

TWO RIVERS GALLERY

IN CASE YOU MISSED

DECEMBER FIRST FRIDAY

DECEMBER 1, 2023

Featuring Walter Graham



Graham's niece, Denise Marker is in the business of professional framing of art. She is the executor of his estate and knows more about her uncle Walter than most locals. Denise received most of Walter's paintings unframed and often without them being named. She had a 3-year term on our board as treasurer. She allowed us to show his oils, watercolors and bronze pieces. His many art projects for Rocky Reach Dam included the pioneers of the area, the geologic history and hydropower created by the dams on the Columbia River.



This painting of "Horsepower" was presented to the PUD board by Graham and suggested it could be included at the top of the stairwell of the Visitor's Center that takes visitors to the fish windows where you could "Look a salmon in the eye." The painting was done in oils on a single piece of canvas 16 feet by 32 feet wide. It has been removed by the Chelan PUD and rolled up to be repaired. The PUD has yet to determine where to place it for public view.



"Survival" is one of the bronze sculptures created by Graham. Other bronze pieces he has done include water fountain bronze pieces, large bronze door handles for SeaFirst Bank, the sculpture at Pangborn Memorial, along with many large murals and other paintings in 31 of SeaFirst banks. He also created hand carved doors, Ceramic tile for floors of businesses such as Banks, Alcoa and Columbia River Dams.



Those who attended First Friday were dressed warmly as a cold front brought the temperature lower along with snowfall and more snow on the way.



Walter was raised with horses and coming out West was a good place for him to become a painter of western scenes. One of his first painting jobs after attending The Chicago Art Institute was illustrating Western Books and magazines. He formed a company with a partner to illustrate the hundreds of items found in the Sears catalog. They hired many illustrators to assist illustrating products before Sears Roebuck started using photography.



Perfect music for the Christmas Season is harpist Suzanne Grassell. She has played for Two Rivers Gallery First Friday openings every six months since we opened. Thank you Suzanne!!



Terry Valdez attended to specifically talk about the importance of saving the “Horsepower” painting. “The PUD must understand that not only the art community but the thousands of local people who have grown up to love the painting, want it returned to public view.” He is willing to be a part of a “Save the Painting” group.

Terry is a master painter and taught art at the high school in East Wenatchee. He stands next to a bust of WALTER GRAHAM and across from Graham's original self-portrait.

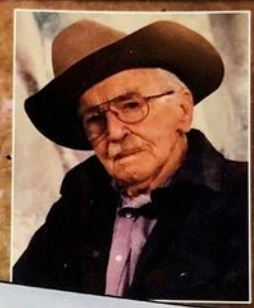


At the wine table, local wines are always served, often by Adelle Johnson. Tonight we present, for the first time, wines of Chateau Fair La Ponte.

Two Rivers
ART
GALLERY

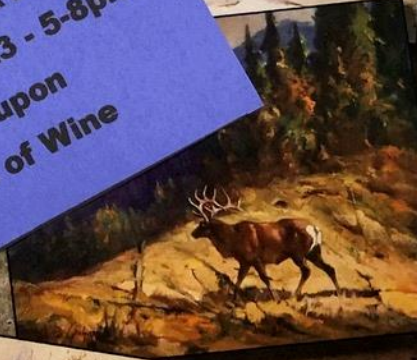
Showing December 1 - 28
The late Walter Graham

First Friday - December 1 5-8pm
Music by harpist Suzanne Grassell and Local Wines



Exhibiting works never before seen by the public!
Wenatchee's most prolific and well known artist, Walter Graham, comes from his Chicago business illustrating for the Sears and Roebuck department store. He headed West and located in Malaga where he ran several businesses, sculpture, carving and bronze artwork.

Walter Graham Show
Two Rivers Gallery
102 N Columbia - Wenatchee WA 98801
First Friday - Dec 1, 2023 - 5-8pm
Present this Coupon
For a Free Glass of Wine



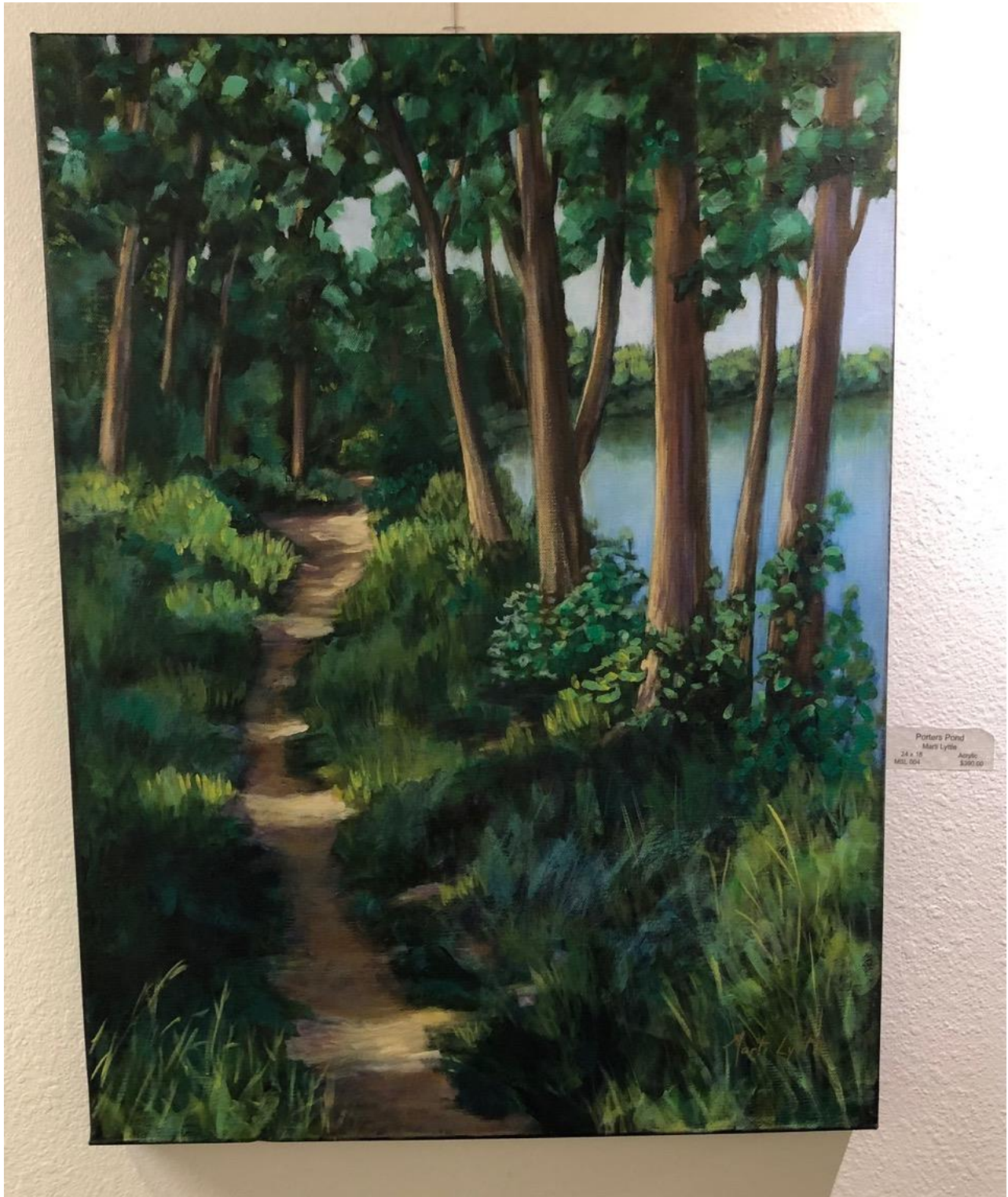
Monday - Saturday, 11-4 PM Sunday 1-4 pm
102 N Columbia (bottom of 1st Street) 2riversgallery.org 509-888-9504

Printed by Office Depot

Denise Marker presented special coupons to friends of the arts.

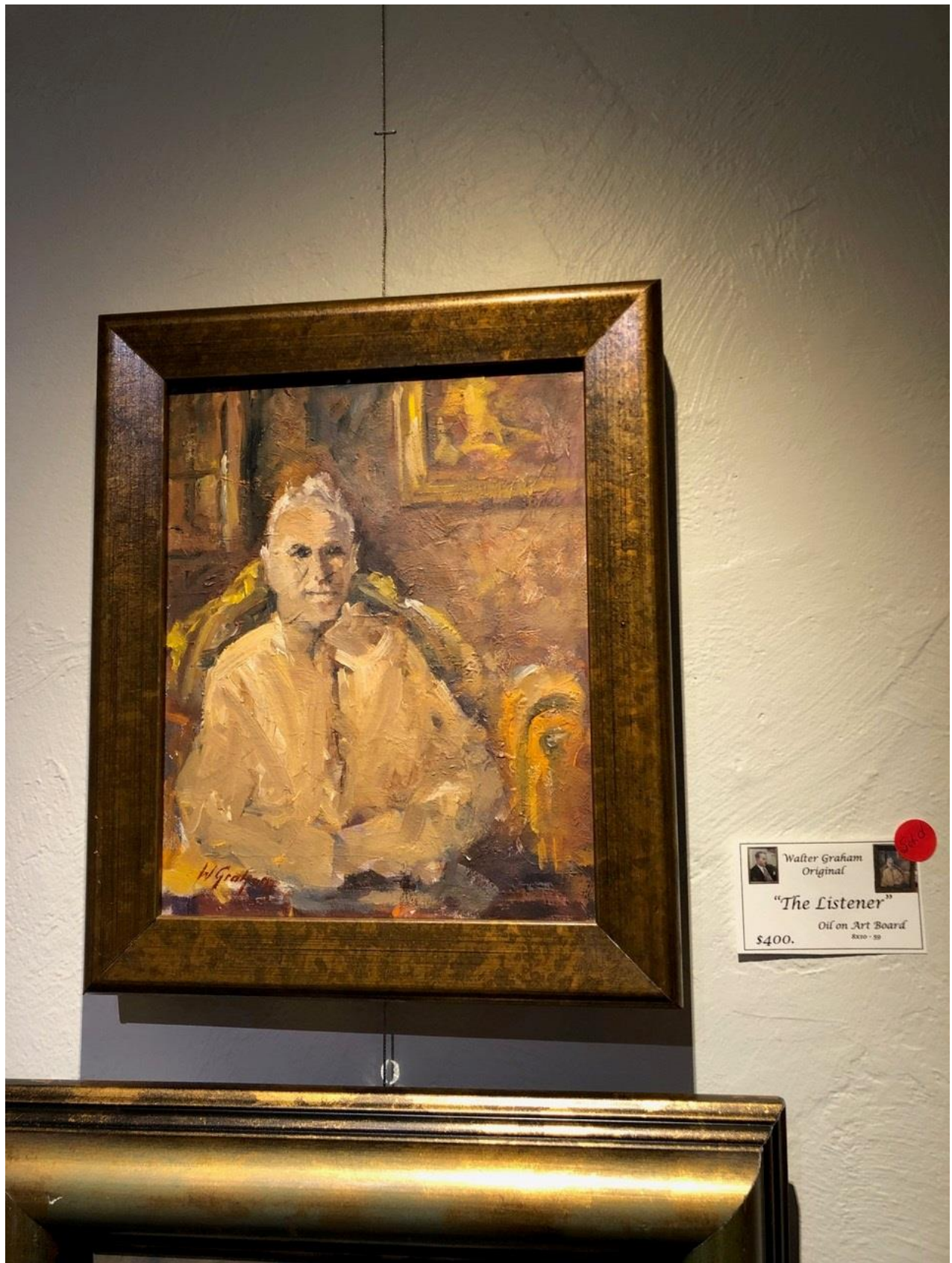


Out in the West Wing hangs “Row Boats,” a watercolor by our newest member of the gallery, Jeff Abraham. Jeff has seen our posters at the Hospital where he works and decided to present his work to the public by joining Two Rivers Gallery.



Porters Pond
Marti Lytle
24 x 18
Acrylic
MILL 004 \$390.00

Hanging on the wall nearby is an acrylic painting by Marti Lytle. It is of well-known Porters Pond that is located on the Apple Capital Loop Trail near the foot of 19th Street in East Wenatchee.



SOLD! "The Listener," an oil painting by Walter Graham.



In the abstract room, we find a ceramic totem of strange faces by Terry Johnson.




With winter weather descending upon us, artists may find more time to read a book from our book collection. Most books are priced lower than you can find online.

EDUCATION


CHICAGO ART INSTITUTE
CHICAGO ACADEMY OF FINE ART

WALTER GRAHAM
(1903-2000)



Artist Walter Graham moved to Wenatchee in 1950. He gave up a large, successful commercial art studio in Chicago to buy an orchard and paint in what he called "a veritable artist's paradise." His regional style drew on Northwest subjects including landscapes, hunting and fishing scenes, rodents, the aluminum, hydropower and tree fruit industries, and local heroes such as aviator Clyde Pangborn. Perhaps Wenatchee's most famous and prolific artist, Graham awakened the community to the value of historically-themed art. Many of his colorful paintings, murals, mosaics, wood carvings and sculptures may be seen in public buildings, businesses, churches and homes throughout the Northwest, including two murals here at the Wenatchee Valley Museum.

He captured the spirit and energy of the Northwest



WALTER GRAHAM

Graham studied in Wenatchee was not limited to print & advertising, he worked within the community on large murals, mosaics, signs, & murals that would have lasting personal or historic meaning.

In 1977 Graham retired and passed his attention to smaller oil & watercolor paintings he sold in galleries to private homes.


"The Northwest has everything an artist can ask for. In a few miles you can see an atmosphere of high mountains, in the distance, big sky and rolling landscapes."

"We understand the value of original paintings - a dynamic art world may not exist in the Northwest (as in the East)."

Although some of his art has disappeared from banks as they remodel, his work can still be seen at Rocky Reach Dam, the Museum of Wenatchee & Colville, Pangborn Airport, doors of banks of Wenatchee & the mural at art in Wenatchee Branch. Many homes have his work on display.

After retirement Walter dedicated most of his time to the development of art appreciation in the Wenatchee area. It shows of so who has been his paintings to murals are murals.

In the early 1990s Spokane Washington National Bank decided to remodel. Customers complained about the removal of a large mural of Graham's depicting a horse crossing that had remained for the years. It was decided to keep it after it was approved as historic.



WALTER GRAHAM'S ART

Walter Graham's art is a blend of nature and industry. His paintings often depict the rugged beauty of the Northwest, from the majestic mountains to the bustling activity of the region's industries. His work is characterized by vibrant colors and dynamic compositions, capturing the spirit and energy of the Northwest.

His art has been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums across the Northwest, and his work is highly valued by collectors and art enthusiasts alike. His paintings are a testament to his skill and passion for the art of landscape and nature.

Walter's art seen locally

Bank of America
Rocky Reach Dam
Cashmere Museum
Wenatchee Valley Museum CC
Pangborn Airport
Fancher Field
And many homes

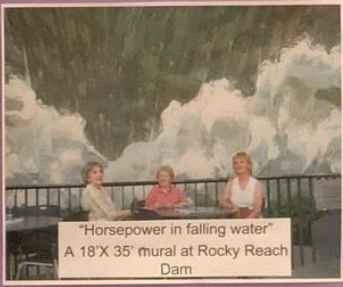
AWARDS

**Chosen by the Governor to be on the first "Washington Arts Commission"


**First Prize winner in 3 Chicago art galleries

**Awarded the "GOLD MEDAL" at the Chicago Palette & Chisel Academy


**Paintings shown on KOMO TV "Exploration Northwest" & in the movie "Chief Joseph's War Trial"



"Horsepower in falling water"
A 18'X 35' mural at Rocky Reach Dam



Walter Graham presents First Prize award to a member of the Chicago Palette & Chisel Academy. The award is for his painting "Horsepower in Falling Water". It was presented at the north end.




Has Exhibited at...

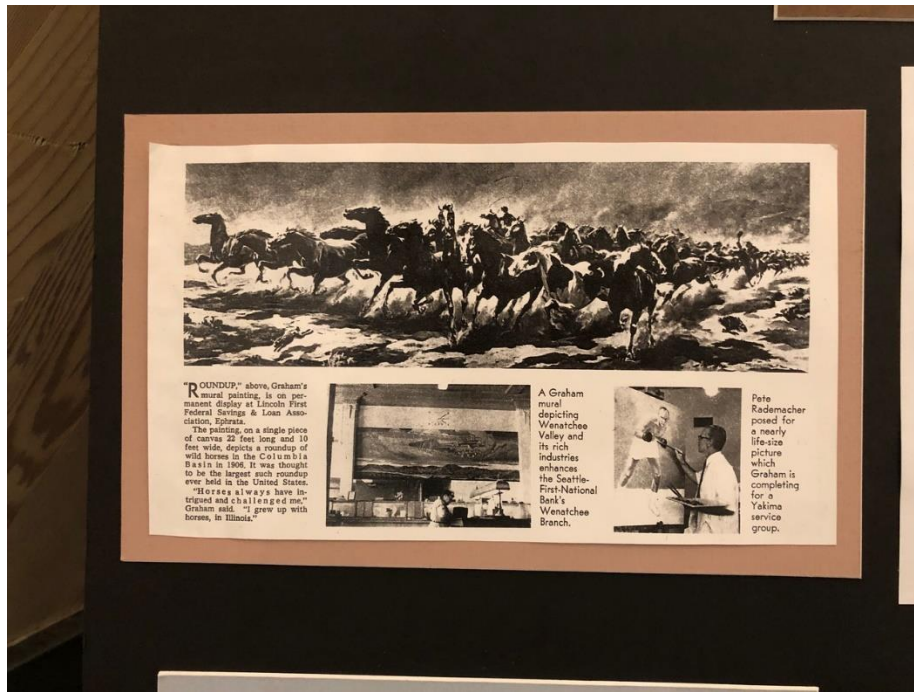
American Watercolor Society, NY
Chicago Art Institute
Charlie Russell Museum
Frye Museum, Seattle
Curtis Gallery, Spokane
Maryhill Museum
Alamoana Gallery, Honolulu
And many more

CLIENTS

Sears
U.S. Rubber
General Motors
Many regional banks
Alcoa Aluminum
Alaska Ferry System
Morrison Knutson
California Cattlemans Association



These are some of the facts about Walter. Also on display is a photograph of Walter receiving a special award from the governor for his outstanding contributions and accomplishments to the visual arts in Washington.



This was taken from a Wenatchee World news article about a 22'x 10' mural by Walter for the Federal Savings & Loan in Ephrata. It was depicting the last great roundup of horses in the west that ended in the Columbia Basin. When the bank was bought by another bank, the mural was slated to be removed, until a group of depositors asked if they could save it as the painting represents the greatest thing that has happened in Ephrata's history. After determining its monetary value, it was decided to preserve the art in the remodel of the Bank. It reminds us of the bronze piece outside of the Seattle Library that was slated to be replaced, until they discovered that it was a Henry Moore sculpture that was worth a fortune.

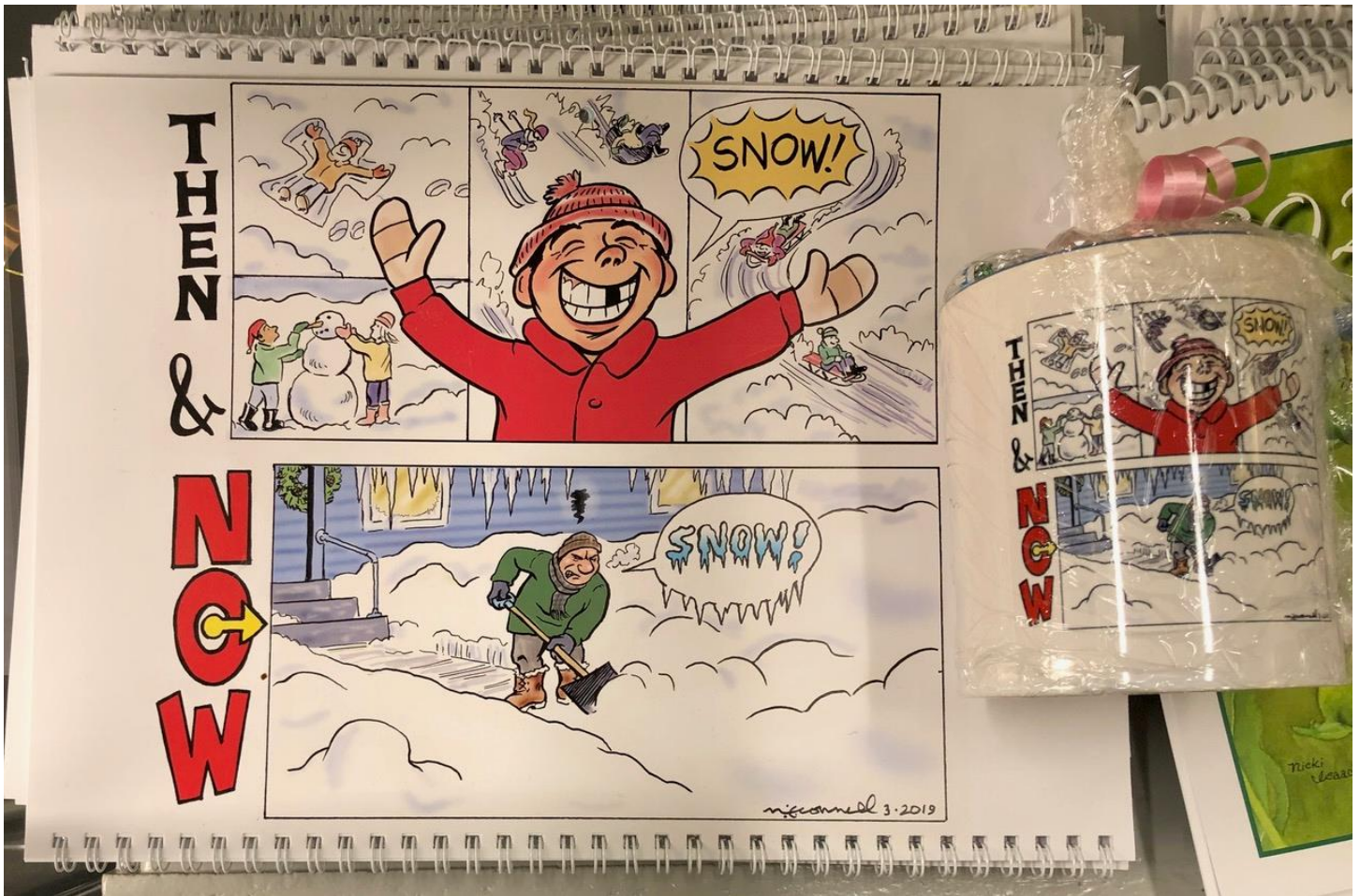


Brad Brisbine is one of the artists who got to meet WALTER GRAHAM and picked up a few pointers from him. Brad said he believes "Horsepower" is Wenatchee's most famous painting ever. "The timeless aspect of the painting and its value to our community cannot be ignored nor can its value to our heritage and history.



Graham loved everything about the area we live in, its mountains, wild water, wildlife, geology, and peoples. His art included a ceramic structure painting the growth of North Central Washington by business, commerce and agriculture at the North Wenatchee branch of SeaFirst Bank. Before it was torn down to make way for a new bank at Ninth & Wenatchee Ave., the large art piece was saved by the city and the plan is to place it outside the new city hall. Reinstallation will take place this spring. Another timeless artwork saved by concerned citizens of the Wenatchee Valley.

The galley will continue to show the art of WALTER GRAHAM along with 50 other artist members until January when an all-new show will be presented.



Dan McConnell has his "Then & Now Calendar" and coffee cups on sale at the gallery. Get ready for next year. There are 2024 calendars by Nicki Isaacson as well.

Two Rivers Art Gallery



Visit Two Rivers Art Gallery at 102 N. Columbia Ave. in Wenatchee, WA
Wed - Sat 11-4 Sun 1-4 509-888-9504 www.2riversgallery.org