



My Prince Doug & I at Manito Pond



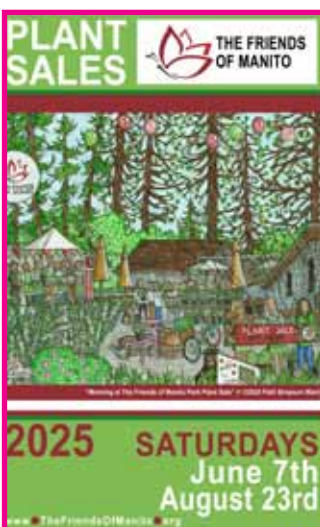
News clipping of the Codd House



Sledding flying saucer by my sisters



Before heading to Manito for photos



My 2025 NEW Painting and poster

The Friends of Manito Summer 2025 *Pollinator* Newsletter "My Decades-Long Love Affair with Manito Park"

By Patti Simpson Ward, Local Americana Artist

VERY EARLY DAYS • My Grandmother Jessie's (Mrs. C.J. Simpson) diary fondly mentioned a day-trip to Manito Park a few weeks before her 1916 wedding.

WWII • In 1945, Jessie's son Joe, a WWII "de-mobbed" Navy officer, met Sarah (later Sally) across the alley from his folk's bungalow on 10th Ave. where Sally roomed with a co-worker from Galena Army Base (now Fairchild). Two years later, they married, moved to Browne's Addition, then Cannon Hill, and finally to the Codd House Dad found and loved. We Simpsons spent a decade at the handsome Dutch Colonial on 25th & Bernard with nearby Manito Park becoming our "home-away-from-home."

WINTER • Snowfalls had sisters Marilee, Peggy and I (John, Bill, Bob came later) riding Flexible Flyers and aluminum flying saucers with handles down the hill by Grand Blvd. Older kids poured water on it, so our parent's challenge was keeping us away from the ice. Dad also taught us how to skate (thanks, Goodwill!). Neighborhood firemen groomed Manito Pond in those days, warming cocoa in the basaltic rock fireplace named for Lt. Lawrence Rist, killed in the Korean War.

SPRING • Easter was "formal" with photos a must! Manito Park was often the venue. We girls wore dresses sewed by mom Sally, gloves, patent leathers, and ribbon-trimmed hats. Though very young, my brothers were in suits with ties.

SUMMER • When not at Hayden Lake, Sally Mom walked us to Manito's wading pool, "monkey bars," and leather-seated swings (now today's water park). Rarely missed was stunning Duncan Garden with its Davenport Fountain. Donated in 1953 by the family after Louis passed, its plumbing was finally replaced by TFM this spring!

AUTUMN • In fall, we careened on bikes around park roads and over the rock bridge. Fall's brilliant colors made the rides even better! On one excursion, my friend and I discovered rings for tethering long-gone zoo animals where today's "Holidays Lights" take place.

These memories barely touch the thousands made before we sadly moved to the Valley.

NEW BEGINNINGS • As a Holy Names (North Side) freshman, I excelled at art, and also did

workshops at Ft. Wright College, some with acclaimed artist Sr. Paula Mary Turnbull.

DIGITAL DESIGN • After college years, I moved to Seattle, building my graphic career at HQs for the Bon Marche and Eddie Bauer. I also began volunteering my design skills for non-profits ~ still a tradition.

FINE AMERICANA ART • Since kindergarten, creating has been my passion. "She loves artwork of all kinds, and is a tireless worker," noted my report card. Inspired by Charles Wysocki's and Grandma Moses' imaginary whimsical scenes, I began painting REAL places I loved in the Americana style.

A Bellevue gallery hosted my first exhibit exactly 50 years ago. "Swans A-Swimming at Manito" headlined it. Later in the '90s when Doug and I began dating, he joined me in Olympia at Lt. Governor Brad Owen's exhibit, "Children at Play." Folks loved my Manito Park paintings. To date, I've created 14 images of the park, the most recent picturing 2024's TFM Plant Sale, used in my poster promoting this season. My booth at the recent sale offered dozens of cards, prints and more. Earning over \$600, 100% of ALL my proceeds benefitted TFM.

MY AMERICANA COLLECTION • My award-winning collection numbers 500+ with art all over the USA, UK (England, Scotland, Canada), former USSR, and more. Nearly half of the collection pictures Spokane & Inland NW settings. I LOVE my home town!

COMING HOME • Both my beloved Doug and I were born at Spokane's Sacred Heart, so after years in Seattle (with trips back and forth for art events), we bought a Craftsman by Manito Park in 2002. With summer concerts at the Park Bench Cafe, snowy hikes to the Conservatory's Holiday Lights ~ and hundreds of walks all over every inch of Manito during Dougie's heroic six-year cancer battle (he'd been given 6 months), we made MEMORIES! Even though my prince finally lost his fight in fall 2023, my memories are still fresh and beautiful, with many captured in my paintings. I'm SO thankful to my TFM friends for their compassion and kindness during the rough times. Gratitude inspired my "Morning at the TFM Plant Sale." Visit PattiSimpsonWard.com for more info.