TWO FRIENDS OF MANITO 2025 *"POLLINATOR"* NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Page 1 • Summer "My Decades-Long Love Affair with Manito Park" • *Patti Simpson Ward, Artist*

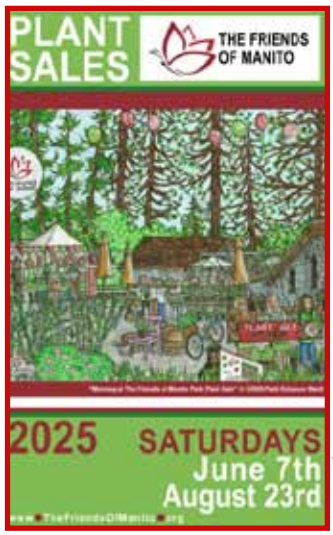
Page 2 • Winter "Kindness Matters" • *Polinator Staff Writer*

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



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My 2025 NEW Painting and poster

SUMMER 2025 ARTICLE • 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 demobbed" Navy officer, met Sarah (later she adopted the name 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 Joe 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 in Spring 2025!

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 the "Holidays Lights" took place for a couple years.

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 first grade, creating has been my passion. "She loves artwork of all kinds and is a tireless worker," noted my first grade report card (Sister Rita Mae). Inspired by Charles Wysocki. Grandma Moses, and Beatrix Potter, I began painting local settings (and beyond) I loved in the Americana style.

A Bellevue gallery hosted my first exhibit 50 years ago with "Swans A-Swimming at Manito" part of the exhibit. 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 especially loved my Manito Park paintings. To date, I've created 14 images of the park, the most recent picturing the 2024 TFM Plant Sale, used in my poster to promote the two 2025 Plant Sales. My booth at those sales offered dozens of cards, prints and more. Earning over $1,000, 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 dozens of walks all over every inch of Manito during Dougie's heroic six-year battle (he'd been given 6 months), we made memories! Even though my prince finally lost his fight in Fall 2023, the 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. ●

☛ See page 2 for the "Kindness Matters" article.

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WINTER 2025 ARTICLE • When local Americana artist Patti Simpson Ward's beloved Doug lost his 6-year cancer battle in Fall 2023 after a heroic fight, Patti's sister Peggy Barton and Hospice House helper Nancy Young (wife of then President Bob Young) suggested that being a member of TFM might help Patti with her considerable grief. TFM and her art became Patti's considerable "rocks" during recent years.

In early 2025, Patti painted TFM's 2024 Plant Sale • picturing the board, staff, volunteers, and more • as a thank you to everyone who had shared their generous kindness. This image was used in kiosks throughout the park to promote the sale.

Then she approached Bob Young about being a vendor at TFM Plant Sales to celebrate her 50 years of exhibiting in the Northwest and beyond. Patti made over $1,000 at the two sales. Then, she donated her entire earnings to TFM to thanks all for their friendship • and to support the park she loved growing up nearby and during Patti and Doug's last years together.

KINDNESS MATTERS • Patti believes this and encourages others to offer their creations in a similar way at this event to support our Spokane jewel. ●