturday, the Jacksonville Museum Quilters will provide an opportunity to try your hand at quilting! Sunday, a woodworking demonstration will be featured. Games, gardening, and farm chores.

• Remember: Fridays at 2 PM is storytelling time for ages 3-6.

Hanley Farm is a Century Farm and is listed on the National Register and the Jackson County Register of Historic Places.

Hanley Farm: owned & operated by the Southern Oregon Historical Society
Feature articles average 3,000 to 4,000 (pre-edited) words. Other materials range from 500 to 1,000 words. Electronic submissions are accepted on 3-1/4-inch disks and should be accompanied by a hard-copy printout. Cite all sources and construct professional, unscreened photographs and/or line art should accompany submission-black and white or color. The Southern Oregon Historical Society reserves the right to use Society images. Authors will be notified of acceptance if interested in viewing the pre-edited version of the article. Authors should provide a brief autobiographical note at the end of manuscripts. The Southern Oregon Historical Society secures rights to full and final editing of all manuscripts, layout design, and one-time North American serial rights. Authors will be notified of acceptance of manuscripts within ninety days of receiving materials. In most cases, payment is upon publication. Southern Oregon Heritage Today takes great care with all submitted material, but is not responsible for damage or loss. Only photographs of unplaceable original historical documents should be submitted. Facts, views, and opinions expressed in signed submissions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Southern Oregon Heritage Today or the Southern Oregon Historical Society.
From downtown Jacksonville, a six-mile drive southwest on Highway 238 will take you to a pioneer cemetery, all that is left of a once-bustling mining community that got its start nearly 150 years ago. The Logtown Cemetery lies on the east side of the highway on a gentle, madrone-shaded slope looking west across a small valley dotted with recent homes where Poormans Creek and Forest Creek (first known as Jackass Creek) join.

It was a much busier place in the nineteenth century. Logtown, which may have been named for early settler Francis Logg, grew up around the homestead of John and Maryum McKee, who settled on a mining claim on Poormans Creek that they bought from Logg about 1853. Located on the pack trail between Jacksonville and Crescent City, the community became a supply point for miners, and at one point boasted two blacksmith shops, a livery stable, two meat markets, a general store, hotel, school, church, three saloons, and two Chinese stores. In the 1860s, the population reached 650–400 of those souls Chinese. But soon the mines played out and fire destroyed the commercial buildings about 1885. Another fire in 1910 destroyed the last home, leaving only the rustic four-acre cemetery to mark the place.

In 1939 an association was formed to renew the neglected site. Members of the first board of directors included Mrs. Harry Whitney, Leonard McKee, John Black, and Mrs. Anna Jeffrey Lozier. Mrs. Ed Smith compiled records and markers were placed at all unidentified graves. Relying on volunteer labor and community generosity, they built a wire fence where once a rail fence stood, added a log archway over the gate, and drilled a well.

After a survey was completed, the group discovered that only about half the cemetery was on the property of the original McKee homestead, then owned by Paul Pearce. The other portion belonged to W.W. Bell. Both owners signed deeds over to the association and the name Logtown was adopted. An old sign at the graveyard called it the "Laurel Grove Cemetery." But the oldest permit found was issued in 1918 under the name "Logtown Cemetery," so that name was chosen.

In 1958 the Applegate Garden Club planted cuttings of the famous "pioneer rose" also known as the "Jacksonville Rose," the "Logtown Rose," and "Maryum's Rose." Then on September 27, 1959, the Jacksonville Garden Club dedicated a granite marker.

James Dunlap was the first person laid to rest at Logtown, in 1862. Another of the souls resting there is the husband of Mrs. Roxy Ann Bowen (the stepmother of Maryum McKee). The Bowens and the McKees came to Southern Oregon by covered wagons pulled by teams of oxen in the year 1852. It is said that Roxy Ann Peak was named after her since she was the first "white" woman to settle there. She and Maryum McKee are also credited with bringing the yellow rose bush. When her husband died, he was buried in Logtown Cemetery, and she returned to Missouri to live with children from a previous marriage.

Logtown Cemetery is the only physical evidence left of a once-thriving community. What the visitor may not realize is that beyond the graves of these ancestors, living not far from blossoms of the yellow rose, are many descendants. Like the rose, with its several names and the many cuttings it has yielded, so too have the pioneers' descendants been assimilated into the neighboring communities. The old names and places may have faded, but the roots are still the same.

Evelyn Case is a freelance writer and a volunteer for the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Endnotes:
2. Ibid.
4. John Black interview.
Huckleberries Ripen Near the End of Southern Oregon’s Dry Season. The warm mountain air thickens with haze and sometimes smoke sifts up the canyons from fires feeding upon conifers. On the way up to Huckleberry Mountain east of Union Creek, dust coats your pickup truck windshield. When you turn off the engine and step down the road bank, in the sudden silence you hear the end-of-summer insect hum. And there they are: ripe huckleberries.

In the 1800s, following tradition, many Klamath Indian people journeyed from the Klamath Basin up to the high country huckleberry fields. In 1897, botanist Frederick Coville recorded that “about the third week in August nearly all the old women of the Klamath Tribe and many whole families cross the divide of the Cascades by way of Anna Creek to Huckleberry Mountain. They called the place E-wan-can, the place of the huckleberries. Here they spend a few weeks picnicking, feasting and gathering and drying their supply of huckleberries for winter use.”

Gathering huckleberries characterizes the traditional seasonal round of Pacific Northwest Indians. Tribes from Western Canada to Southern Oregon made the traditional trek to high country huckleberry fields. South of the volcanic cone of Mount McLoughlin, huckleberry shrubs become much less common and productive; the Klamaths are the southernmost group to partake of the traditional Northwestern huckleberry harvest.

In good years, people gathered the berries and dried them in the sun. Coville noted that for containers the Klamaths used buckets of lodgepole pine bark. The manufacture of bark containers is a particularly northwestern craft. A section of the bark was slipped from a tree. The cylinder of bark is sewed together on the slitted side and at one end, the bottom therefore being wedge-shaped. Huckleberries when placed in such receptacles and properly covered with large leaves retain their freshness for a long time."

Emigrant westerners quickly developed an appreciation for Cascade huckleberries. By the early 1900s, Rogue Valley residents made regular late summer visits to the most productive patches, where they set up canvas tent camps for weeks at a time. “Huckleberry City” had an active social life. Before a dance platform was built, “the dancers would kick up a cloud of dust that would make a buffalo ashamed,” recalled an early observer. They picked berries into coffee cans or large buckets, and processed them in large Mason jars, providing a delicious preserve that could be used at home, given to grateful neighbors, or traded to relatives for their own regional specialties.

By World War I, although people continued to pick huckleberries, the size of the huckleberry camps declined with the change to a market economy. But today there are still those who rise above economic considerations to glean high-country berries along the crest of the Southern Oregon Cascades.

Some years ripe berries weight the plants, while in other seasons a hillside yields only a handful of fruit. Huckleberries depend in large part on bumblebee pollination. Production plummeted in 1980, after megatons of ash from Mount St. Helens disrupted nearby bee populations. In Southern Oregon, cold springs and consecutive dry years affect fruiting.

Shade also decreases production. In the absence of fire, conifers encroach on huckleberry shrubs, eventually suppressing them. Locally, the Forest Service has the challenging responsibility of curtaining this resource so that people may continue the long tradition of gathering this wild fruit.

In September, as the last of the berries ripen, the huckleberry foliage turns the red-orange color of the sun setting in a hazy western sky. Soon the first cold front from the North Pacific washes across the Cascades, clears the air, settles the dust on mountain roads and marks the end of the harvest for another year."

Ethnobotanist Donn L. Todt and anthropologist Nan Hannon in Ashland.

Huckleberries
by Donn Todt and Nan Hannon

In Southern Oregon, huckleberry patches thrive in open areas along the spine of the Cascades. Here, Ellie Powell picks berries in the cool mist of a late-summer cloud scraping a mountain hillside near the Rabbit Ears, north of Union Creek.

Image by Bill Powell

Endnotes
**Southern Oregon Historical Society**

**Things To Do in August**

**Programs:** (see listings below for complete descriptions)

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<th>Craft of the Month</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
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<td>Story Time</td>
<td>Museum hours</td>
<td>CHILDREN'S MUSEUM</td>
<td>Toys to Remember; families; $0.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living History Program</td>
<td>Fri., Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2 p.m.</td>
<td>HANLEY FARM</td>
<td>Farm Stories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville-Hanley Farm Trolley</td>
<td>Wed. - Sun., 1 - 5 p.m.</td>
<td>BEEKMAN HOUSE</td>
<td>Enter the year 1911; fee</td>
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<td>Hanley Farm</td>
<td>Fri., Sat., Sun., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>3RD &amp; CALIFORNIA STREETS</td>
<td>Guided tour; fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Rock Basin Region</td>
<td>Fri., Aug. 17, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>HANLEY FARM</td>
<td>Activities, programs; fee</td>
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**Program Details**

*For times and locations, see schedule above.*

**July Craft of the Month**

**Toys to Remember**

Add to your toy chest by creating an old-fashioned toy to take home. Choose from a tumbling acrobat, buzzsaw, or optical toy.

**Beekman House Living History**

Step back in time to the year 1911 and enjoy a visit with costumed interpreters portraying Cornelius C. Beekman (Jacksonville's first banker) and his family members. Admission: $3 for adults; $2 children and seniors; ages five and under free; Society members, free.

**Jacksonville-Hanley Farm Trolley Rides**

The trolley will tour hourly-11 a.m.-4 p.m.-between Jacksonville and Hanley Farm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through September 30. Tickets: adults, $4; children six-twelve, $2; ages five and under, free. Purchase of trolley ticket at History Store provides $1 off Hanley Farm admission.

**Historic Hanley Farm Events**

Visit Hanley Farm by way of the trolley and receive $1 off admission. All events are free with price of admission.

**Fridays are designed for young children and adults. Each Friday at 2 p.m., a special story hour for ages 3-6 will be held.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Special Theme Weekends Include: August</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>3, 4, 5—Explore Native American lifeways through demonstrations, hands-on activities, and games. Tom Smith will demonstrate flint knapping and tool making. SOU intern, Justine Ritchey, will interpret an archaeology site with hands-on activities.</td>
<td>Aug 10, 11, 12—Explore pioneer lifeways all weekend long. Soap making will be featured. On Saturday and Sunday, join us for dairy days as we have a visiting calf and will make butter. Then enjoy wagon rides, talks with &quot;pioneers&quot; and &quot;travelers&quot; of the Oregon and Applegate trails, and heritage craft demonstrations of blacksmithing, pottery, woodworking, and spinning.</td>
<td>HISTORY CENTER</td>
<td>&quot;Celebration of Stories&quot; Slide Show/Lecture; free</td>
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</tbody>
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Explore farm chores, gardening and rug hooking. Guided garden tours will be featured. Friday and Saturday at 3 p.m., join in a special oral history collecting program "Remembering the Hanleys." On Saturday and Sunday, the Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association will visit the farm.

**August 24, 25, 26—Enjoy learning about a 19th century farm life. Saturday and Sunday the Southern Oregon Draft Horse Association will demonstrate horse-drawn farm equipment and provide wagon tours. On Saturday, the Jacksonville Museum Quilters will provide you with an opportunity to try quilting. On Sunday, a woodworking demonstration will be featured, along with farm chores, gardening, and games.**

**Society Sponsors Fort Rock Basin Region Program**

"10,000 Years of Cultural Change and Stability in the Fort Rock Basin Region, Central Oregon," a slide show-lecture by Dennis Jenkins, Ph.D., will be presented free of charge at the History Center. Jenkins will explain in an easily understood format—th investigative methods and results employ by an archaeologist in the quest for understanding how Native Americans adapted their lifestyles to survive in the ever-changing, always unpredictable Fort Rock Basin. Preregister by August 21. Program made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
**Exhibit Details**

*For times and locations, see schedule above.*

**“What’s Cookin’?” Two Centuries of American Foodways** (through August 17)

People express many aspects of their culture through the foods they eat, as well as how they prepare and serve foods. Portions of “What’s Cookin’?” explore such topics as the impact of immigration on food history, how technology has changed the availability of food, food preparation at home, the increase in dining out, and changing images of what constitutes healthy eating. This exhibit was produced by the Rogers Historical Museum, Rogers, Arkansas, and supported in part by a grant from the Historical Resources and Services section of Arkansas State Parks in the Department of Parks and Tourism.

**Century of Photography: 1856-1956**

Highlights the work of two area photographers, Peter Britt and James Verne Shangle, with cameras from the Society’s collection.

**The History of Southern Oregon from A to Z**

Do you know your ABC’s of Southern Oregon history? Even local oldtimers might learn a thing or two from the History Center windows along Sixth and Central as each letter of the alphabet tells a different story about the people, places, and events that have shaped the region we live in.

**Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker**

Explores the development of the Rogue Valley and the impact the industrial revolution had on the settlement of Oregon.

**Politics of Culture: Collecting the Native American Experience**

Cultural history of local tribes and discussion of contemporary collecting issues.

**Hannah Pottery**

Examples of pottery made over four decades ago by the Hannah family.

**Hall of Justice**

History of this former Jackson County Courthouse.

**Third Street Artisans’ Studio**

Rogue Valley Handweavers, Far Out Fibers, and the Saturday Handweavers Guild will present an exhibit of their handwoven Expressions of the Rogue Valley at the Third St. Artisans’ Studio in Jacksonville. Artisans were asked to weave items inspired by colors and posters representing Rogue Valley venues. Members will also demonstrate traditional art forms of spinning and weaving. The exhibit runs through August 25.

**Children’s Museum**

Everyone enjoys exploring the home and work settings from the 1850s to the 1930s through “hands-on-history.”

**Southern Oregon Historical Sites**

*Phone: (541) 773-6536
Fax: (541) 776-7994
E-mail: info@sohs.org
Website: sohs.org*

| History Center | 106 N. Central, Medford | Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| Research Library | 106 N. Central, Medford | Tues. - Fri., 1 to 5 p.m. |
| Jacksonville Museum & Children’s Museum | 5th and C Jacksonville | Wed. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| | | Sun., noon to 5 p.m. |
| Hanley Farm | 1053 Hanley Road | Sat., & Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| | | (541) 773-2675 |
| C.C. Beekman Bank | 3rd and California, Jacksonville | Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| | | Sat., noon to 4 p.m. |
| C.C. Beekman House | 3rd and California, Jacksonville | Sat., & Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Jacksonvillle History Store | 3rd and California, Jacksonville | Sat., & Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| U.S. Hotel | 3rd and California, Jacksonville | Upstairs room available for rent. |
| Catholic Rectory | 4th and C streets, Jacksonville |

**Membership Categories**

- Friend: $20
- Family: $30
- Patron: $60-$90
- Curator or Business: $120-$200
- Director: $250-$500
- Lifetime: $1,000

*We invite YOU to become a member! Your membership will support: preservation of Southern Oregon's rich heritage; Society exhibits and educational events; outreach to schools; workshops for adults and children; living history programs; and tours and demonstrations at historic Hanley Farm.*

*Members receive Southern Oregon Heritage Today, the Society's monthly magazine with newsletter, providing a view into the past and keeping you up-to-date on services provided by the Society. For membership information, call Susan Smith at 773-6536.*

**A Century of the Photographic Arts in Southern Oregon:**

*A Directory of Jackson County Photographers, 1856 - 1956*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Non-members</th>
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<tr>
<td>$7.95</td>
<td>SOHS</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>$8.95</td>
<td>Non-members</td>
<td>$10.50</td>
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*Available at the SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY: History Center, 106 N. Central Ave., Medford (541)773-6536 • sohs.org*
At the end of the Modoc Indian War in 1873, at Fort Klamath, Oregon, the U.S. Army tried the defeated Modocs' leaders; this was the only time in our country's history that American Indians were tried for committing war crimes. All the Modoc defendants were found guilty of war crimes for killing two members of a Peace Commission "under a flag of truce." Captain Jack, Schonchin John and two other Modocs were hanged at Fort Klamath, and two other Modocs had their death sentences commuted to life in prison.

by Doug Foster

"I was proud of my great-great-grandfather," said Lynn Schonchin, great-great-grandson of Schonchin John. "He fought the U.S. Cavalry for his people. He and Captain Jack and the others laid down their lives for their land and for their freedom. They should be honored as patriots and heroes ... like George Washington. They are by Indian people."¹

Ken Tanner, chief of the Coquille Tribe, said that as a boy in Coos Bay he grew up on stories of Captain Jack: "Both my mother and my father looked up to Captain Jack and the Modoc people as real heroes. Captain Jack had the courage to stand up against those who sought to take his homeland."²

Above, Kientpoos, or Captain Jack, the Modoc chief, fought the U.S. Army to avoid being moved to a reservation. This documentary photo was taken after he surrendered and the army cut short his long hair. Oregon news reporter S.A. Clarke observed that, on the day Captain Jack surrendered, he "bore himself with dignity and sat there like a Roman hero." Below, Schonchin John was dubbed the "Daniel Webster of the Modocs" by one contemporary journalist. The day before Schonchin John was scheduled to be executed by the government, he said: "My heart tells me I should not die—that you do me a great wrong in taking my life. War is a terrible thing. All must suffer ... I can now only say, let Schonchin die!"
In 1873, though, the national and international press vilified the Modocs for killing two peace commissioners: General Edward Richard Sprigg Canby and the Reverend Eleazar Thomas. Harper's Weekly denounced the Modocs as "wild beasts." The San Francisco Chronicle labeled Captain Jack a "red Judas." The Times of London called the killings a "dastardly outrage." The Philadelphia Public Ledger demanded an eye for an eye. The Chicago papers, the Tribune and the Inter-Ocean, demanded the extermination of the Modocs.3

Local citizens were even more outraged. A Yreka, California, newspaper labeled the killing of Canby as the "most dastardly assassination yet known in either ancient or modern history."4 Canby's death gripped peace commission policy, was hanged in half-mast.5 Secretary of the Interior Columbus Delano, the architect of the Peace Commission policy, was hanged in effigy in Jacksonville and Yreka.6

Some local, contemporary travel brochures still label Captain Jack and Schonchin John as "renegades" and "savages." Lynn Schonchin, a retired Chiloquin High School history teacher and former chairman of the Klamath Tribes, says these brochures anger him. "I'm not saying it was right to kill," he explains, but there was killing on both sides. "I don't know if I'd have the courage to do what my great-great-grandfather did: take on the whole U.S. Army, knowing he'd lose."7

Indeed, it was a lopsided war: fifty Modoc warriors in a lava-bed stronghold held off up to 1,000 soldiers for five months.8 Considering the number of Indians involved, it was the most costly American Indian war in terms of lives lost and money spent.9 "There would have been no war crimes trial," Schonchin said, "if the war had been fought to the end." The Modocs were tried, he said, because of all the media attention and because of who they killed: Canby, the "Christian General," and a missionary.10 Canby was the first U.S. Army general to be killed during the western Indian wars.11 Although eclipsed in the public mind by the battle at Little Big Horn three years later, the 1872-1873 Modoc War received extensive national press coverage and was the only Indian campaign covered by a foreign journalist, receiving periodic headlines in the Illustrated London News.12

Whether one views Captain Jack and the other Modoc war leaders as heroes or villains, of course, depends in large part on one's background and perspective, on one's views of the nature of war and "war crimes,"13 and on one's moral beliefs about the expansion of Western civilization into literally means "big chin." Captain Jack's Modoc name, Kientpoos, means "having-the-Waterbrash" (pyrosis or heartburn). He was a fortyish, dour-looking, square-jawed man; in Modoc, schonchis means "big man." Captain Jack's Modoc name, Kientpoos, literally means "Having-the-Waterbrash" (pyrosis or heartburn). He was a fortyish, dour-looking, square-jawed man; in Modoc, Schonchis means "big chin." Captain Jack's Modoc name, Kientpoos, literally means "Having-the-Waterbrash." Being a Modoc, he was dressed in cast-off dungarees or army pants, ragged shirts and work shoes—the same clothes they'd worn during the war.16

Fort Klamath, Oregon, where the Modoc leaders were tried for war crimes, was built in 1863 on the fringe of a forested area in the lush Wood River Valley, situated along the edge of the Klamath Indian Reservation—the reservation Captain Jack's band fought to avoid.
The trial was held in the fort headquarters building, where uniformed soldiers stood guard holding Springfield rifles topped with polished angular bayonets. The judges—a military commission of five U.S. Army officers in new dress uniforms—sat at a long, narrow table in the center of the room. The prosecutor—an army officer called the judge-advocate—sat at a table across from the judges. Nearby sat the court reporter and two interpreters; because most Modocs spoke so little English, everything had to be translated from English to Modoc.

A month before the trial began, General Jefferson Davis, Canby's successor as commanding officer, said that a military commission to try the Modocs "should" be staffed by officers of high rank "who have no immediate connection with the Modoc difficulty" and that each Modoc would probably get a separate trial and that the process would take six months. In fact, Davis selected several officers who had fought the Modocs to act as their judges; all six Modocs were tried together; they were not represented by counsel; and their collective trial took only four days.

Although military commissions were often composed of individuals with more of a stake in the outcome of the case than usually occurs in a civil trial, rarely were members so personally involved in the events leading to the charges as were the members of this military commission. Four of the five members of the commission had been directly involved in the Modoc War, and so were asked to try Modoc prisoners accused of killing their former commanding officer; of these four, three had fought in battles against the Modocs, and thus had been under attack by the very individuals on whom they now were asked to pass judgment. The trial began just a month after Captain Jack was captured and hostilities had ceased. Passions were still inflamed. Alfred Meacham—one of the wounded peace commissioners and the government's star witness at the Modocs' trial—criticized the composition of the military commission, since the members' "love for the memory of General Canby, together with hatred for the Modoc chief, disqualify them for impartial hearing." The army was incensed that a small, ill-equipped band of Indians had killed an officer as popular and important as Canby. Canby's Civil War duties had ranged from restoring order in New York City following the draft riots of 1863 to commanding the Military Division of West Mississippi, which included the Gulf states and the Southwest. At the time of his death, Canby was not only the commanding officer of the Department of the Columbia, but also acting head of the Military Division of the Pacific, responsible for the entire West Coast army.

On learning of Canby's death, General of the Army William Tecumseh Sherman advised his subordinates not to leave a Modoc man, woman or child alive to boast of Canby's murder. He ordered Col. Alvan Gillem to launch an attack, advising, "You will be fully justified in their utter extermination." After Captain Jack was captured, Sherman telegraphed General Davis as to the disposition of the Modoc prisoners: "Some should be tried by Court Martial and shot." The Modoc defendants were accused of war crimes for violating a flag of truce. Significantly, this was the only time that the United States tried American Indians for violating the laws of war. "War consists largely of acts that would be criminal if performed in time of peace," according to Professor Telford Taylor, the former army brigadier general who served as the lead military officer at the Nuremberg war crimes trials after World War II. But "(s)uch conduct is not regarded as criminal if it takes place in the course of war, because the state of war lays a blanket
of immunity over the warriors.” A war crime is an act that “remains criminal even though committed in the course of war, because it lies outside the area of immunity prescribed by the laws of war.”25

To justify trying the Modocs for war crimes, U. S. Attorney General George Williams wrote that, “All the laws and customs of civilized warfare may not be applicable to an armed conflict with the Indian tribes upon our western frontier; but the circumstances attending the assassination of Canby and Thomas are such as to make their murder as much a violation of the laws of savage as of civilized warfare, and the Indians concerned in it fully understood the baseness and treachery of their act.”26

Modoc War historian Walter Palmberg disagreed with the attorney general’s conclusion: since the peace commissioners had been amply warned of what could be expected and knew that a state of war existed, “what followed could be interpreted as not necessarily against the laws of war and certainly not as far as the Indians were concerned.” Recounting the many massacres of Indians by soldiers during the western Indian wars, Palmberg wryly noted that “(o)bviously, laws of war, flags of truce, and suspensions of hostilities were only applicable at the army’s discretion.”27

The Modocs, like other Indians, traditionally fought with methods quite different from those of the Europeans and the Americans. In intertribal Indian wars almost all members of the enemy nation were legitimate targets of attack, and captives were rarely taken. These practices were largely a matter of necessity. Among other things, the Indians lacked prison camps in which to confine captives.28 One of the Modoc prisoners, Boston Charley, admitted that they hoped that by killing their leaders, “the other white men would give up and go home.” It was not unnatural that the Modocs might believe this. In intertribal wars, once a tribe’s leaders were killed the other warriors quit fighting.29 The commission, arguably, should at least have given consideration to these differences in culture and military methods in arriving at its conclusion.

According to Telford, war is “(i)ntrinsically a desperate and violent business” that “is not readily limitable in terms of the means to be used in its prosecution.” Just as otherwise law-abiding individuals will commit crimes to save their own lives, national governments will likewise break international rules and treaties, if necessary, for their own preservation.30
Captain Jack and his band were fighting for their preservation as a people in a David-and-Goliath war. Jack's warriors were outnumbered on the battlefield more than twenty to one. And this imbalance doesn't begin to reflect just how lopsided this "war" was. In 1870, the U.S. population numbered nearly 40 million, while the entire Modoc tribe numbered less than 400; the United States encompassed nearly 3 million square miles, while Captain Jack's band fought for the rights to a six-square-mile reservation on their ancestral homeland; and the U.S. Army numbered more than 37,000 active duty soldiers, while Jack's band had but 30 warriors.32

The most dramatic witness to appear at the Modoc war crimes trial was Alfred Meacham, the former Oregon Indian commissioner and head of the Peace Commission. The Modoc defendants were shocked to see Meacham enter the courtroom, since they'd left him for dead with the bodies of Canby and Thomas. Meacham testified that he'd been shot several times and knocked unconscious. At trial, his right hand was still useless, paralyzed by a pistol ball through the wrist, and his forehead was scarred by a long knife wound where a Modoc had tried to scalp him with a pocketknife—a difficult task as Meacham was bald.33

Since the Modocs had disfigured Meacham, one would expect, if anything, that he might be biased against them. In fact, Meacham later offered damaging evidence against Canby; according to Meacham, Canby was the first to violate the armistice. Unfortunately, this was not revealed at trial and was not publicized until nearly three years after the trial when Meacham wrote two lengthy books about the Modoc War.34 The truce between the Modocs and the federal government—as negotiated by Meacham, the chairman of the Peace Commission—provided that "no hostile movements" were to be made by either side "during the existence of the armistice,"35 and that "no act of war" would be committed "while negotiations for peace were going on."36 At that time the army was divided into two groups, one located twenty-five miles to the north of the Modoc position in the Lava Beds, the other twenty miles to the south.

Shortly after making this agreement, the army captured the Modocs' only band of horses, which Meacham considered a "breach of the peace"37 and "a violation of the armistice."38 Both the Modocs and Meacham requested that the horses be returned, but Canby refused. On March 22, the secretary of the interior turned over entire control of the Peace Commission to the army. Canby, deciding to tighten the screws on the Modocs and force them to make concessions, then ordered the army to move forward.39 By the first day of April, the two divisions of the army had moved to within two miles of the Modocs' stronghold, one on each side of the Modoc position. Meacham characterized these troop movements as a "breach of the compact for peace negotiations."40 Canby ordered that cannons be dragged into position; one of Canby's officers warned the Modocs that a hundred Indian scouts would arrive from Warm Springs to strengthen the soldiers' ranks.41 Canby telegraphed Washington that he had "the army in position to compel surrender."42

On April 5, 1873, Captain Jack and Meacham met in the Lava Beds. At this fateful meeting—one week before Canby was killed—Jack reminded Meacham of their agreement that "no more preparations for war would be made" during the truce. Jack said, "I have kept my promise—have you kept yours? Your soldiers stole my horses, you did not give them up; you say 'you want peace'; why do you come with so many soldiers to make peace? I see your men coming every day with big guns; does that look like making peace?"43

Captain Henry Hasbrouck led army troops to victory against the Modocs at the pivotal battle of Dry Lake and then sat on the military commission that tried the Modoc leaders for killing Canby, his former commanding officer. This portrait dates from the 1880s when, as a lieutenant colonel, Hasbrouck was the commander of cadets at West Point.
Although the Modocs were accused of violating a flag of truce, no white flag flew at the meeting where Canby was killed. The expression “flag of truce,” according to the judge-advocate general, was used at trial to mean that there was “a subsisting truce between the parties,” a “suspension of hostilities.” According to Meacham, however, Canby had already committed acts of war in violation of the peace accord. Captain Jack also viewed Canby’s actions this way. A lawyer could have argued that Canby’s actions nullified the terms of the peace accord so that no armistice was in effect when he was killed and that, therefore, his killing wasn’t a war crime.

It is true that Captain Jack drew a concealed pistol and shot Canby while he was unarmed at a peace meeting held between two armed camps. Since two members of the Peace Commission, Meacham and L.S. Dyar, carried concealed derringers that day, though, it was not just the Modocs who violated the agreement to attend the meeting unarmed. In any event, Captain Jack never denied that he killed Canby; Jack’s ultimate defense was that the Modocs did not start the war, the army did. It could also have been argued: what recourse did the Modocs have after Canby violated the armistice agreement by capturing Modoc horses and bringing in more soldiers? They couldn’t call up more warriors, for they had no more warriors. They couldn’t appeal to a neutral, international tribunal because one did not exist. To have given formal notice that Canby had broken the truce and that the parties were once again at war would have left Canby with a significant military advantage because of his own violations of the armistice.

The military commission, nonetheless, convicted the Modocs of war crimes. Soon thereafter, humanitarians began petitioning the government to treat Captain Jack with leniency, citing past wrongs done to the Modocs. A Quaker group in Maryland asked President Grant to grant the Modocs executive clemency, arguing they should not be held to a higher standard than Indian fighter Ben Wright, who had slaughtered a group of Modocs in 1852 in violation of a “flag of truce.” One letter to the secretary of the interior questioned why Captain Jack should be executed for killing Canby, since Ben Wright had been rewarded with an Indian agency for his treachery. Another East Coast humanitarian group, The National Association to Promote Universal Peace, wrote Grant that, from the Indians’ perspective, killing Canby was “just retribution” for the Ben Wright massacre.

Local newspapers, in response, justified Wright’s attack as retribution for prior Modoc attacks on immigrant wagon trains using the Applegate Trail, and as an attempt to recover two young women whom the Modocs had allegedly taken captive. A Yreka newspaper ran a story titled the “So-called” Ben Wright Massacre, which claimed that the Modocs had been planning treachery and Wright just beat them to the punch. A former editor of a Salem newspaper ridiculed “Eastern sentimentalists” for “shedding crocodile tears in profusion” about the Ben Wright attack, calling their version of the incident “rot.”

What really happened in 1852? The historic record shows that Wright and a group of Yreka “volunteers” invited the Modocs to a feast. Wright’s pose “quite freely admitted that they planned treachery” at this feast, but that they intended to shoot the Indians, not poison them. According to Meacham, however, witnesses claimed that Wright had purchased strychnine, intending to poison the Modocs, and he resorted to calling for a “peace talk” only when the Modocs declined the feast. While Wright’s men were armed with rifles, the Modocs only had bows and arrows and Hudson’s Bay Company knives.

Wright’s pose surrounded the Modoc village at night. In the morning, Wright entered the village wearing a long serape that concealed his pistol. When Wright pulled out his pistol and shot the Modoc chief, that was the signal for his concealed men to begin shooting. The fleeing Modocs were searched out from among the sagebrush and shot like rabbits. Long poles were taken from the wickiups and

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on printed cards that read, "The Rope That Hung [sic] the Chief of the Modoc Indians, Captain Jack, Oct. 3rd 1873." He either gave them to friends or sold them; one card can still be seen at the Arizona State Museum in Tucson.

When the bodies of Schonchin John and Captain Jack were taken from the scaffold, an army surgeon cut off their heads for shipment to Washington. While the San Francisco Chronicle called this barbaric, the Army and Navy Journal defended it as a case of medical dissection for scientific craniology studies. For over a century, the two men's skulls rested on shelves at the Army Medical Museum and later the Smithsonian Institution before finally being returned to the tribe in the 1990s. Lynn Schonchin is still concerned for his great-great-grandfather's spirit: cutting off Schonchin John's head means that "his spirit never rests."

There should have been more understanding and compassion for Captain Jack's band, according to Lynn Schonchin, since they only wanted to live in freedom on their own land. Before the war, Captain Jack's band even sought to file applications with the government to take up a very small part of their ancestral homeland along Lost River, so that by improving the land and paying taxes they could receive legal title to a three-mile plot that had a good fishery. But the Modocs were not allowed to acquire title to any of their ancestral lands in this way because as Indians they were not then considered to be citizens of the United States.

Immigrants to America left Europe because they wanted freedom of religion and the chance to own their own land, Lynn Schonchin notes, but once here they treated the Indians just the way the kings and nobles had treated them in Europe. If he had been able to speak in behalf of Captain Jack's band, Lynn Schonchin would have argued that "both sides made mistakes," so that the only way to have dealt objectively with the situation would have been to "try everybody."

There is a long military tradition in the Schonchin family. Lynn's uncle, Jacky and Ted, fought in World War II, one in the Normandy invasion. Lynn served in the military, too. His great-grandfather, Peter Schonchin, was the youngest Modoc to fight in the Modoc War. When Lynn cleans the family graves at the Old Schonchin Cemetery near Chiloquin, he takes special care of the grave of Cain Schonchin and the nearby grave of Cain's father, Peter. Cain has a bronze military grave marker because he fought with the U.S. Cavalry in Europe in World War I. "We put an American flag by his grave,"

Lynn says. Cain's father, Peter, fought against the U.S. Cavalry, "so we put a feathered staff in front of his grave." 66

Doug Foster, an Ashland writer and historian, published a lengthy and more detailed analysis of the Modoc War Crimes Trial in the Fall of 1999 edition of the Oregon Historical Quarterly.

ENDNOTES:
1. Interviews with Lynn Schonchin in Chiloquin, Oregon, on 23 June 1994, and 9 September and 10 October 1997.
2. Interview with Ken Tanner in Mount Shasta, California, on 6 September 1997.
6. Dillon, Burnt-Out Fires, p. 245.
7. Schonchin interviews.
10. Schonchin interviews.
11. Murray, Modocs, p. 319; Schonchin interviews.
17. Dillon, Burnt-Out Fires, p. 312.
21. Thompson, Modoc War, pp. 141-142, n. 13; Murray, Modocs, p. 319.
23. 3 June 1873 telegraph to General Davis from General Sherman, in Ola Hagen, "Modoc War—Official Correspondence and Documents, 1865-1876," (Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, May 1942, typescript), a 1,780-page document available at the Klamath County Museum, Klamath Falls, at p. 1,054.
29. Murray, Modocs, pp. 177, 302.
33. Landrum, Guardhouse, Gallows, p. 10; Dillon, Burnt-Out Fires, pp. 218, 312.
34. Alfred B. Meacham, Wi-ne-ma and Her People (Harford, Conn.: American Publishing Co., 1876) p. 161.
35. Ibid., at 44.
36. Alfred B. Meacham, Wigwam and Warpath, or the Royal Chief in Chains (Boston: John P. Dodge and Co., 1876) p. 423.
37. Meacham, Wi-ne-ma, p. 44.
38. Meacham, Wigwam, p. 436; Wi-ne-ma, p. 44.
40. Meacham, Wi-ne-ma, pp. 44-45.
41. Meacham, Wigwam, pp. 439, 444.
42. Meacham, Wi-ne-ma, p. 52.
43. Meacham, Wigwam, pp. 449-450.
46. 13 September 1873 letter to President Grant from Benj'nn Hallowell, in behalf of the Baltimore, Maryland, Indian Concern Committee of the Quaker Church. House Document 122, p. 328.
47. 8 June 1873 letter to the secretary of the interior from Mrs. Mary L. Benson. House Document 122, p. 291.
48. 18 July 1873 letter to President Grant from John Beeson. House Document 122, pp. 315-316. Beeson, an Englishman and naturalized American, lived in the Rogue River Valley near the present city of Talent seventeen years before, in 1856. When Beeson championed Indian rights during the Rogue River Indian Wars, he was threatened by his neighbors and, in fear of being lynched, fled in the middle of the night, abandoning his home, family and the West Coast. See John Beeson, A Plea for the Indians (Fairfield, Wash.: Ye Galloon Press 1892, a reprint of the 1857 edition privately published in New York), p. viii, Palmberg, Copper Paladin, p. 158.
49. Yreka Journal, 26 April 1873.
52. Meacham, Wigwam, pp. 298-299.
53. Yreka Journal, 7 May 1873.
55. Thompson, Reminiscences, p. 82.
57. Thompson, Modoc War, p. 5; Murray, Modocs, pp. 26-27.
58. Murray, Modocs, pp. 21, 26-27.
59. Riddle, Indian History, p. 30.
60. Murray, Modocs, p. 30.
61. Schonchin interviews.
62. Landrum, Guardhouse, Gallows and Graves, p. 69.
63. Murray, Modocs, p. 307; Schonchin interviews.
64. Schonchin interviews.
65. Thompson, Modoc War, pp. 125-126; Dillon, Burnt-Out Fires, pp. 333-334; Murray, Modocs, p. 304.
66. 26 May 1873 letter to I. Steele from Elijah Steele in Riddle, Indian History, pp. 278-279.
67. Schonchin interviews.
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SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY

15
HISTORICALLY, ASHLAND HAS BEEN A TOWN OF UNIQUE visionaries with the ability to make things happen, people like Chester Corry, the city’s parks superintendent for thirty-three years. “Without him,” says current parks superintendent Ken Mickelsen, “the 100-acre Lithia Park would not be what it is today.”

Born in Columbia, North Dakota, in 1906, Corry grew up on his father’s orange grove in Glendora, California. In 1930, he graduated in landscape architecture from Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) and in 1931, he met and married Doris Gardner, a young teacher. His landscaping positions at Mount Lassen National Park, then Portland’s Lambert Gardens, gave him the experience to become Ashland’s assistant parks superintendent in 1936.

When the Corrys arrived in Ashland, most of the land beyond the lower duck pond was nothing but a wilderness following Ashland Creek up the rugged canyon. Corry’s job was to develop the plans laid out by John McLaren, designer of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park, who had been commissioned by the city of Ashland. However, the Great Depression held the country in its grip, and the city couldn’t afford to hire a crew. But that didn’t stop Chet. The Corrys moved into a small house inside the park and the one-man crew rolled up his sleeves and got to work.

According to his wife, “Chet had a calm personality, but there was a twinkle in his eye. He tackled anything that happened with confidence.” With help from New Deal-era Works Progress Administration and National Recovery Administration crews, he landscaped the Chautauqua area and developed the new nineteen-acre parcel donated by the C.W. Roots.

In 1937, Corry became parks superintendent—a job he cherished. He combed the hills for plant specimens, dug holes, planted, pruned, created tumbling falls, gentle rapids, bridges, a nursery, a playground, and a zoo.

“We couldn’t afford tractors,” Corry later recalled. “We did it the hard way—by hand.”

After a time, the Corrys moved into another house inside the park. Their little daughter Janet took naps with a zoo fawn and basked in the park’s magical surroundings. Doris taught school. The Corrys participated in community and church activities, but their lives mainly centered on the park and its needs.

The late councilman David Kerr claimed, “The council voted to fund whatever Chet Corry needed because he was a man of integrity who did his homework.”

Corry and the park survived floods, snow, draughts, vandalism, servicemen’s pranks, the 1960s counterculture, huge crowds, geese wandering into town, and zoo animals’ antics. (Corry was once locked in the monkey cage!) According to Lois Walker, longtime Medford resident, “Chet Corry loved the park. He was ‘Mr. Lithia Park’!”

Everyone raved about the wonderful work he was doing. But Chet Corry retired in 1969 and spent his remaining years as a consultant until he died in 1989. Evidence of his handiwork can still be seen today in the older rhododendrons throughout the park. He may be gone, but the park winds still whisper his name.

Molly Walker Kerr is a Medford freelance writer, whose childhood memories of Lithia Park spurred her to later become a Medford parks commissioner.

ENDNOTES:
1. Interview with Ken Mickelsen, Ashland parks superintendent, June 1989 and 17 November 2000.
2. Interview with Doris Corry, 22 June 1989.
4. Interview with Ashland City Councilman David Kerr, author’s father-in-law, in 1964.
5. Interview with Lois Walker, author’s mother, 26 September 2000.