

Spokane Valley, Washington

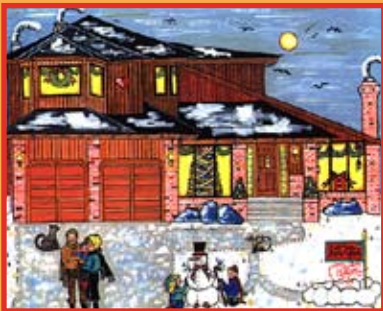
FAMILY HOMES AND MORE IN THIS PRETTY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD EAST OF SPOKANE



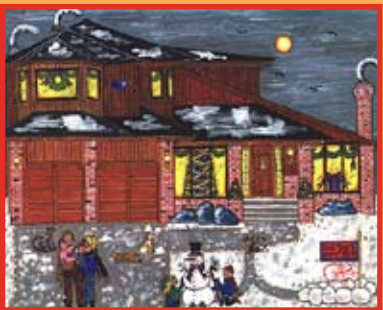
The Barton Snow Fort (1992)



The Barton Snow Fort (1993)



The Barton Snow Fort (1995)



The Barton Snow Fort (1996)



Christmas Decorating at the Doohan's

1-4. *The Barton Snow Fort ~ 1992-1996*

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 change 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 Decorating 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 summer jobs 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 baby-sat the young Doohans for "pin money" in high school.

When my father died in the late '80s, Mike gave 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. Sadly we lost Winnie to pancreatic cancer in spring, 2010.

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



Fine Fall Finish



Fine Fall Finish (Detail - Elliott House)



Fine Fall Finish (Detail - Garrett House)



Playing Badminton on Bowdish



Springtime Comes to Simpson Street (Detail)

6. *Fine Fall Finish ~ 2010*

This is a portrait of three uniquely different Spokane homes, completed as a surprise gift for Lance Elliott and Chris Garrett, the partner contractors who so diligently and beautifully restored our place in Manito. The project was fraught with every sort of challenging unforeseen difficulty, including a freak accident which put Lance in a wheelchair for a bit - but the two persevered. The art pictures Doug and me joined by Lance and Beth holding their Yorkie, Roxie. Chris and Rick are at the table flanked by golden retrievers, Lexi and Pally. We're enjoying a fall picnic in honor of wrapping up the work. Our house is the Craftsman at the top. The Garrett's is in the lower left, and to the right, the Elliott's.

7. *Fine Fall Finish (Detail) ~ 2010*

This is a detail of a portrait showing a neighborhood with three uniquely different Spokane homes. I completed this artwork as a surprise gift for Lance Elliott and Chris Garrett to share it with them at the completion of our project. They were the partner contractors of Elliott Construction who so diligently and beautifully restored our place in the South Hill neighborhood near Manito Park. This detail focuses on the charming Elliott home, a pretty brick rambler located in heart of the Spokane Valley.

8. *Fine Fall Finish (Detail) ~ 2010*

This is another detail lifted from the "neighborhood" portrait picturing our South Hill future residence and our contractors' homes. This detail focuses on the handsome Garrett home, located in East Spokane Valley not far from Liberty Lake. Lance was originally hired to build the place, but Chris ended up giving him lots of help as her father was a general contractor - and she loved the work. Eventually, she became part of the Elliott Construction team.

9. *Playing Badminton on Bowdish ~ 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 Mountain View Estates near my sister Peggy's house.

10. *Springtime Comes to Simpson Street (Detail) ~ 2012*

This is a detail of a large painting of an imaginary neighborhood picturing homes I've lived in and loved over the years. It's also my third painting of this house. I completed the original of this work in March of 2007, but altered it to add our grandson Austin Lee and to show the changes made to our 304 property. When Bernard Street on Spokane's South Hill was widened into an arterial, my parents packed up us kids and headed to the suburban Spokane Valley, east of the city 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 then. This piece pictures my 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 on the deck helping my folks, Sally and Joe, prepare dinner "al fresco."

Patti Simpson Ward

