



# SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SINCE 1946

## Southern Oregon Historical Society Newsletter

News from Southern Oregon Historical Society

December 2015

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Dear SOHS Members and Friends,

As we approach the New Year it is fitting to express appreciation to our members, our staff, and our many volunteers. While it is easy to focus on artifacts and collections as evidence of the presence of SOHS in our valley, the real energy of our organization is generated by people in service to people. History comes alive when we place it in the context of the Society events and exhibits that attract people.



This is also a time to recall important farewells to several people who have played important roles in recent SOHS success. Rob Esterlein, our Executive Director for the past 3 ½ years, resigned in October. Rob's efforts helped the Society restructure and rebound as our economy has slowly recovered from the recent recession. Our Development Director, Diana Drews, announced her decision this past month to seek new opportunities. She is tying up loose ends before she leaves at the end of December. Diana's energy encouraged us all to work on increasing Society membership. Her unflagging persistence resulted in significant increases in grants. Her willingness to roll up her sleeves and help with other projects helped increase revenue at some of our SOHS events.

**Give the Gift of Membership this  
 Holiday Season, or Shop the  
 SOHS Book Store**

### Coming Up at SOHS

Dec 27 Holiday Hanley Home Tour  
 Jan 6 & Jan 13 Windows in Time  
 Jan 23 Tales From the Collection  
 Feb 6-Apr 17 Annual Exhibit

I wish to thank the Gold Diggers' Guild for faithfully providing both helping hands and fundraising support to energize our work. On December 7, the Guild presented a check for \$5,000 to the Society to help support vital services. This coupled with previous contributions and volunteer work by Guild members has resulted in over \$35,000 in actual and in-kind resources given by the Guild this year. Many other volunteers have worked quietly and committedly alongside us to ensure quality (and fun) events occur at Hanley Farm and at various exhibition sites. Thank you, to each of these supporters.

During the next few weeks we will be publishing our Annual Report, which summarizes key successes and changes that have occurred in our programs and



services this year. We will send an electronic copy to all members who have provided us with a current email address and post a copy on our SOHS website. It is an encouraging and sobering report as we describe key events that occurred as well as our on-going struggle to develop sufficient revenue sources to ensure the continuity of the Society and our programs.

We are fortunate to live in a region with rich history and engaged citizens. Here is wishing the Society and all who are touched by its work a happy holiday season and great new adventures in the coming year!

Sincerely,

**Phil Long**  
President, Board of Trustees

## Holidays at Hanley

Holidays at Hanley Sunday December 27 from 11 am-3 pm

Please join us on December 27, 2015 for a tour of Hanley House – beautifully decorated for the holidays. Come and explore the picturesque home of Michael and Martha Hanley at the Annual Holiday Home Tour, an absolute must for architecture buffs and history enthusiasts alike. In keeping with the rich tradition of hospitality, we invite you and yours inside this historic home for a unique glimpse of life from a bygone era. Tours begin on the half hour and last about 40 minutes. \$3/members and \$5/non-members. For more information, call 541-773-6536 x202



## Spotlight on Stephanie Butler

Stephanie Butler loves history - it's the stories of daily life that capture her imagination. She's been a docent for years, guiding visitors through the halls of the Hanley Home and in 2016 will take responsibility for the docent training program. "Docents are the gatekeepers, the experts, telling stories of daily life and charged to keep the Hanley Farm and House safe," she says. "Everybody finds a different voice, everybody does it a little different, they have their own style of expressing themselves through personal stories."



An historian and lover of history, Stephanie knows why the Southern Oregon Historical Society is important: "SOHS preserves the still, small voice of the people who went before us, who lived here before us, and who left behind evidence. SOHS encourages us to examine our own life and our own values. It's like looking into a mirror looking backwards and forwards at the same time."

Stephanie Butler volunteers at SOHS for love of history and invites you to do the same. "We are completely thrilled to have new volunteers for Hanley Farm and the Research Library," she says. "Just a few hours will make a big difference. Join us!"

For more information and to get involved, [visit the SOHS Volunteer Page](#) or call 541-773-6536.

## Save the Date: *Courage in the Golden Valley* Opens Feb. 6

SOHS's 2016 annual exhibit is *Courage in the Golden Valley: Southern Oregon Chinese History*. The exhibit will run from February 6 through April 17, 2016 and will again be at the Rogue Valley Mall in Medford, Oregon.

With objects, photographs, and research from both Jackson and Josephine counties, the exhibition retells the story of the Chinese experience through their own objects and voices. As visitors walk through the exhibition, they will encounter different stations focusing on topics such as labor, building communities, and spotlights on individuals. Visitors are invited to read, observe, and explore, questioning their perception of the local Chinese experience. Interactive exhibits will help visitors to connect their present to the stories. The exhibition, is sponsored by the Rogue Valley Mall and is free and open to the public.



## Curator's Corner

This mystery object came to SOHS in 1967 as part of the large and eclectic Clarence E. Lane

**Collection.** Unfortunately it was not recorded what its function or provenance was. It may be a tool for working with yarn or weaving. The object is made of oak and metal, and measures 6" tall, 15.19" long and 1.25" wide. Our Collections Department would be grateful for any clues as to it's function. Please email us at [curator@sohs.org](mailto:curator@sohs.org) if you can identify this. Thank you!



## From the Collections

These snowshoes were used by M.L. Edwards while serving as a Park Ranger at Crater Lake. Initially hired in 1915 as a temporary ranger, Edwards became one of the first few employees at the park and it is believed that he was the first person to remain at the park through the winter.

A clipping from the *Mail Tribune* titled "Eleven Feet of Snow at Crater" dated February 1916, documents that Edwards spent "a lonesome" winter at Crater Lake that year and that he came out of the park to Fort Klamath on snowshoes - maybe these ones. (SOHS 1966.99)



## Manuscripts Enrich the Archives

Hidden treasures are waiting to be re-discovered in the SOHS Manuscript Collection. Major archives, such as the Fruit Growers League and Eugene Bennett collections are considered manuscripts. SOHS also has letters, photos, diaries, and oddities such as prescriptions written in the late 1870s and pasted into two volumes of the Congressional Record.

The [SOHS online catalog](#) provides a glimpse into the variety of materials you can find and you can visit the Library and Archives any time between noon and 4 pm, Tuesday through Friday. On 4th Saturdays from noon to 2 pm the Library and Archives are open for free research. The Library and Archives are closed for the holidays in November and December and will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 at noon.



## Windows in Time 2016 Season Announced

Jackson County Library Services and Southern Oregon Historical Society are proud to announce the 2016 Windows in Time lecture series. The first program of the year will be presented by Ron Brown, *Heroes and a Few Villains: Those Who Made History in the Rogue Valley at noon on Wednesday January 6* in the Medford Library and on Wednesday January 13 in the Ashland Library.

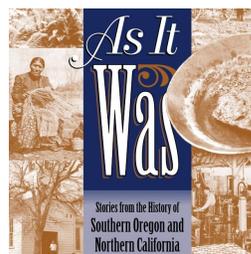
2016 is the 7 year anniversary of the Windows in Time series - thanks to coordinators Amy Blossom, Alice Mullaly, Larry Mullaly, and Dennis Powers!



Windows in Time 2016  
The Southern Oregon History Series

## As It Was: America Butler's Diary

America Butler kept a diary of her daily life in 1853 Southern Oregon and that diary is in the Southern Oregon Historical Society's collection. Her entries give a realistic perspective on the difficulties women had maintaining a household at the time and also America's unabashed dislike of her responsibilities: "I am maid of all trades-sweeping, dusting, churning, ironing, baking bread and pies, dish washing, etcetera." [Listen to Shirley Patton read from America's remarkable diary](#) in Dawna Curler's 2005 *As It Was* episode. *As It Was* airs on Jefferson Public Radio weekdays in the News and Information program.



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