

# History

The Fall City Totem Pole was carved in 1934 by Hugh H. Hinds of Fall City, when the Fall City Community Club accepted his offer to design a large totem pole for display in Fall City. Mr. Hinds drew inspiration from the legends and carvings of the Haida, who live along the coast of British Columbia. (See Totem Legend sign.)

The completed 43-foot totem pole was dedicated on December 16, 1934, to the memory of Mrs. Julia Harshman. (See panel at right.)

In 1964, the totem pole blew down during a violent windstorm, and serious rot was discovered. In 1967, after extensive repairs, it was erected again. However, by 1981 it was evident that major restoration was needed and the pole was taken down a second time.

In 1982, the original totem pole was deemed unrepairable, and the Fall City Business and Professional Association commissioned Herman Williams, of the Tulalip tribe, to carve a replacement pole, following the same story as the original. In June 1982, the second Fall City Totem Pole, 30 feet in height, was erected.

In 1997, Richard Kirby and a team from Chief Kanim Middle School began restoring the original pole. In 1999, the Fall City Boy Scout Troop #425 joined the restoration process. The pole was treated to prevent any further rot and insect damage, and then repaired with special moldable epoxy. The badly damaged Raven's head at the top was replaced with a carving done by Chief Kanim teacher Jim Ullman. The restoration project was a remarkable community effort, with many Fall City people helping raise the needed funds and work on the re-installation. A more detailed record of the restoration project is available at the Fall City Library.



1982-2001



On August 30, 2001, the original Fall City Totem Pole was once again installed where it had stood for 44 years. The 43-foot symbol of Fall City's community spirit and the memory of Julia Harshman pierced the sky once more.

The Second Fall City Totem Pole is now on display at Chief Kanim Middle School on Redmond-Fall City Road.

## Julia Camp Harshman

Julia Gertrude Camp was born in Ohio in 1862. She followed lawyer Newton Roswell Harshman to Seattle in 1890, where they married, and had a daughter, Gertrude Fern Harshman, in 1895.



In 1903, the Harshman Family moved to Fall City. Newt and partner Faye Partch built a sawmill south of town. In 1905 Emerson Neighbor borrowed \$300 from Julia Harshman to build a telephone line from Tolt (now Carnation) to the Fall City Northern Pacific Depot. Two years later, Emerson moved to Seattle and deeded the 31-customer telephone system to Julia. Thus it became the Harshman Telephone Company, Julia's prime business interest. The Harshmans moved to the corner of Mill and River Streets in 1912 and the telephone switchboard was installed in their house. In 1929, Newt died suddenly and Julia continued managing the company until she passed away on December 10, 1933, leaving as her legacy a telephone company of over 200 customers in the communities of Fall City, Tolt, Preston, Pleasant Hill and Stillwater.

Julia was interested in every civic enterprise in Fall City and devoted many hours to worthy projects. The citizens of Fall City are in debt to Julia Harshman for making this small town a better place to live and work.