

(From copy given Y & R by Dudley Carter)

THE LAKE WILDERNESS COLUMN

Top Figure symbolizes the Host and Founder, who bears the burden and responsibility of it all. He seems to be gazing out across Lake Wilderness toward Mt. Rainier, and wishes for someone else to hold up the roof while he goes fishing in the lake.

Mountain Hawk next below and in front, is the guardian spirit who keeps away evil, High pressure salesmen, etc.

Mountain Goat Kids - they are twins, friendly and playful.

Mourning Dove - also known as Wild Pidgeon, symbol of peace, and has a good influence on the weather.

Fire Bird - a mythical bird who keeps fire under control. Subdues the flame rising between the horns of the Ram.

Ram - is the Big Horn Mountain Sheep Ram from the high distant mountains.

Great Horned Owl - In front of the Ram and holding a dogwood blossom, gives confidence to this arrival who is symbol of strength and takes seriously the responsibility of supporting the building and the column above.

Chipmunk - perched on the horn of the Mountain Ram is wondering (as you are) why he was not given a tail.

Trillium and Loons' Eggs - at the top and rear of the column is a young Trillium, the first wild flower of spring; and nexting in the leaves are Loon's eggs. If you hear the maniacal laugh of this great bird while flying high at night, there will be rain the following day; but if on the waters of Lake Wilderness it gives the call, the sun will shine tomorrow.

Frog - Lower down the column Frog is supporting the steel beam. After devouring a horsefly, feels equal to the Mountain Lion below who is posed for an attack.

Mountain Lion - Is angry with Frog, because he can defy the force of gravity and sit on the beam from the underside and support it and face Mountain Lion at the same time.

Two Mythical Birds - These abstract birds on the west side of the column make the contact between the medium and the characters.

The column is designed according to the principals of the primitive Northwest Indian Totem carvings.

"This totem art no doubt developed over a period of many centuries by the use of stone tools, and this means of execution had a great bearing on the design and style of the work which followed."

The departure from realism, the distortion of the more or less abstract characters, together with the filling of space, brings the composition within the limits of the column. This, and the interlocking principal as practiced by the totem carvers makes a continuity of design throughout, while the blocky nature of the forms and the varying planes emphasize the three-dimensional quality of the sculpture and keep it in harmony with the medium and function as an architectural feature of the building. The characters are all native of the Northwest. The medium is Northern Red Cedar logged from the slopes of Mt. Pilchuck and carved with double bit fallers' axes.