

Spokane Valley, Washington

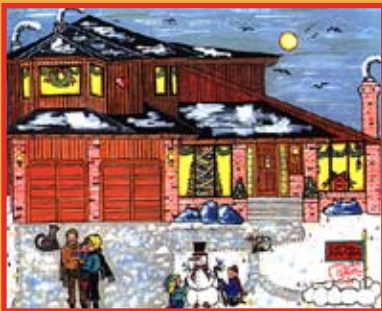
FAMILY HOMES AND MORE IN THIS PRETTY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD EAST OF SPOKANE



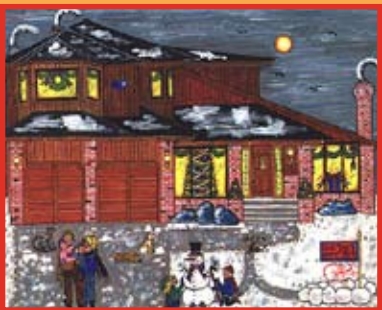
The Barton Snow Fort (1992)



The Barton Snow Fort (1993)



The Barton Snow Fort (1995)



The Barton Snow Fort (1997)



Christmas at the Doohan's

1-4. *The Barton Snow Fort ~ 1992-1997*

This painting was an ongoing labor of love for me. My youngest sister, Peggy, married her husband, Jeff Barton, in the early 1970s, and then promptly moved to the San Francisco area. After several years there, the couple moved again - this time to Honolulu, Oahu. After years apart, Jeff made the decision to changed careers and return to Spokane to take over his family's business. To our family's delight, Peggy finally returned to Spokane.

The couple selected an architect who designed and built a striking contemporary three-story home with a panoramic view of the Spokane valley. In a few short years, their family began growing. First their son Michael arrived, then their daughter, Kelly, then Mark, and finally, Brooklynn. When Peggy married Jeff, she brought her frisky black cockapoo, Andy, with her. During subsequent moves, Andy landed with my parents in Spokane. Later the Peg and Jeff added Rascal, another cockapoo, to their family. Years later, after Andy and Rascal returned to their "kennel-in-the-sky," the Barton family brought two cocker spaniels home - Cocoa and Honeybee. Somewhere along the line, a very independent calico cat, Zoe, made the Barton house her home as well.

I did my best to keep up with this constantly changing household, altering the original painting a number of times, and giving my little sister updated prints along the way - one of which still hangs in their home during the holidays. For decades, Peg and Jeff have hosted a huge feast for their extended family on Christmas Eve - inspiration for this warm and friendly holiday artwork.

2. *Christmas at the Doohan's ~ 1987*

A couple of years after my parents moved their growing family to the Spokane Valley suburbs, another family moved in a block away that was to change our lives forever. Transferred to the area because of job commitments, the Doohans were a welcome and lively addition to the neighborhood. The patriarch of the family, Mike, was originally from Boston and his wife, Winnie, from Philadelphia - but they both fell in love with the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Although they were transferred again a short time after buying their home in the Spokane Valley, it wasn't long before they made the decision to buy a Spokane business and make the final move back "home."

My parents welcomed the Doohans back and began a lifelong friendship with them. They connected socially at least once a week - dining, dancing, playing bridge, skiing, boating and more - for decades. My father became Mike's corporate attorney, while Mike gave most of my brothers and sister summertime employment at his plant on Spokane's North Side. They kept their speedboat at our cabin at Hayden Lake where they were frequent visitors. My youngest brother grew up with the Doohan boys, Joe and Earl, and both my sister, Peggy, and I babysat the young Doohans for "pin money" in high school.

When my father died in the late '80s, Mike read the eulogy for his longtime friend, and later made certain that my mother, Sally, was always included in their social loop. In 2000, at my marriage to Doug, Mike took the role of her "father," walking me down the aisle. In 2002, when my mother, Sally, celebrated her 75th birthday with family and friends, Winnie and Mike were honored guests at her table.

In a very real way, the Doohans have been part of our family for longer than I can remember. They've inspired several paintings, "Halloween at Joe and Mary's," "Joe and Mary's at Christmastime," "The Doohans at Springtime," "Sunday Morning at St. Al's," "Dining with The Doohans" and "Happy Times at Hannah's Garden Inn" - as well as this holiday portrait of their family in front of their home, which I completed as a special gift.

Patti Simpson Ward



Spokane Valley, Washington

FAMILY HOMES AND MORE IN THIS PRETTY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD EAST OF SPOKANE



The House on 21st



Springtime Comes to Simpson Street (21st Ave.)

6. *The House on 21st ~ 1986*

I painted this piece as a special Christmas gift for my folks in 1986. It pictures my mother, Sally's favorite of several family residences, our suburban home in the Spokane Valley. She loved the home's contemporary open feel and expanse of picture windows across the front of the house. It's a beautiful summer day, and all eight of us Simpsons - plus pets - are enjoying an evening game of badminton. Our family lived here from 1962 until well into the 1980s, when my parents moved to a condominium in my sister, Peggy's neighborhood ("The Barton Snow Fort" artwork).

7. *Springtime Comes to Simpson Street ~ 2007*

DETAIL: This is a detail of a large painting of an imaginary neighborhood picturing homes I've lived in and loved over the years - and my third painting of this house. When Bernard Street on Spokane's South Hill was widened into an arterial, my parents pack up us kids and headed to the suburbs of the Spokane Valley. Due east of the city and at the foot of Tower Mountain, our new neighborhood was filled with playmates of all ages. I still keep in touch with many of the friends that I made when we lived here in the 1960s & '70s. This piece shows my little brothers, Bob (with our dogs, Chum and Andy), Bill and John in the foreground. Sisters, Marilee and Peggy have just returned from a bike ride. I'm pictured helping my folks, Sally and Joe, prepare dinner for an "al fresco" on the deck.

Patti Simpson Ward

