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Launching through the Surf Traveling Exhibit Panel 14: The Memorial Wall

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Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City

The bronze plaque has been attached to the wall. ©

Marlene Carter, a former owner of Koranda Fish Company and beloved member of the dory community, conceived the idea of a memorial about the dories.

Many fishing communities honor their fishermen who were lost at sea. The Pacific City Dorymen’s Association took a different approach as it created a memorial to commemorate its fleet. Many fishermen in this community know each other not by their given names, but rather by the names of their dories. There is a special bond between a dory fisherman and his or her dory—a trust that these small but sturdy vessels will take them through the surf to the fishing grounds and bring them home safely at the end of the day. In almost certainly very few decades have lost their lives on the ocean. Consequently the Dorymen’s Memorial celebrates the Dories of Pacific City, featuring the names of 800 dories. In addition plaques at the bottom of the wall contain the names of deceased individuals who contributed significantly to the dory fleet. Dory families and friends donated most of the materials and labor for the wall construction.

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Dorymen’s Memorial Wall

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The photograph (top), circa 1985, was used for the image at the top of the bronze plaque. The bottom image depicts the clay sculpture used for the bronze mold.

The bronze plaque has been attached to the wall. ©

Mason and doryman Richard Bush staits the ears, which are molded into the concrete, before applying a beige slurry to “finish” the wall.

The photograph (top), circa 1985, was used for the image at the top of the bronze plaque. The bottom image depicts the clay sculpture used for the bronze mold.

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