

Spokane's Downtown District

BELOVED ICONIC SIGNATURE STRUCTURES IN
DOWNTOWN SPOKANE

(10 "Americana" Fine Artwork Titles Listed Alphabetically)



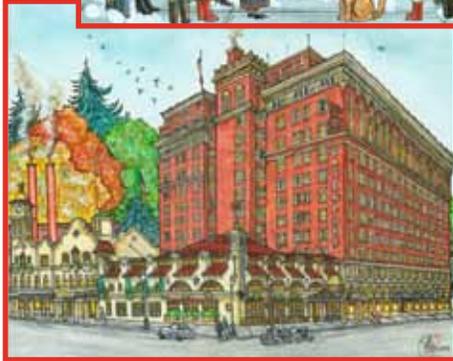
Breaking News at the Review Building ~ 5.2013

This unique building in downtown Spokane was designed and built in 1890 after the Great Spokane Fire by Chauncey B. Seaton, although he left before the construction project was complete. Seaton designed it to fit the unusual shaped lot. It is one of the city's tallest buildings and houses the principal newspaper, the Spokesman Review. In 1883, Frank Dallam began the Review, which competed with the Spokesman, a newspaper owned by a group of local businessmen. In order to survive, the papers merged into one. Then the Panic of 1893 threatened to kill it, so W.H. Cowles came out from Chicago to salvage it and became the sole owner of the new Spokesman Review. Cowles was a very influential member of the community, helping to start the chamber of commerce and serving as director of the Associated Press for 33 years. When I painted this piece, his generous, civic-minded family still owned and operated the paper.



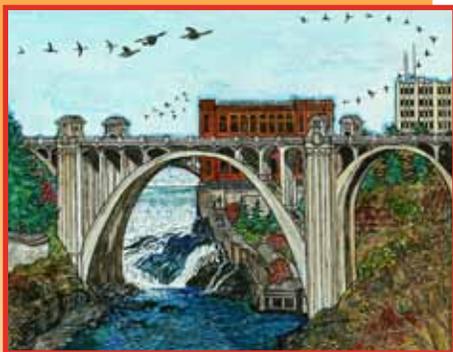
The Crescent Window at Christmastime ~ 7.2009

The Crescent Department Store was THE place to shop when I was a youngster growing up in Spokane, Washington. It opened in 1889, the year of the big Spokane fire that virtually destroyed the greater downtown area. The store served faithfully (nearly a century) until 1988 when it was sold to the F&N (Frederick & Nelson) Acquisition Corporation. Our annual tradition, as it was with many Spokane families at the time, was the yearly visit to the downtown Crescent Department Store for pictures with Santa Claus. I was six when this photo was taken - and my sisters and me were dressed in red plaid taffetas created by my mother Sally. After photos, we always stopped by the signature animated store window which was filled with lights, baubles and figures (Santa, his elves and more) that moved in time to Christmas music. **Highlight** - At the 2014 Arbor Crest Art & Glass Festival, one of the men responsible for the animated Crescent Store window stopped by to take a look at this artwork. He recognized the elves and colorful candy confections as some he had created decades ago - sharing stories with me and clients at my booth about his 30+ years at the beloved department store.



Dalling at the The Davenport ~ 10.2008

I gave this artwork a late 1940s timeframe, painting Louis M. Davenport's legendary hotel in the heart of downtown Spokane as it looked decades ago. To the right is the Pennington Hotel and at the forefront, Davenport's luxurious restaurant. Designed by famed architect, Kirtland K. Cutter, the Davenport Hotel opened in 1914 to become an icon on Spokane's skyline for decades. With Davenport's death in 1951, the hotel was sold to the company that owned Seattle's grand Olympic Hotel, but it gradually declined and finally closed 1985. After years of neglect and possible demolition, Walt and Karen Worthy purchased it in 2000. After countless hours of renovation, restoration and careful attention to detail, they reopened the grand "lady" in 2002, giving Spokane and all of its visitors back this truly remarkable treasure.

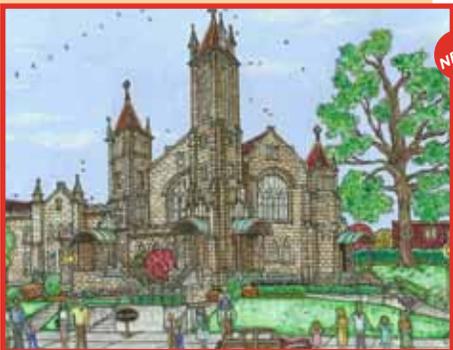


Flying South Over Spokane Falls ~ 9.2004

Not only did famed architect Kirtland K. Cutter create dozens of beautiful homes and handsome landmark buildings in Spokane, he also lent his design flair to other projects. This portrayed the majestic Monroe Street Bridge, which spanned the river at the west end of downtown Spokane. In 1910, John Ralston, Spokane's city engineer and designer of the grand bridge, invited Cutter to design its decorative handrails and lookout stations, which featured life-size reliefs of bison skulls. This photo here showed the bridge under renovation a few years ago. It was a remarkable project. In the background was another famous landmark, the Washington Water Power Post Street Substation. Cutter designed that massive brick and basaltic rock industrial building in 1909. **Highlight** - WWP's first president, F. Rockwood Moore, gave Cutter one of his first residential commissions.

Parishioners at First Presbyterian ~ 5.2018

(Crossover with the South Hill Collection) Reverend Thomas G. Watson arrived in Spokane, WA from Wisconsin to lead Spokane's initial First Presbyterian congregation in 1883 when Washington was not yet a state. At the time, there was no formal church building, so services were held in various public settings around the community while funds were raised to build a church. The first church was located on Monroe and Riverside, but the newspaper negotiated the purchase of the property three short years later and ultimately the Review Building took its place. The congregation moved temporarily to the Falls City Opera House, which burned down in the 1889 Great Spokane Fire. The second location for a church was the corner of Second Avenue and Jefferson, and ultimately in 1910 to the Gothic Revival-style structure designed by architect Loren Leighton Rand at 318 South Cedar Street. The church was remarkable with stained glass windows emulating Paris' Sainte Chapelle and one of the most imposing pipe organs in Spokane. In the early 1950s, the growing congregation added a gymnasium, classrooms and a commercial-style kitchen. First Presbyterian Church has remained an iconic Spokane structure for over a century - nicknamed irreverently by some as "Hogwarts" after the ornate school of wizardry featured in the popular "Harry Potter films." **Highlight** - In 1892, the First Presbyterian Church on Jefferson hosted the funeral of Chief Spokane Gary.



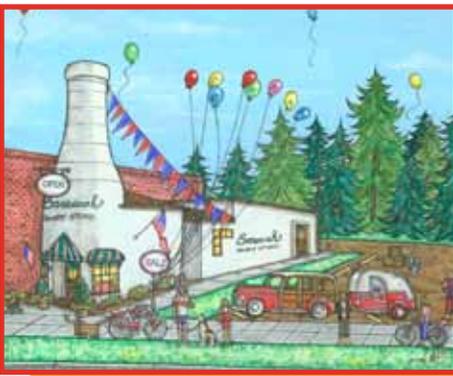
NEW!

Patti Simpson Ward



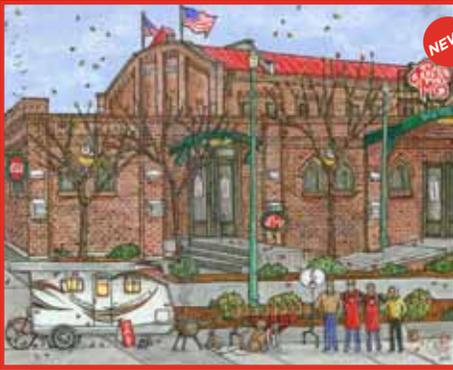
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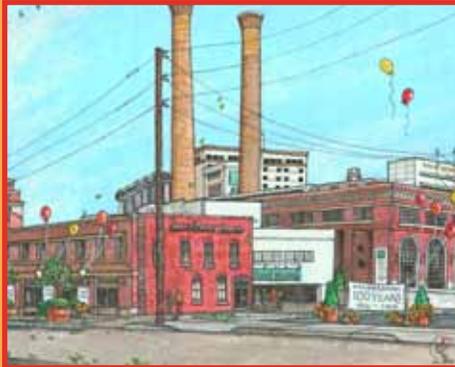
Ice Cream at the Benewah Creamery ~ 5.2016

(Crossover with the South Hill Collection) When I was a youngster growing up on Spokane's South Hill, the weekend began with a stop at the Benewah Creamery's signature milk bottle dairy store to purchase four gallons of milk - enough to last our ever-growing Simpson family for another seven days! Located on Cedar and Third Avenue, the creamery served the community until 1978. It was one of two structures (originally six were planned) designed by the architectural firm of Whitehouse and Price - famous for the Hutton Settlement and other important local buildings. These were built with a fairly hefty price tag of \$3,700 each for the times. The North Side bottle building was constructed on Garland Avenue in 1934 and the one pictured here on Cedar Street in 1935. The Great Depression may have been the culprit that allowed for only two of the half dozen planned. I gave this piece a 1950s theme, including a Ford "Woody" station wagon and vintage teardrop trailer in the parking lot. **Highlight** - The Benewah Creamery milk bottles shone throughout the decades as fine examples of "literalist" architecture - functioning beautifully as their own advertisements.



Merry Meeting at the Flour Mill ~ 5.2016

(Crossover with the North Side Collection) The historic Flour Mill has served Spokane as a unique destination for years. Built in 1895, it was one of a number of similar mills built on the banks of the Spokane River. These businesses took advantage of the majestic falls for their power in the late 1800s before F. Rockwood Moore developed Washington Water Power (later Avista). The mill was initially involved in an explosive lawsuit - one of the most difficult, hard fought battles in the history of the community, - which kept it from commencing operation until 1900. The structure was repurposed into a quaint shopping center in 1974 to coincide with Spokane's Expo '74. Clinkerdagger's has been serving locals and guests for years as one of the most picturesque places to dine in the city. **Highlight** - The old Flour Mill has stood for years as a reminder of the community's early wealth that was fueled by the beautiful falls that slice through the center of the downtown district.



Spokane's Historic Steam Plant ~ 10.2016

Spokane's historic steam plant was designed and built by the renowned architectural firm of Cutter & Malmgren in 1916. Their handiwork and that of later visionaries inspired this art celebrating the setting's 100th birthday. The plant supplied steam heat to much of downtown Spokane's businesses for nearly 70 years. When providing this service ultimately became too expensive, Washington Water Power was forced to close it, shutting off the last boiler in 1986. After 10 years of vacancy and an uncertain future, WWP formed Steam Plant Square, LLC. Working with an enlightened team of historic-minded businesses including Wells & Co., life was breathed back into the structure along with two others that were folded into the project. Special care was taken to maintain the Steam Plant's unique original personality, infrastructure and equipment during the process of creating office, retail and dining space. The iconic stacks on the city skyline were saved for future generations. **Highlight** - The Steam Plant was the first Spokane building to receive the National Preservation Honor Award (2001) and went on to be listed on the National, Washington and Spokane Registers of Historic Places.

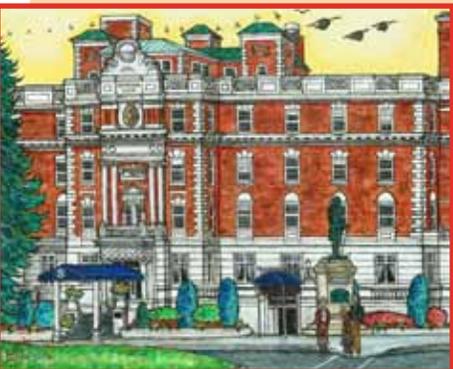


Spokane County Courthouse ~ 8.2014

(Crossover with the North Side Collection) 29-year-old W.A. Ritchie won the design competition sponsored by the Board of County Commissioner in 1893 for the Spokane County Courthouse. Construction in the French Renaissance style began in 1894 on property located just across the Spokane River from the heart of downtown. It was regarded as a masterpiece with its romantic statuesque towers, handsome masonry and intricate wrought-iron metalwork. The center tower and roof were freshened up in 2012. It has been an important part of Spokane's skyline for over a hundred years. A dubious honor, the courtyard held the county's first public hanging on its grounds in 1897, executing a man who had murdered a woman. **Highlight** - I dedicated this painting to my father, a successful Spokane attorney who spent a lot of time in this building.

Sunday Brunch at the Spokane Club ~ 9.2004

Famed architect Kirtland K. Cutter designed the Spokane Club in 1909, and it has always been a stunning jewel in his architectural crown. Facing north and perched on the cliff overlooking Spokane Falls, Cutter created this handsome building in the Georgian style, using red brick with terra-cotta embellishments. Although the entrance had a distinctly Baroque feel with its ornate facade and columns, until recently a large medallion of a Native American warrior hung over the entrance, reminding members and guests that they were "out West." The Spokane Club was designed with an elegant interior, featuring a classic formal dining room, ballroom, luxurious street-front bar and hospitable rooms above - making the club a wonderful destination for its guests. The later addition of its sports facility has been a huge draw for members who want to stay "in shape" or gear up in winter for the Inland Northwest ski season.



Patti Simpson Ward

