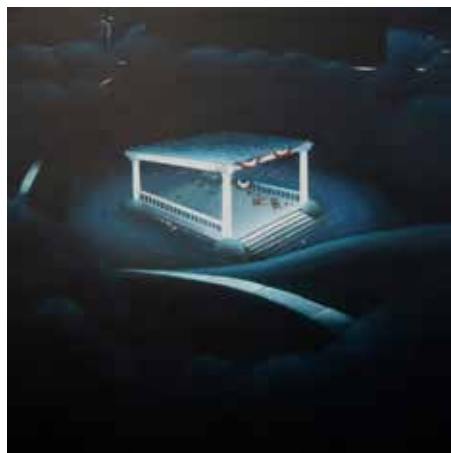


This oil on canvas painting recalls the famous Wooldridge Park in downtown Austin near the Governor's Mansion and the Austin Public Library. It was across the street from the City Hall of that era, too.

I suppose I first saw and played in the park in the sunken "valley" when taking art lessons at the library at about 6 years old. The Library was fascinating in itself. It had enormous doors into the different rooms that we could not move. And the "stacks" were on different levels inside that building on the hill. It is now The Austin Historical Library with great stores and old photos from newspaper clippings and historical papers. I visited the library as I researched the Austin series of paintings like the unfinished painting of the old First Baptist Church. (Wonder if I will ever have the courage to complete that.)

Anywho, The Park was named after an important Austin benefactor. As Boy Scouts we played there after the meetings on Tuesday nights at The Baptist Church. Our favorite game was capture the flag! What fun we had. The old "gazebo/grandstand" hosted many political rallies throughout Austin's history. It was lit in part by the famous "Moonlights" mounted on super tall metal stands about Austin. I spent a lot of time working on the painting envisioning the scene as about midnight of the very last political rally, ever. The crowds are gone, the grandstand is littered with brochures and bunting remnants and the bowl/valley is flooded. The partially submerged folding chairs look like tombstones. As the mean, mean 2008 Presidential election raged I could not see how another political campaign could ever be tolerated again. Boy, was I mistaken. The "adult" political folks sure played a really mean, for keeps, game of capture the flag. What role models for the kids... Yikes!



Last Rally At Wooldridge Park. 2007-8

Oil on canvas. 60"x60". • Made in Piland Bellaire studio. • In Piland collection. • Piland Biography/ C.R. - *29 Stories* discusses the works in detail. • See photos of the works in that book written by the artist, Page Newton Piland, in Bellaire, TX. 2021. • Signed by the artist on the back of canvas and the stretcher bars.