



Just a hammer-throw away from the University of Oregon, this place has been a neighborhood fixture for more than a quarter-century (and counting!) and is right in step with the university's laid-back feel. Students, regulars, families and folks just passing through all frequent our pub at E. 19th and Agate.

Early manager April Mitchell watched over the place for ten years. After working in Corvallis and Edgefield, she took the reins of E. 19th Street in 1992. "It was family-oriented and everybody knew everybody. It was a great place to work. There was groups of people that liked the blackboard and they liked the artwork, they liked the neon... it was fun getting artists to come in there and draw on [the chalkboards.]"

April recalled getting a lot of college students, different from McMenemy's other Eugene pubs. "We had a totally different clientele than McMenemy's High Street. Basketball really affected us. We even got some football people. We got a lot of kids." To this day, basketball games are notorious for bringing in crowds of fans who start their tailgating early at the pub. While its proximity to campus ensures that a lot of students frequent the place, a scan of the room reveals a more diverse mix: A young couple splits a bottle of wine, a work meeting is progressing over a stack of papers, a family shares a basket of fries.

Today, pub manager Melissa Leach (an E. 19th employee since 2008) says, "We couldn't be happier to be right in the heart of Track Town USA...it's a lot of fun with so many different events constantly being held at the field. We've been able to meet so many people from all over the world!" With Eugene having hosted five Olympic trials and another to come in 2016, plus the IAAF World Junior Track & Field Championships, our pub has had the pleasure of serving many Olympic athletes over the years, such as long-distance runner and silver medalist Meb Keflezighi.

One of the pub's most beloved regulars has to be coach Stewart Togher, called "the father of modern hammer throwing in America." While Stewart may not be the most, shall we say, congenial of guests, our staff enjoys being able to provide him with his standard order ("Piping hot coffee!") on a routine basis. Togher often brings his athletes (past, present and prospective) in for a meal. Perhaps his most well-known student athlete is Lance Deal, 1996 Olympic silver medalist, 21-time national champion and current director of track & field venues and program support at the U of O. Lance himself often brings new and/or prospective athletes into the pub for lunch. Coach Togher also worked with hammer-thrower Koji Murofushi for two years, assisting him in his training and subsequent win of the gold medal at the 2004 Olympics. See photos of Koji at his athletic best, doing the hammer throw, above the table where he likes to sit.

Music has also had a significant impact here at E. 19th. Former manager April remembered wanting to take the day off to see the Grateful Dead play at Autzen Stadium, but suspected the pub would be too busy.

She was right: “It was mad, people were all over. You get inundated with all these people. We got a lot of the Deadheads coming in.” She also remembers the Bob Dylan and Van Morrison show at Mac Court. “It was a great show. After the show we came in and I felt so bad! I was like, ‘Ah, I gotta go work!’ My assistants wouldn’t let me, they made me sit down. But I said to my friends, ‘We gotta go or I have to throw an apron on.’ I had no idea the pub would be so busy!”

The pub has changed a bit over its 25-plus-year run: the old blackboards were replaced with mirrors, spirits are now a staple, the menus are updated regularly and the pub became our southern-most outpost for concert tickets for McMenamins venues. But perhaps one



of the most vibrant and eye-catching changes to the pub is the addition of a huge mural by beloved McMenamins artist Joe Cotter. The colorful, extremely detailed work celebrates the Oregon Country Fair, which rises for three magical days every July just outside Eugene in rural Veneta, Ore.

Painted over a period of three years, the mural lovingly chronicles the events and personalities of Country Fair. “I was trying to get the feeling of what the fair’s like,” Joe explained in 2010 when it was hung up in the pub. “It’s

pretty crammed there. There’s a lot of creative energy... performance art, all kinds of art, spoken word, a lot of activists. There’s just all this energy in this place. A lot of people see it as a renewal.”

Take a close look at the mural to see what you might find and whom you might recognize – along the paths that run through the wooded site connecting the stages, Joe’s Country Fair is populated by fellow artists, performers and musicians who have become friends, many of whom attained iconic status over the years: the Flying Karamazov Brothers, Mother Zosima, Artis the Spoonman, Reverend Chumley, Baby Gramps, the Mud People, Mos Wright, Ken Kesey, the Risk of Change theater troupe, Tom Knotty the bubble guy, the Holy Modal Rounders, Mike and Brian McMenamini and many, many others – including Joe Cotter himself. “I’m there playing the trumpet,” Joe said. “I actually put myself in. I never do that.” Joe passed away in March 2012, but this mural (along with hundreds of other paintings and sculptures throughout McMenamini’s properties) is a happy reminder of his talent and presence.

While the look of the E. 19th Street pub along with the mix of patrons and employees has surely changed since its opening, its laid-back attitude and youthful enthusiasm roll ever onward.

