Dear SOHS Members and Friends,

I am pleased to report the successful completion of another year of service and programs by the staff and volunteers of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Our staff of well-trained archivists, exhibit curators, and program assistants has continued to actively preserve important artifacts representing the history of the region as well as legal records that document the development of Medford and surrounding areas. Additionally, through the work of our staff and volunteers, the Society expanded the range, quality, and balance of SOHS programs at the historic Hanley Farm and in our community.

Southern Oregon agriculture was a major theme as our partnership with a local cooperative of farmers resulted in a bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables at Hanley Farm. It was a banner year at this “working” historic farm, which hosted over 10,000 visitors. Our excellent Annual Exhibit, “Women of the Land,” featured stories and artifacts from the lives of Rogue Valley women from the past 150 years and drew over 5500 visitors. Our thanks go to the Rogue Valley Mall for providing exhibit space for this tribute to women in our community.

The addition of Diana Drews as our new Development Director has been a harbinger of growth both in membership and increased grants and gifts. Membership grew steadily by 32%, and revenues from Society programs increased by 17%, but the Society still faces a funding gap between the costs of essential services and sustainable revenue. A one-time infusion of $300,000 from Jackson County helped temporarily bridge this gap and stabilize operations, but the challenge remains to ensure ongoing funding.

During this past year our volunteers were stellar. They came alongside our talented staff giving many hours of service and support for the remarkable hands-on history and community events at the Hanley Farm. Volunteers helped keep our research library open and available to the public. The Gold Diggers Guild faithfully provided both helping hands and fundraising support to energize our work.

I wish to express appreciation to Rob Esterlein who served until recently as our Executive Director. His efforts over the past 3½ years helped the Society restructure and rebound. Additionally, the Society has been blessed by the ongoing support of our members, many of whom also volunteer. In this report we recognize one of these, Judy Drais, who gave much time to the success of the Society. Our sympathies are with her family and friends at her passing. Judy’s enthusiasm for history and for people was infectious and her commitment to serving others was inspiring.

There it is—all in all an excellent year of growth and renewal! I encourage you to read through this Annual Report and glean the breadth and depth of our Society successes this year. We are already off to a great new year!

Sincerely,

Phil Long, PhD.
President, Board of Trustees
Did you Know?

Did you know that we work with the school districts and have over 7,000 children per year at Hanley Farm? Did you know that the farm hosts over 10,000 visitors per year?

Did you know that our Annual Exhibit, “Women of the Land,” had over 5,500 visitors?

Did you know that we had our first History Luncheon since 2009 on March 11th, that 360 people attended this wonderful event, and that our next History Luncheon will be on March 9, 2016?

Did you know that in the spring we welcomed four lambs and goats to the Hanley Farm Family?

Did you know that due to a generous grant from the Kinsman Foundation, we were able to have the gutters replaced and fascia painted on Hanley House, and we will start work on replacing the roof on the water tower and repainting it?
# Our Programs

**MISSION**
To make history come alive by collecting, preserving, and sharing the stories and artifacts of our common heritage.

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES**
- Convey historical accuracy
- Provide authentic visitor experiences
- Foster partnerships with the community
- Seek revenue enhancement opportunities
- Promote stewardship of cultural heritage resources
- Demonstrate historical significance and uniqueness
- Provide a community space & support community events

**COLLECTION**
Housing an estimated 1,000,000 Southern Oregon artifacts

**EXHIBITS**
Rotating temporary exhibits focused on Southern Oregon culture

**RESEARCH LIBRARY**
Home to one of the largest archival repositories in Oregon including photos, diaries, business records, journals, and maps

**HISTORY: Made by You**
Working with local community groups, we create relevant exhibits that are installed in small cases and travel to public locations

**WINDOWS IN TIME**
Free Lunch-time series featuring well-known writers and historians that bring alive the people, places, and events that shaped Southern Oregon

**HISTORIC HANLEY FARM**
Established in 1857, Hanley Farm is a working farm located just outside Jacksonville, Oregon, and welcomes over 10,000 visitors each year.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
Providing free training and archival supplies to heritage-based nonprofits in Southern Oregon
Acquisitions are at the core of SOHS’s mission. The SOHS Collections Department processed 137 new donations this fiscal year, totaling almost 600 objects, archival materials and photographs that document the rich and vibrant history of the Southern Oregon region. **Highlights in FY14 include:**

- Two donations from representatives of the Rogue Regional Medical Center Auxiliary volunteer group which include many scrapbooks documenting the long and important history of the organization, as well as examples of the uniforms that were worn by Auxiliary members.
- Materials from the estate of Ross and Marjorie Knotts, long-time Rogue Valley residents who were founders of Rogue Valley Manor and were instrumental in the founding of La Clinica de Valle (now known as La Clinica).
- Mementos from the now demolished Kim’s Restaurant, a mainstay Medford restaurant for many years. Items in this donation include lamp shades with signatures and notes from visitors to the restaurant, a dragon sculptured door handle and several architectural drawings of the original plans for the restaurant.
- A Winchester rifle originally owned by Loris Martin of Trail, Oregon. According to family oral history, it is the same gun that shot Oregon’s first game warden, Arthur Hubbard, after a confrontation on December 14, 1914 about illegal hunting. Martin was arrested and went through a highly publicized trial, at the end of which he was found not guilty. What a story!

Other highlights for the Collections Department include the completion of a grant-funded earthquake mitigation project at SOHS’s offsite storage facility. This involved bracing static shelving, repacking fragile objects into new storage enclosures and bungee-cording everything in place. Collections Assistant, Keoni Diacamos, presented the project at the 2015 Oregon Heritage Conference, wrote a blog post for the Oregon Heritage Commission and is working on developing a short workshop to help train other local heritage organizations on how they can also prepare. The project was inspired by the recent talk of The Big One, an inevitable massive earthquake that seems to have the entire West Coast shaking in their boots already.

*Up next is a reorganization of our art collection and an inventory of our textile collection!*
The SOHS Library and Archives benefit the southern Oregon community in many ways in addition to providing access to the collection for individual researchers. Staffing for the Library includes the Library Manager, who works 39 hours per week, and the Archivist, who works, on average, about 12 hours per week. The Archivist has overall responsibility for the Archives and related projects. The Library Manager handles daily tasks, including correspondence and money handling. The Archivist and Library Manager jointly plan projects for volunteers to complete, manage collection cataloging, and maintain the Archives.

**Volunteers**

Library volunteers provide assistance to clients during the Library’s open hours and work on special projects.

**Accomplishments in 2014/15**

**Tales from the Collection**: The Library is now open every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, in addition to its regular hours (Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4:00 pm). Open Saturday features a program between 10 am and Noon followed by research time from Noon to 2 pm. Attendance to date has averaged 15 people per program (plus staff and volunteers). This project is a joint effort of volunteers, Collections staff and Library staff.

**It’s a Crazy Business**: This book, written by Pinto Colvig (aka Bozo the Clown; he was a Disney animator and the son of southern Oregon pioneers), has just been published by Theme Park Press. SOHS still owns the copyright and will benefit from sales. The editor, Todd James Pierce, contacted SOHS for permission to publish this manuscript from the Archives and do further research on Pinto Colvig. SOHS approved a contract with Theme Park Press and is looking forward to promoting this book.

**Website**

The SOHS research website continues to include more material helpful for many projects. The “As It Was” stories, sponsored by Jefferson Public Radio and SOHS, are now searchable on our website because JPR’s updated website did not provide adequate search capabilities. Century Farms are now indexed on the SOHS website because finding the list of them was difficult. Additional information for selected farms will be added. A new version of the site, with improved searching and links to online photos, has been launched.
EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS

The SOHS Library staff and volunteers provide research, documents, text and photos for SOHS exhibits. In 2014/15, at least 100 hours were spent on the Women on the Land exhibit. The Library staff and volunteers also assisted with exhibits at Hanley Farm and windows exhibits at SOHS.

WINDOWS IN TIME

SOHS staff and volunteers assist Windows in Time speakers, who are given free access to the Archives and free scans of SOHS photos. The SOHS Archivist volunteers her time to prepare and present one Windows in Time talk each year.

FILMS

The SOHS Archivist provides technical support to the 2014/2015 film project, funded in part by a grant from Jackson County Cultural Coalition. As of this date, over 215 films have been digitized and indexing is available for them on the website. Plans include uploading a few of the digitized films for viewing.

BENNETT COLLECTION

The Eugene Bennett archives have been inventoried and transferred to archival boxes. In addition to creating the inventory of Bennett’s photographs, Bob Holbrook, a volunteer, scanned and indexed Bennett’s photos of his art works. Gayle Lewis, also a volunteer, inventoried five file cabinets of Bennett documents.

BRITT COLLECTION

Although SOHS does not own the Britt Archives, the organization has stored them since the 1950s. In 2014, the SOHS Library Manager fully cataloged the documents. Volunteers indexed the glass plate negatives in order to make it possible to match Britt prints to the original negatives.

ORAL HISTORIES

Bob Holbrook, with minor assistance from SOHS staff and volunteers, completed the transcription of over 60 oral histories in 2014/2015, including a series of tapes created for the Applegate Trail Bicentennial.
Financials

(Unaudited) For fiscal year July, 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

During fiscal year 2014-2015 our program revenues were up by 17% percent from last year. Our membership is up 32% from last year and still climbing. Our donations were up from last year, and grants were up by 30% SOHS received a one-time bridge grant/donation in the amount of $300,000 from the county. So as you can see, for the first time in a longtime, our financials are not dressed in red. We are not out the woods by any means. We have a long hard road ahead to create a sustainable revenue streams in order to assure the preservation of the Southern Oregon Historical Society and it irreplaceable historical legacies.

### REVENUE

- Program Services: $61,577.03
- Facility & Equipment Use Revenue: $97,804.53
- Donation: $341,046.23
- Fundraising Revenue: $51,572.00
- Misc. Income: $2,239.93
- Income Released from Restriction: $209,118.08

**Total Revenue:** $763,357.80

### EXPENSES

- Operating Expenses: $103,761.23
- Personnel/Labor: $417,492.62
- Training & Travel: $2,460.91
- Facility & Equipment Costs: $85,483.18
- Fundraising & Development: $14,046.37
- Depreciable Assets: $12,623.32

**Total Expenses:** $635,867.63

**Net Income:** $127,490.17
It would be impossible to list here all of The Southern Oregon Historical Society’s volunteers or to give more than a brief indication of the roles they play in allowing the Society to fulfill its mission. Without their dedication, skill, knowledge and thousands of hours of work, there would be no SOHS.

The Gold Diggers’ Guild raises money works to make our events a success. days a week, 50 weeks a year, fulfilling interested individuals from Southern Or-maintain the grounds of Hanley Farm. plants. Volunteer docents expertly and Gardens. Volunteers help plan, tional and fundraising events at Han-Children's Heritage Fair to the ORIGINS Farm-to-Table Dinners and the Scarecrow Festival and Haunted Field.

A Sincere Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Gold Diggers’ Guild—Lynn & Doris Sojlund—Southern Oregon Historical Society’s Board of Trustees
Judith Ann "Judi" Drais died Friday, August 28, 2015, in Medford, Oregon, her home for the past 30 years. She was born April 28, 1940, in Champaign, Illinois, to Ralph and Thelma (Glover) Drais.

Her early childhood was spent in Monticello, Illinois, where her father had grown up and in Clinton, Indiana, where the family lived during World War II while her father served as an auxiliary military policeman at a munitions plant. After the war, the family moved to Grants Pass, Oregon, where Judi attended Riverside Elementary School, Grants Pass Junior High School and Grants Pass High School, graduating from GPHS in 1958.

After a year at Willamette University, she transferred to the University of Oregon, where she was a member of Chi Omega and Mortar Board. She graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in English. In 1984, she earned an MA in the teaching of writing from the University of California at Berkeley.

Judi taught English for two years at Lake Washington High School in Kirkland, Washington, and took graduate classes at the University of Washington. She then taught at Wheatridge and Golden high schools in suburban Denver, Colorado, and then moved to Ashland, Oregon. She taught language arts at nearby Talent Junior High/Middle School for 32 years before retiring in 1997. During those years, she was active in the Phoenix-Talent Education Association, serving as co-president for a year and on the negotiations team for several years. She was also active in the Oregon Writing Assessment program from its inception and served as assessment site director in Lakeview for several years.

After her retirement, Judi became active with the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS), first as a volunteer and then as a board member, board president for two terms and then SOHS Foundation board president. She also served on the boards of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Southern Oregon Humane Society, Mediation Works, Art in Bloom and Friends of the Hannon Library at Southern Oregon University. She also kept members of the GPHS class of 1958 in touch with each other through a monthly newsletter she compiled for her classmates.

She was an avid reader and book collector who also loved antiquing, vacationing on the Oregon coast and going out to eat! As her teaching career, volunteer work, educational enrichment and "free time" activities indicate, Judi refused to stay home, despite spending the rest of her life in a wheelchair after being shot in the back in 1964. At Judi's request, those wishing to make a charitable contribution in her memory are asked to choose the Southern Oregon Historical Society as its recipient.

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, champagne in one hand, strawberries in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming, 'WOO HOO - WHAT A RIDE!'"
# Ways to Give

The preservation and care of the Society's extraordinary collections and the funding for its various programs and publications are made possible through the generous support of the Society's members, friends, and donors. We invite you to be a part of this important work.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF GIFT</th>
<th>HOW IT WORKS</th>
<th>WHEN TO SET UP THE GIFT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>Write a check or charge a credit card.</td>
<td>Anytime: Tax breaks can help you each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequest</td>
<td>Leave a specific amount or percentage of your estate to us through your will or living trust.</td>
<td>Anytime: You can change the gift as your life circumstances require.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciated Securities</td>
<td>Give securities owned longer than one year, and receive a deduction and avoid capital gains</td>
<td>Anytime: Consider this gift whenever long-term capital gains taxes are an issue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retirement Plan</td>
<td>Name us as primary or contingent beneficiary of part or all of your retirement plan.</td>
<td>Anytime: This tax-heavy asset makes a great charitable gift after your lifetime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable Gift Annuities</td>
<td>Make a donation and, in turn, receive a fixed annuity payment each year for life.</td>
<td>Anytime: Benefit from a current tax deduction and augment potential retirement income on a tax-favored basis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorials &amp; Tributes</td>
<td>Give a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one.</td>
<td>Anytime: Realize tax benefits for your kindness.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Donor Advised Funds</td>
<td>Access the giving power of a private foundation without the expense or complexity.</td>
<td>Anytime: This gift allows for easy record keeping as well as an immediate tax deduction.</td>
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<td>Endowments</td>
<td>Establish a fund to support a specific interest, leaving the principal intact in perpetuity.</td>
<td>Anytime: Gain a tax advantage and create a permanent and financially stable fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Assets</td>
<td>Designate all or a portion of your retirement plan to SOHS while retaining control and use of the funds during your lifetime.</td>
<td>Anytime: Give the most-taxed asset in your estate to SOHS, leaving more favorably taxed property to your heirs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Insurance</td>
<td>Name SOHS owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy.</td>
<td>Anytime: Make a significant gift from income instead of capital while qualifying for an income tax deduction.</td>
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**Want to volunteer?**  **Want to make a donation?**  **Want to do research?**

**Want to sponsor an event?**  **Want to attend an event?**

Please check out our website for many more opportunities.

[WWW.sohs.org](http://WWW.sohs.org)