

# Trailer used on 'Twin Peaks' set makes Walla Walla home



Chillville Walla Walla glamor campground owner Zibby Wilder has added the trailer actor Kyle MacLachlan used on the set of the wildly popular and eclectic ABC television show "Twin Peaks" to her collection of trailers available for overnight stays near the airport. Photo by Michael Lopez.

**By Vicki Hillhouse**

**Published by Walla Walla Union Bulletin**

- As of Monday, April 13, 2015

Of all the Airstreams at wine country glampsite Chillville Walla Walla, "Diane" is probably the most famous.

She may not sparkle like she did when she was made in the early 1980s or even like her smaller, sleeker counterparts in the travel trailer village. But Diane once shone among the brightest lights of them all — in Hollywood.

At least, proverbially.

Formerly owned by actor Kyle MacLachlan, the 34-foot Excella was used as a set trailer as he filmed television crime thriller "Twin Peaks."

A mirror surrounded by giant light bulbs on one end of the trailer is still intact from when MacLachlan transformed into agent Dale Cooper for the show based in a fictional Washington town.

How it ended up at Chillville is as surreal as the program was for Chillville co-owner Zibby Wilder.

MacLachlan, a Washington native whose wines under the Pursued by Bear label are made at Dunham Cellars, has become a champion of the Walla Walla wine industry and, in effect, the Valley itself. He reportedly gifted the trailer to the owners of Monteillet Fromagerie who used it at its Columbia County cheesemaking farm to house interns.

In the latest turn of events, the Monteillets loaned the trailer to Wilder and business partner Pamela Ottaviano Rhodes. Wilder hauled it herself from Dayton onto her Chillville property off Lockheed Road at the Walla Walla Regional Airport Industrial Park.

“This thing is a hunk of awesomeness,” she said as she opened the door into the camper that sleeps four. “It’s a fun piece of history. It’s not what you’d expect for camping.”

From the gritty pathway that leads through Chillville’s expansive site the door opens to a throwback period that embraces the “Twin Peaks” theme.

For those unfamiliar: The television series was created by David Lynch and Mark Frost and set in a small town rocked by the death of their darling, the Homecoming Queen Laura Palmer. MacLachlan was the FBI agent called to town after Palmer’s body was discovered wrapped in plastic and discarded on the riverbank. At the end of the two seasons — 1990 and 1991 — Palmer vowed to return 25 years later.

The announcement of a return with a limited series on Showtime in 2016 appeared to fulfill that promise. But how it will shape out is still up in the air. The latest headline is that Lynch has pulled out over budgetary issues with the revival. Showtime reportedly intends to continue pressing ahead.

Fans of the cult classic know the show was laden with recurring motifs: fir trees, logs, owls, ducks, water, fire, antlers and, of course, Agent Cooper’s passion for coffee and cherry pie.

Wilder plans to vamp that with the new trailer — appropriately named “Diane” after the person Cooper always mysteriously addressed in his voice recorded notes but whom viewers never actually met.

Modified from its original condition when MacLachlan converted a bathroom to a bed, the trailer is ripe for other changes. That includes additions from those who stay overnight. Wilder hopes guests of the RV, which starts at \$140 a night, will add their own touches to her cherry curtains and Mr. Coffee maker with the floating fish.

“Since it’s been modified so much already I can do more,” she explained.

She plans to add a photograph of Laura Palmer to the vanity: “I’m hoping people who stay will add to it for a shrine.”

The trailer is now the oldest in the convoy at Chillville. It has no bathroom or running water, though those services are both available onsite. That wouldn’t have been the case when it opened last summer. Wilder said she and Ottaviano Rhodes have changed and adapted their glampsite as consumer demand has become more clear.

Initially launched with vintage campers as well as some newer ones, Chillville minus “Diane” now exclusively features newer travel trailers.

“Everybody liked to look at the vintage ones, but no one wanted to stay in them,” Wilder said.

The newest edition to the campsite is a 2015 20-foot Airstream Flying Cloud for two. Three of the five travel trailers are 2015 vintages.

In addition to the existing trailers, campers can also pull up their own to three available camp spots designed for traveling campers. That feature, too, is new this year. Those looking for a place to plug in can do so at Chillville starting at \$50. The fee includes access to a 30-amp electrical hookup, city water and access to the Party Pad, which has picnic tables, barbecue and petanque/bocce courts, plus an onsite RV dump.

Wilder said visitors have been booking stays for what’s expected to be a packed season. Campers already stayed last weekend. Now those who book have a chance to have a brush with fame.