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.

SOHS PRESENTS!
Hanley Farm Children’s Heritage Fair
Saturday May 20 - 11 am-4 pm
Watch, Learn & Participate as “History Comes to Life”!
Bring the whole family for an exciting day at Hanley Farm’s annual Children’s Heritage Fair. Enjoy home-stead crafts, hands-on farm chores, Hanley house and garden tours, and old-fashioned games. Across the farm you will find interactive heritage-themed opportunities, including pottery on the wheel, butter churning, spinning and weaving, wheat grinding, clothes washing, and faux cow “milking.”
Visit the historic Hanley Farm House (tours $3), take a wagon ride, enjoy lunch, and more!

Cost:
- Adults $8
- Children 6-13 & SOHS Member $5
- Children under 6 free

Visit the historic Hanley Farm house completed in 1875 was for many years the showplace of Jackson County.

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.

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, photography 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.

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

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

www.SOHS.Org
541-773-6536

like us on facebook
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 Marshal. 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.

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!”

Spring 2017 Event Schedule

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