

# The Spokane Downtown District

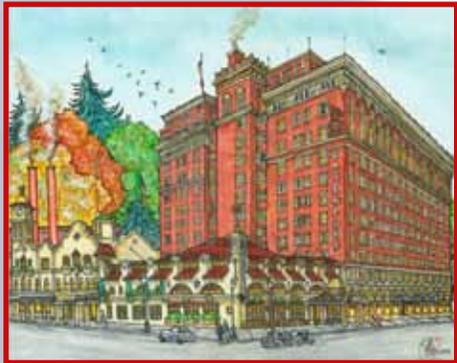
12 BELOVED LEGENDARY LANDMARKS IN DOWNTOWN SPOKANE  
• BOTH PRESTIGIOUS SETTINGS AND THE "FUN" ONES

PRESTIGIOUS LANDMARKS • MANY ON LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTERS



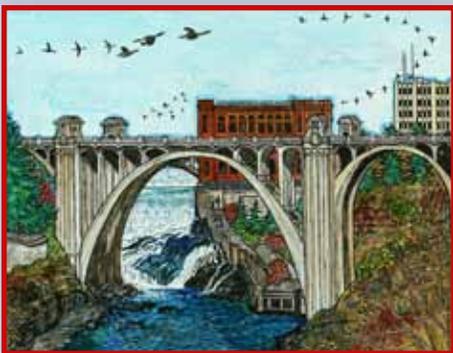
## Breaking News at the Review Building ~ 5.2013

This unique building in the Spokane's Downtown District was designed and built in 1890 after the Great Spokane Fire by Chauncey B. Seaton, although he left before the construction project was completed. Seaton designed it to fit the unusual shaped lot. When finished, it was one of the city's tallest buildings built to house 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 Spokane businessmen. In order to survive, the papers merged into one. Then the Panic of 1893 threatened to kill it, so W.H. Cowles came from Chicago to salvage the paper and became the sole owner of *The Spokesman-Review* and later, *The Spokane Daily Chronicle*. His son W.H. Cowles II and grandson W.H. Cowles III were very influential members of the Spokane community - his grandson serving as director of the Associated Press for 33 years. **Highlight** - When I painted this portrait of the historic building, the civic-minded Cowles family still owned and operated the paper, also orchestrating the development of Riverpark Square Shopping Mall and other local projects.



## Dallying at the The Davenport ~ 10.2008

I gave this artwork a late 1940s time-frame, painting Louis M. Davenport's legendary hotel in the heart of Spokane's Downtown District 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 Kelsey Cutter, the Davenport Hotel opened in 1914 to become an iconic part on Spokane's skyline for decades. With Davenport's death in 1951, his hotel was sold to the company that owned Seattle's grand Olympic Hotel, but the new owners allowed it to gradually decline and The Davenport finally closed 1985. After years of neglect with demolition looming, Walt and Karen Worthy purchased it in 2000. After countless hours of renovation, restoration and careful attention to detail, the Worthy's reopened the grand "lady" in 2002, giving Spokane and all of its visitors back this truly remarkable local treasure. **Highlight** - I pictured my parents in this piece, arriving at the hotel for their honeymoon night at the Davenport in October 1947.



## Flying South Over Spokane Falls (The Monroe Street Bridge) ~ 9.2004

Not only did Kirtland Kelsey Cutter create dozens of homes and landmarks in Spokane, he also lent his design flair to other projects. This artwork portrayed the majestic Monroe Street Bridge, spanning the Spokane river at the west end of Spokane's Downtown District. In 1910, City Engineer John Ralston invited Cutter to design his bridge's decorative handrails and lookout stations, which featured life-size reliefs of bison skulls. I placed another Cutter landmark in the background of this painting, the 1909 red brick and basaltic rock Washington Water Power Post Street Substation. Recently, Huntington Park on the south side of the falls was renovated. Lawn, a picnic area and basaltic rock gardens filled with decorative plantings were installed, creating an inviting space for folks to not only view the cascading water, but stay and picnic in the scenic spot. **Highlight** - Washington Water Power's first CEO, F. Rockwood Moore, gave Cutter one of his earliest residential commissions - a stunning Tudor-Revival positioned between the D.C. Corbin House and the F. Lewis Clark Mansion on Seventh Avenue. Demolished during the Great Depression, this property ultimately served as the parking lot for the restored Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens.

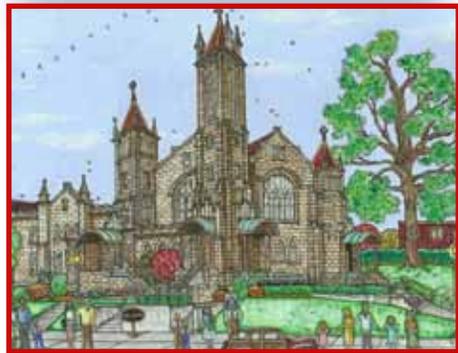
## NEW! The Historic Beautiful Chancery Building ~ 5.2022

The 1910 Chancery Building was designed in the Italian Renaissance-style by K.K. Cutter on Riverside Avenue across from the Spokane Club and west of the Review building. Additional work was done on it over a decade later by respected Spokane architect, Gustav Pehrson. For years, it housed the Greater Northwest Life Insurance Company, and most recently, the headquarters for Spokane's Catholic Diocese. During a particularly challenging period, the diocese was forced to sell it to satisfy considerable financial responsibilities - downsizing from Downtown to what had been the Logan neighborhood library by Saint Aloysius Grade School. In 2022, I honored the Chancery with this portrait as one of Kirtland Cutter's most beautiful creations. It was facing possible demolition (owned by the Cowles when I finished this) who had just announced their plan to build an apartment complex on its property. **Highlight** - This friendly scene featured folks (two connected with the Chancery when the diocese owned it) walking dogs on the sidewalk in front of the Chancery on a lovely sunny day.



## Parishioners at First Presbyterian ~ 5.2018

(Also part of 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 stunning 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" movies. **Highlight** - In 1892, the First Presbyterian Church on Jefferson hosted the funeral of Chief Spokane Gary.



Patti Simpson Ward



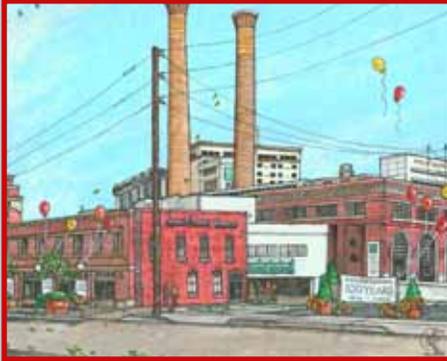
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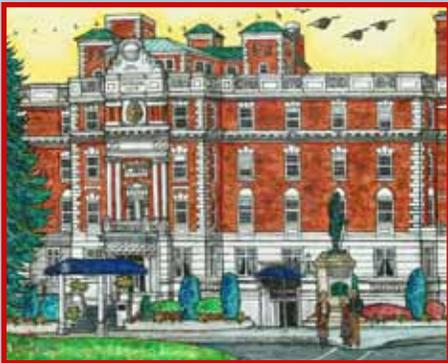
## Spokane County Courthouse ~ 8.2014

(Also part of the "North Side" Collection) 29-year-old W.A. Ritchie won the design competition sponsored by the Board of the County Commissioner in 1893 for the Spokane County Courthouse. Construction in the French Renaissance style began in 1894 on property located across the Spokane River from Spokane's Downtown District. It was regarded as a masterpiece with its elaborate 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 much of his career in this building.



## 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 Spokane's Downtown District for nearly 70 years. When providing this service ultimately became too expensive, Washington Water Power closed the plant, 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 in 2001, and went on to be listed on the National, State and Spokane Registers of Historic Places.



## 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. **Highlight** - As a successful Spokane businessman, My father's wish for his three daughters was for them to make their debut at the Spokane Club. My White Cotillion took place in late December 1968, Marilee's in 1970 and Peggy's in 1972. Cheney Cowles presented us to society.

### THE "FUN" LANDMARKS • ICONIC SPOKANE SETTINGS WE ALL LOVE

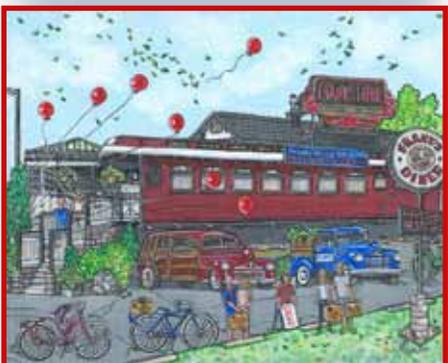
## The Crescent Window at Christmastime ~ 7.2009

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 destroyed a large portion of Spokane's Downtown District. The store served faithfully for nearly a century until 1988 when it was sold to the F&N (Frederick & Nelson) Acquisition Corporation. A tradition with many Spokane families was the annual visit to the Crescent Department Store for pictures with Santa Claus. I was six when this photo was taken with my sisters - all dressed in red plaid taffetas sewed by my mother Sally. After photos, we stopped by the signature animated store window with its lights, baubles and figures - Santa, his elves and more that moved in time to Christmas carols. **Highlight** - At the 2014 Arbor Crest Art & Glass Festival, one of the employees responsible for the animated window stopped by to see my painting. He recognized the elves and colorful candy confections as those he created decades ago - sharing stories at my booth about his 30+ years at the beloved department store.



## NEW! Friendly Folks at Frank's Diner ~ 4.2020

I began this portrait of Frank's Diner in Spokane's Downtown District four years after painting the North Side's Knight's Diner, also a famous railroad car café. Barney-Smith and Pullman competed against each other in the early 1900s to be the best at producing elegant beautifully detailed railroad cars. In 1906, Barney Smith manufactured this "observation car" which was purchased by the Northern Pacific Railroad for their president to use as his private car until its replacement in 1931. That same year, Frank Knight (brother of Jack Knight of Knight's Diner fame) discovered Car #1787 in Seattle, relocated it to Spokane and converted it to Spokane's Frank's Diner in the west end of the community's Downtown District. Frank's Diner was named BEST BREAKFAST and BEST DINER nearly 20 times by *The Inlander's* People's Choice Awards. A second Frank's Diner was later opened on the Newport Highway in a 1913 Laketon #4216, an equally unique dining experience.

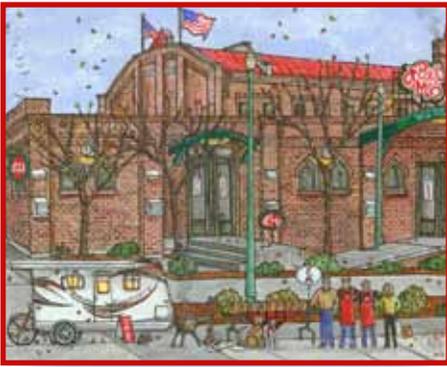


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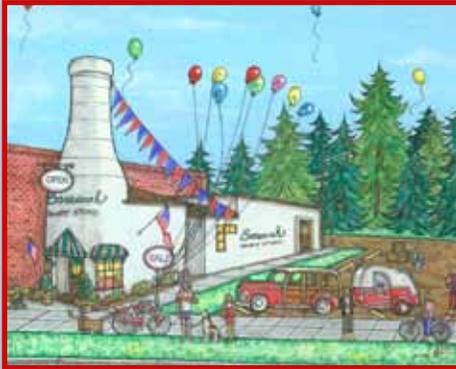
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## *Merry Meeting at the Flour Mill ~ 5.2016*

(Also part of the "North Side" Collection) The historic Flour Mill has served Spokane as a unique refurbished retail destination since 1974 and Spokane's Expo 74 Environment World's Fair. The setting featured boutique-style shops, Clunkerdagger's Restaurant, event center spaces on its grounds and interior - including the recent addition of an enclosed rooftop space overlooking Spokane's Riverfront Park and the Downtown District. Built in 1895, this was one a several mills on the Spokane River that took advantage of the power they produced in the late 1800s before F. Rockwood Moore developed Washington Water Power (later Avista). It was initially involved in one of the most difficult, hard fought lawsuits in Spokane's history that delayed its operation for five years. **Highlight** - I pictured friends Tom and Kathie Kellogg's cozy trailer in front of the flour mill, offering traditional roasted chestnuts on a chilly afternoon.



## *Ice Cream at the Benewah Creamery ~ 5.2016*

(Also part of 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 with our friends and family peppered about the scene. **Highlight** - The Benewah Creamery milk bottles shone throughout the decades as fine examples of "literalist" architecture - functioning beautifully as their own advertisements.

Patti Simpson Ward

