

Loggers raise funds for new memorial, museum at Camp 18

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

ELSIE — A decade ago, a volunteer group of foresters opened a memorial in a small cabin-style building along U.S. Highway 26 just east of Camp 18 Restaurant for those who died while logging.

In a testament to one of the deadliest and most storied local professions, the Camp 18 Loggers Memorial quickly filled up with shrines and artifacts from the woods.

Volunteers are now raising between \$3 million and \$4 million for a new, 7,000-square-foot museum to continue honoring the past while providing a nod to the future.

The Camp 18 Loggers Museum was founded in the 1970s by Maurie Clark and Gordon Smith, former owners of Camp 18 Restaurant. The museum became a popular spot to stop on the way to the coast, marked by a 160-foot spar tree and a growing collection of donated logging equipment from years past.

“We were forgetting what our guys looked like who passed away,” said Mark Standley, a logging safety consultant and an organizer behind the addition of the memorial. “We sat around on a deck of logs wondering, ‘What can we do to preserve these guys’ memories.’”

The idea was to put some logs out with aluminum tags memorializing late loggers, he said. But after receiving some large donations, the project soon expanded into a small building.

The entrance to the memorial is framed by a large grappling hook, each end anchored in twin stone pillars. Inside a heavy set of double doors is a bronze cast of a timber faller — modeled after the late Steve Boudreau, who worked for Morisse Logging Co. in Astoria for 20 years — chainsawing through a tree trunk.

On either side of the statue are a series of wooden aisles, each filled with memorials of families who have worked in the industry. The innermost aisles are dedicated to those who have died on the job.

“We’re running out of room,” said Harve Dethlefs, the owner of Bighorn Logging Corp. in Banks and a board member for the memorial.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A statue commemorates the legacy of local loggers at the memorial and museum at Camp 18.

Logging museum names first female board president

Cannon Beach Gazette

Effective March 2019, the Camp 18 Logging Museum has voted in their first female president.

Allina Schmeltzer, board member since 2015, has volunteered to serve in the role after the previous president stepped down.

Schmeltzer joined the board to honor her father, Mark Schmeltzer, who loved working in the forestry industry and was dedicated into the memorial in 2015. Schmeltzer has a degree in English with a writing minor from Portland State University and has been serving as the board’s secretary since she joined.

As a native Oregonian, she is extremely passionate about educating the public on the importance of the logging industry and for creating a space that will commemorate those who have served



Allina Schmeltzer

it, for all generations.

The board is currently raising money for a new museum and memorial building. The memorial building has become a home, of sorts, for all the men and women who have served this industry.

There are currently about 400 plaques in the existing memorial building and space is becoming limited.

The Camp 18 Loggers Memorial will hold its annual dedication Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m. A live auction will follow to raise money for the new building. All are welcome.

For more information call Allina Schmeltzer at 503-956-4631 or visit www.camp18logging-museum.org for more information.

About 350 loggers have been memorialized so far, with another 30 or so plaques added each year, Standley said. With space running low, he’s had the unenviable task of asking

families to consolidate their memorials as more of the fallen are added to the walls.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Mark Standley talks about the effort to raise money for a new facility to house a memorial and museum at Camp 18.

Interspersed with the memorials throughout the museum are tin hats, axes, climbing spikes and other tools of the trade. In one corner is a memorial to the family of Shawn Teevin, a local industry magnate whose brother and father both died in logging accidents.

“We get hordes of people from the restaurant, so it’d be nice to have something more visible,” Dethlefs said.

The museum hired Astoria-based firm Chadbourne + Doss Architects to come up with the design of the new memorial and museum. The firm has previously worked on the Alderbrook Station and Red Building in Astoria.

“They were very interested in going modern and showcasing newer lumber technologies,” Daren Doss said.

“For a project struggling with money, you have to limit expenditures,” he said. “They’ll try to be as green as possible.”

To reach its lofty fundraising goal, the museum needs someone to reach out to large timber landowners, mills and other companies. “That’s where the bigger money’s going to come from, hopefully,” Dethlefs said.

The Camp 18 Loggers Memorial will hold its annual dedication at 10 a.m. May 11. The names of those added in the last year will be called out, after which local high school forestry teams will compete in timber sports.

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