

MT. ANGEL GLOCKENSPIEL

Mount Angel's glockenspiel celebrates the German-Swiss-Bavarian heritage of the village and our "Old World" style famous Oktoberfest. The first figure represents the Native Americans who came here to communicate with the Great Spirit, followed by figures depicting the founders of both the civil and religious communities of Mount Angel and the frivolity and fun of the Oktoberfest.

The clock is large and clearly visible; the bells are sharp and precise in their sound. However, the animated figures are the real traffic stoppers. Wherever Glockenspiels are located, they become tourist destinations, with crowds gathering on the appointed hours to watch the figures as they dance about and listen to the resonance of the bells.



The first floor of the tower above street level, displays seven life-size hand-carved wooden figures that rotate and turn about to their own music. The images were crafted by the same wood carvers who created the figures for the Salem Carousel and by members of the Capital Carving Club of Marion County.

The Kalapuya Indians were the first known visitors to "The Mountain" East of town. They came to pray on top of the mountain, which became known as "Prayer Mountain." Thus a noble Kalapuya Brave at prayer carved by Terry Kraemer will be the first figure to appear. This figure was funded by the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

T.W. Davenport, the original surveyor of the Mount Angel area, observed, near the top of Abbey hill, "many semi-circular walls of stone, each enclosing space enough for a comfortable seat, and as high as one's shoulders when in a sitting position..." Mr. Davenport noted that the Indians traveling through the valley climbed the butte to pray to the Great Spirit. The Indians told him that coming to this mount to pray had been a tradition of their ancestors. They called the spot "Tapalamaho," the Mount of Communion or more descriptively the "dwelling place of the Heavenly Spirit."

Tapalamaho remains to this day a holy place as the site of the Benedictine monks' abbey and seminary. The abbey welcomes pilgrims of all persuasions to visit this holy place of peace carrying on the great tradition of the early Native Americans.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zollner were the first German settlers to come to this part of the valley in 1867. They migrated to America from Rathenburg in the Kingdom of Bavaria. The figure depicting them is unique as they stand side by side. This statue was

funded by the Zollner Family. This double statue is a team project by wood carvers Sam Hutchinson and Kenny Wilson.

With the coming of Mathias Butsch in the fall of 1878, the Catholic community of Mount Angel found their leader. He was instrumental in the building the first church, a sawmill, a community store and the first railroad station. Most importantly, he was instrumental in bringing the Benedictine monks to Mount Angel. He is still widely known as the "Father of Mount Angel." Mathias Butsch migrated from the German Palatinate. The figure of Mathias Butsch was funded by 4-B Farms and the Butsch Family. Dan Henry carved this statue.

Prior Adelhelm Odermatt came from our sister city of Engelberg in Switzerland and established the Benedictine Monastery in 1881. He was Mount Angel's first pastor. He suggested the name "Mount Angel" for the small community, the anglicized version of Engelberg, his Swiss home. Mount Angel Abbey is located on top of Prayer Mountain, a place that was holy to the Indians. This figure, the work of Everett Koontz was funded by Mount Angel Abbey.

The Benedictine Sisters came to Mount Angel in 1882, from the Convent of Maria Rickenbach in Switzerland. Sister Bernadine Wachter was the first Prioress of the convent and new school, built in the shadow of Prayer Mountain. The sisters funded the statue of Sister Bernadine. The statue of Sister Bernadine was carved by Chris McBride.

The town flourished over the years, and in 1966 took on a Bavarian feeling when the first Oktoberfest was celebrated. The Papa Oom Pah figure, carved by Mike Reifel is the official mascot. He is a jolly Bavarian with rosy cheeks, a flowing mustache, lederhosen, and a huge tuba. He represents all the fun and excitement of the Northwest's best-loved folk festival and our Bavarian cultural heritage. Oktoberfest funded the \$4,500.00 for the Papa Oom Pah figure and donated an additional \$4,530.00 for the mechanical works.

The grand finale happens on the second floor. When the shutters open, we look to our future. A boy and a girl dressed in traditional Bavarian peasant costumes swing on a garden swing to the singing the song *Edelweiss* by our school children. A very appropriate song, since the Glockenspiel Tower is on the corner of the Edelweiss Village complex in Mount Angel. The models for these statues carved by Terry Kraemer and Bob Watkins were actual members of the Middle School Bavarian Dance Team in their finest Bavarian clothing. This depiction was funded by the Ruef Family of Mount Angel.

The clock works were designed and crafted by Don West, a community volunteer. The clock face and other Bavarian decorations on the tower were painted by Larry Kangas of Kangas Murals.

A number of Glockenspiel volunteers from Gem Equipment, the Mt. Angel Bottling Company, Seeres' Farms, some retired community folk and others worked under the

supervision of Mike Grant, the General Contractor of the Edelweiss Village. All of his support to the Glockenspiel Project was volunteered.

The Glockenspiel is the cornerstone of our downtown core. The Edelweiss building and tower are built to resemble a large chalet with numerous Alpine features such as balconies, pitched and gabled roofs, massive half-timbering, and stucco work. The building's upper floors house 28 units of affordable senior housing, with a bank, restaurant and other retail space at street level. Its massive tower with its conical roof is a tourist draw similar to the Glockenspiels of Europe. The Glockenspiel figures and mechanical works are the property of the Mount Angel Community Foundation and reside in the Glockenspiel Tower.

Like the great Glockenspiels of Central Europe, Mount Angel's Glockenspiel was built by local artisans and crafters, community volunteers with broad-based financial support from the citizens of Mount Angel and others.

