When John Leach proposed to Lilla Irvin, he promised that he could wrangle a mule team and take her places no “cake eating botanists” would go. They were married outdoors near the Pudding River in Aurora, Oregon, on September 13, 1913, at 13 minutes past noon with 13 people in the wedding party. They were married outside because John said he was “too wild for a church.” According to John, thirteen was their lucky number because Lilla was born on the thirteenth of March 1886.

Lilla was a noted botanist who went on to find five species of plants previously unknown to science. John was a pharmacist and civic leader who opened the Phoenix Pharmacy at 67th and SE Foster Road. John also did the metalwork that you will find on the Treasure Hunt. The pair went on many adventurous botanical expeditions during their life together, accompanied by their mules, Pansy and Violet. They lived in the home they called Sleepy Hollow until 1972.

Photos courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society
WALKING GUIDE with clues

First Treasure: Go to a threshold between the inside and the outside.
Second: Stand right outside the Gift Shop door and look up at the Manor House.
Third: Look into the sky above the Gift Shop.
Fourth: Walk counterclockwise all the way around to the north side of the Manor House.
Fifth: Look on the East Terrace of the Manor House.
Sixth: Trillium kurabayashii can be found in several places (seasonally), including along the trail as you head uphill at the back of the Garden.
Seventh: You will encounter several living stumps on the way up the hill along the east fence.
Eighth: Go down the hill to the creek, then go up a curving stone staircase to a basement doorway.
Ninth: Head all the way down to the east edge of the garden right by the creek.
Tenth: Walk along the creek towards the bridge.
Eleventh: Look for this on your way up the stone steps towards the entrance gate.
Twelfth: Once back in the driveway, look up and you will see the tallest tree in the Garden.
Thirteenth: Walk back toward the Manor House and stop to admire the lovely Japanese maple.

Well done! You have found all of the treasures!