

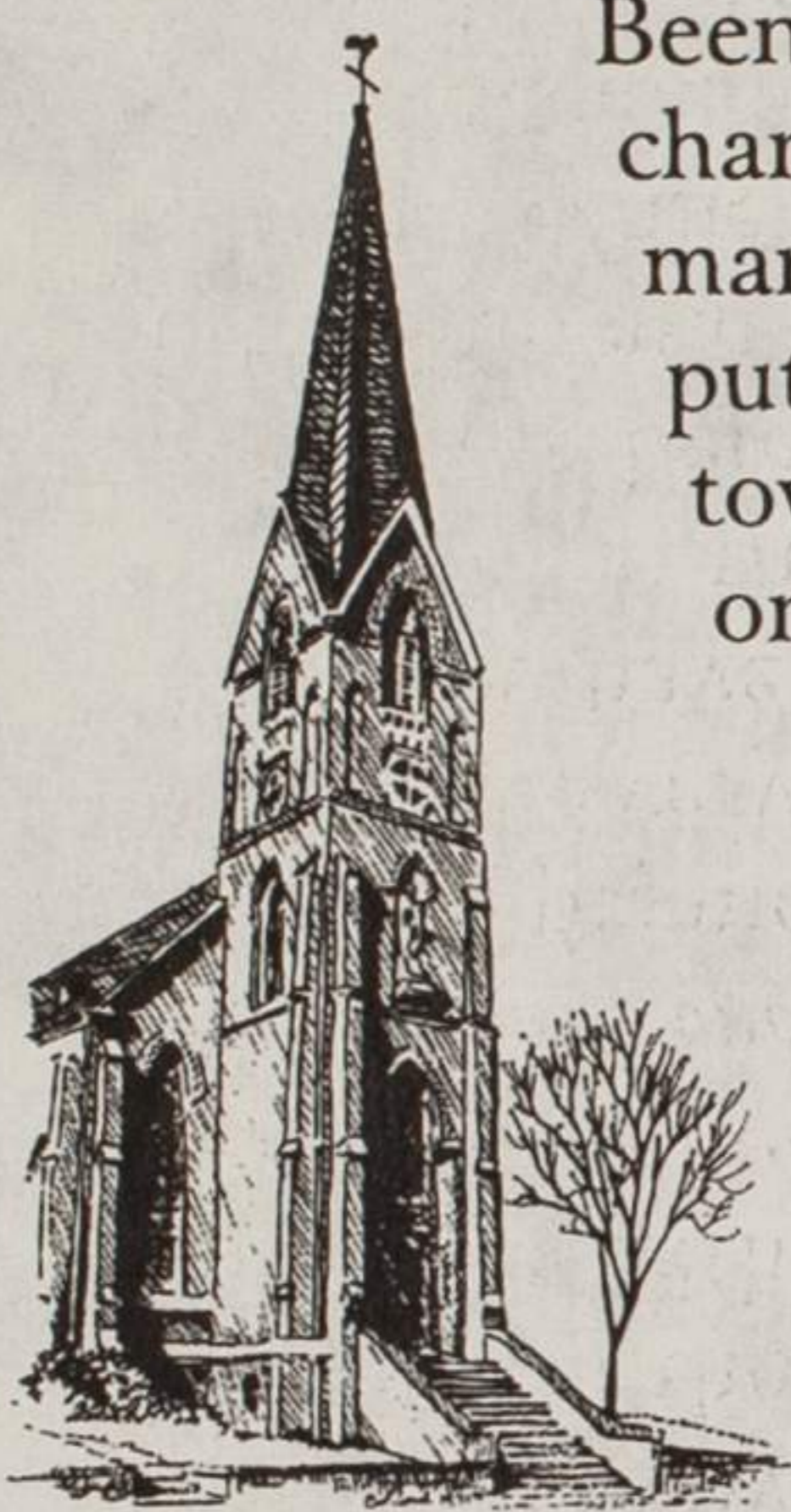
Christmas... 1996

Doesn't a year go by quickly?

Here's an update on life in God's Country Northwest...

Part of the year worked with our local chamber of commerce. Kim (25 years old) asked if I would help them, because, well, older people are just more dependable. She won't understand why that struck me so funny for another 25 years. Didn't last long, but was fun for a few times. Did some drawings for them of old time buildings.

Also have worked sporadically for a travel agency here, doing flyers for their trips. That has been kind of fun, learning about how travel agencies work.



Been going to weekly meetings of downtown merchants to see if there was any benefit to the Landmark. Well, golly, I discovered that they decided to put up banners on the new period lighting downtown (revitalizing the core area), and what will be on those banners? On one side wheat, cherries and the Historic Downtown logo. On the other the same logo, but.....with a drawing (one of mine) of Old St. Peter's Landmark. So when you come to visit our world class soon-to-be-opened Discovery Center telling you all about the history of the Columbia River Gorge, and you pass through the Historic Downtown, be sure to notice those banners.

My Reno property stayed with me through most of the year, oh joy. Had a buyer who knew more than real estate folks and bankers, after close to two months she was history. Another lady changed her mind at the very last minute and decided to buy something brand new with a totally different realtor. We were certainly all pleased with her. Next a fellow who had no credit - *not bad credit, just no credit, one of those who always pays cash for everything* - but a big down payment. His mortgage guy said it would be a snap for him. At the very end the bank said "are you nuts? With no credit rating you have to pay at least 25% down." Kiss that one good-bye. Now at this point - August - my positive outlook for the future was being severely tested. Another prospective buyer showed up and had \$20,000 down. Gee, thought I. That *should* be good. While that began...

Mom and I decided for sanity's sake we would just go to the beach. So we did. For close to a week and it was great. Fed another 35 loaves of bread (wheat) to the seagulls. My Auntie Helen came down for a day and fed birds with us. We ventured to an old haunt for lunch, then ventured to the Chinook Winds Casino, new that summer. Guess what? No coins, paper money only...or credit cards. Being used to Reno and Las Vegas casinos, it was pretty hard to impress me, but not the hundreds of happy gamblers sitting there on the stools feeding in the bucks. They were all intent on winning the big one.

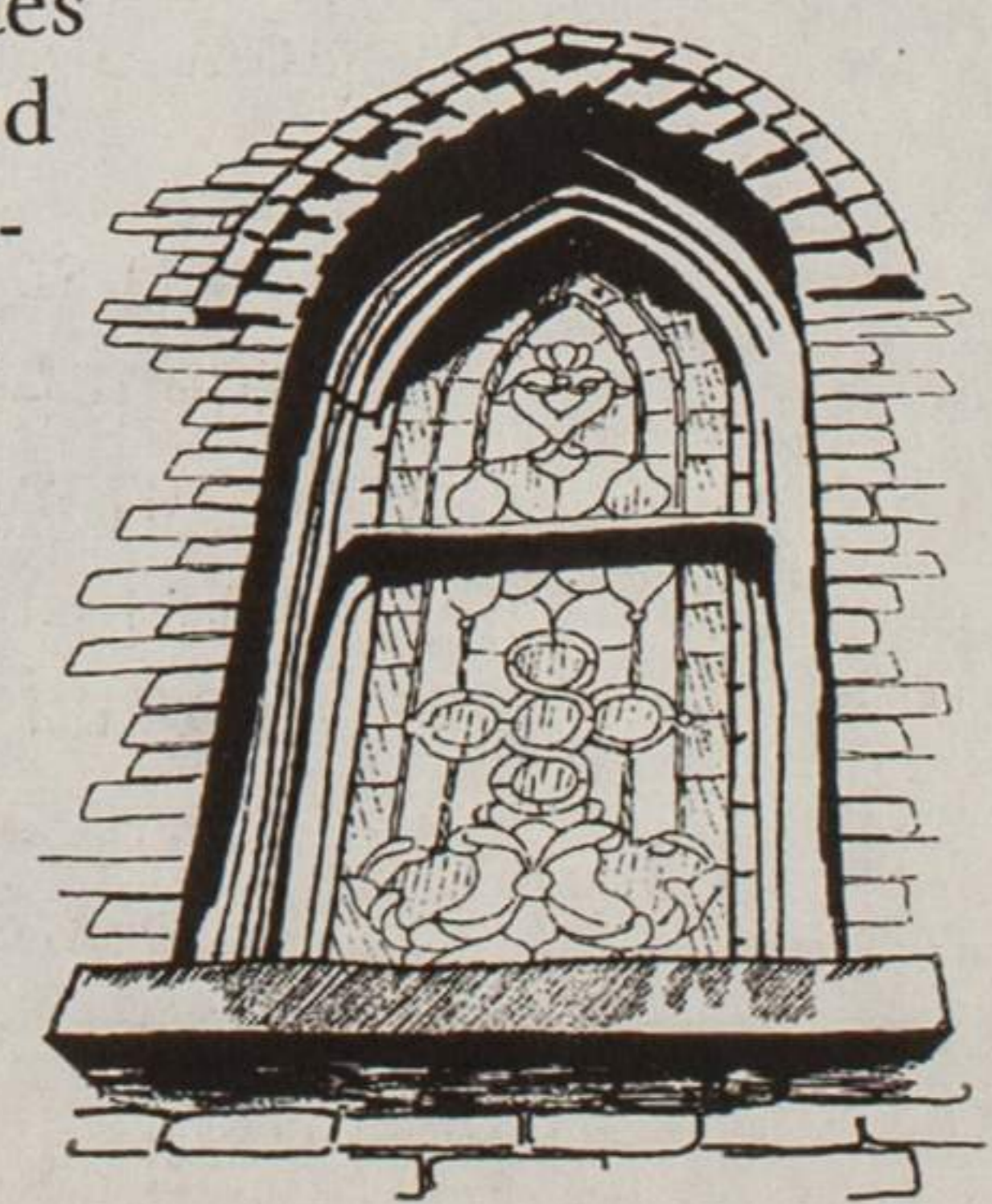
In September, Mom had had some concerns about her heart beating too fast after walking quickly. Dr. Fran, lady doctor she especially likes, got her hooked up with Dr. Hattenhauer (cardiologist). He gave her a stress test (treadmill) and declared "You need a new valve." "When," we said. "Next week," he said. So Sep-

tember 30th we drove to Portland, checked into Good Sam Hospital, Oct. 1 she had an angiogram and gave consent to be given a pig valve should it be necessary (it was). Oct. 2, she had the surgery, six hours, all went well. Now, the end of November and after a checkup with Dr. Hattenhauer ton the 26th - she is doing great! Dr. said he has not had *anyone* do so well as Mom in recovering. He is so pleased, as was Dr. Fran (Yuhas). The first week of December we go to Portland for a checkup with the surgeon.

Also great news on Sept. 30th...at the Good Sam House (lodging for patients and family members) I got a call from Nanette, my real estate lady, that I was now the proud UNowner of property in Reno. Hallelujah!!!!!! The check was in the mail. Was that ever a relief.

Most all year I have been working on trying to update forms, handouts and odds and ends for Old St. Peter's Landmark. I wish you could all see that building...it is just so exquisite. One overcast day I was showing it off to a couple from back east. Of course, they were properly impressed, but when a ray of sunshine blasted through one of the sets of stained glass windows, washing all of us in beautiful colors, the husband gasped and said, "My gosh! That's almost like a sign from GOD!" And I was pleased one day a few months ago to meet the great-grandson of David Povey, the artist and creator of the Landmark's stained glass windows, Kelly Mooers and his wife Sue, very interesting, nice folks from Seattle. He had not been aware that the windows were there and was thrilled to discover them. He too creates stained glass windows, following in the footsteps of great-grandpa, grandpa and dad.

I took copious notes as he talked and used his information in our last newsletter. If any of you are especially interested in stained glass, let me know. I'll send you a copy.



After several discussions, Mom and I agreed on a spot to move to - Tillamook. She was born and raised there and knows all about the rain. I wanted to move there because it is closer to the rest of our family, Mom's sister (mu auntie Helen) and her husband, my cousin and his family that are dear to us. A support group for each other. Also have several good friends