



Autumn at the Alumni House (Bing Crosby Home)



Bozarth Mansion in Bloom



Sunday Morning at St. Al's



Winter at Bishop White Seminary



Celebrating Spring at H.N.A. (Holy Names Academy)

Spokane's North Side, Washington

THE NORTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD INCLUDING GONZAGA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, HOLY NAMES & FORT GEORGE WRIGHT

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

1. Autumn at the Alumni House (Bing Crosby Home) ~ 2008

This pretty two-story Craftsman-style house was once the home of crooner, Bing Crosby, on Spokane's North Side. He is one of Gonzaga University's most famous alumni. Although he never finished his education, in later years he was awarded an honorary degree for his ongoing generosity to the school, including his gift of the Crosby Library. Located near St. Aloysius Catholic Church, it is fitting that the University's alumni organization has chosen Bing's childhood residence for their headquarters.

2. Bozarth Mansion in Bloom ~ 2010

In 1911-1913, this mansion was built for J.P. Graves by Kirtland K. Cutter for about \$100,000. The famed Olmstead Brothers of Brookline, MA designed the gardens and underground water system. In addition to owning one of Spokane's trolley lines, he also had the largest herd of jersey cattle on the west coast. It was originally called "Waikiki" in honor of the island Graves visited and because of the 24 streams on the property ("Waikiki" means lots of rushing water). In 1963, the mansion was purchased by Gonzaga University, and today it is know as the Bozarth Mansion and Retreat Center.

3. Sunday Morning at St. Al's ~ 1997

My friend, Joe Doohan, asked me to try my hand at painting St. Aloysius Church for his parish's auction in early March 1997. Besides being the neighborhood church, St. Al's is the center of the Gonzaga University campus. It was a challenge to get the artwork finished in time to have prints made for the auction, but the cause was a good one, so I pulled out the stops. Pictured in the foreground are Joe, his family, the pastor and some of the young students in their plaid uniforms.

4. Winter at Bishop White Seminary ~ 2007

John Huetter started work on this stately mansion in 1889. In the construction business - and a fine stone mason and brick layer - he was also responsible for Gonzaga University's DeSmet Hall and the Administration building. The great fire of 1889 provided other opportunities, such as the construction of the original St. Joseph's Orphanage. Huetter's family of nine children were active in St. Aloysius parish. Several Catholic organizations used this house until 1956 when Bishop Bernard J. Topel dedicated it to the memory of Bishop Charles D. White (second bishop of the Spokane Diocese), and commissioned it as a Preparatory Seminary. This painting was completed to honor its 50th year of preparing men for the priesthood. Hopefully this historic mansion will grace the corner of Sharp and Aston Streets as an extension of Gonzaga Uiversity for years to come. I've pictured my brothers, John, Bill and Bob Simpson, as altar boys in the foreground of this piece.

HOLY NAMES & FORT GEORGE WRIGHT

5. Celebrating Spring at H.N.A. ~ 1997

My sisters, chums, teachers and I are pictured celebrating the spring festival at Holy Names Academy. This imposing red stone building functioned as a "normal school" (teachers' college) before it became a private school for girls. Located a few blocks from St. Aloysius Church, HNA closed its doors in 1975. The empty building sank into sad disrepair until 1987, when it was developed into "The Academy," a non-denominational full-scale retirement community, by local developer, Harry Green. An interesting fact - the academy building was featured for a few minutes in the movie starring, Johnny Depp, "Benny & Joon."

Patti Simpson Ward





Little Grotto in the Woods



Flowerfield in the Fall (Saint George's School)



9th Avenue - Ice Skaters' Ball



Halloween at Joe & Mary's



The Historic Bleeker House

Spokane's North Side, Washington

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6. Little Grotto in the Woods ~ 2003

This lovely little grotto and its statue of the Blessed Mother, have an interesting history. For decades this statue weathered the elements on the grounds behind the private school for girls, Holy Names Academy. HNA closed its doors in 1975, the building eventually sold, and the statue removed from the gardens. At the new SNJM (Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary) facility near Fort George Wright, the grounds slowly began taking shape. A garden grotto next to the forest (a quiet place of meditation for the sisters) was created of river rock, timbers - and imagination. In the clearing, flowers were planted, benches were added, and finally the statue - carefully restored with fresh paint - was placed in her beautiful new home. I am pictured here with my mother, sister Peggy and her daughters, Father Tony Lehman and Sister Eileen Rose.

OTHER BEAUTIFUL SETTINGS ON THE NORTH SIDE

7. Flowerfield in the Fall (Saint George's School) ~ 2008

Located on the banks of the Little Spokane River, Flowerfield was once the 440-acre summer estate of Louis Davenport and his family. Davenport's summer estate was purchased in 1955 and 120 acres of it became Saint George's School. This lovely two-story residence is still part of the campus. Davenport was known for hiring outstanding architects and commissioned renowned architects Kirtland K. Cutter and Karl Malmgren to design what was to become the grandest hotel in Spokane's history. Closed for decades, the Davenport Hotel was restored to its former glory by Walt and Karen Worthy, and re-opened to the public in the early 2000s.

8. Gathering Geraniums at the Hennessey House ~ 2003

This charming shuttered home was designed by famed architect C. Ferris White in the Dutch Colonial Revival style, it was home for decades to the Harry Hennessey family. Daughter Heather was one of my high school friends at Holy Names Academy. Located on what must be the shortest street in town, West Point Road, it is perched on a cliff overlooking the Spokane River valley below. I am told that her mother decorated the front porch with masses of potted geraniums, so I pictured Heather, and me carrying on the tradition. The Hennessey family pooch Woofy is relaxing on the lawn.

9. Halloween at Joe & Mary's ~ 1994

This immaculately restored Victorian beauty can be found near Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington's North Side neighborhood. In the '80s, this home was lovingly restored by Joe Doohan and his wife, Mary, who took it from student "flop house" status to the little gem pictured here. The house was given a facelift - both inside and out, and the couple were forever stripping paint, filling holes, refinishing floors and ceilings, as well as painting for hour upon hour. I was so charmed with their handiwork that I was inspired to paint this portrait of their home for my longtime friends - and chose a whimsical Halloween theme featuring the Dooahans and their friends.

10. Historic Bleeker Home ~ 2009

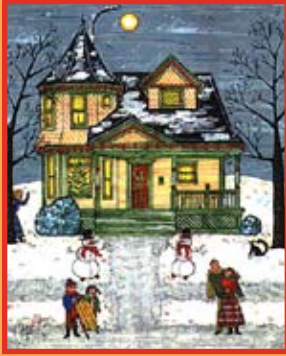
This is a portrait of the historic North Side home built for Harry and Katherine Bleeker in 1909. A Dutch descendent, Bleeker was once secretary/vice president of Spokane's Washington Water Power Company. Famed architect C. Ferris White designed the home in the Dutch Colonial Revival style, influenced by 1700-1800s farm houses in New York's Hudson River Valley. Architectural details include multi-paned windows, louvered shutters and rare flared-roof eaves. The current owners, who have done a remarkable job of bringing the residence back to its period beauty and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Patti Simpson Ward



Spokane's North Side, Washington

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Joe & Mary's at Christmastime



North Side Noel



The Old Maxwell-Pettet Place

10. Joe & Mary's at Christmastime ~ 1993

This is the second painting that I did of the Doohan's family home. Located in the Gonzaga University district of Spokane, it was a real "It's A Wonderful Life" relic until the couple beautifully transformed it through months of scraping, painting and refinishing. Charmingly detailed both inside and out, this home has created many memories for its young family. This painting was completed as Christmas card art for Joe and Mary for 1995, and they own the original painting.

12. North Side Noel ~ 1987

This is a portrait of the classic Queen Anne-style home that my father and aunt drew up in during the Great Depression. Pictured in the front are my dad, Joe, and his little sister, Wanda, about to take their flexible flyer sled out for a ride. Sadly this home met with disaster. The Simpson family experienced hard times and lost their home to foreclosure - a common fate in the late 1930s. A local sheriff bought the house and, rumor has it, burned it to the ground to collect the insurance money. Luckily my aunt kept a photograph of it which made this painting possible. For Christmas in 1987, I gave prints to my dad and aunt. Shortly afterwards, my father passed away, and I felt extremely lucky to have been able to share this artwork with him before he died.

13. The Old Maxwell-Pettet Place ~ 2008

This wintery North Side scene is a portrait of the old Maxwell-Pettet place. This residence is reputed to be the oldest home noted on Spokane's public records. The original property was owned by the Pettet family, sold a short time later to the Maxwells who lived there for decades. Over the years, the original wood structure has been encased and added on to, resulting in this lovely, rambling home in the woods.

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