

Living on a Lake in the Country: Remember Your Firsts? They are Markers in Your Life

By Gayle Rich-Boxman

Let me start by saying that this is a bittersweet story. I lost something precious to me that was a first.

To begin let's look at firsts.

The firsts in our lives are true MOMENTS. Remember your first car? Your first kiss? Your first pet? Recall how you felt the first time you got a special award for something?



Gayle and Summer

These are all emotional moments in our lives that, when we look back, set the tone for our character in the future. We may even judge ourselves by those firsts.

It might have been your first paycheck, or it might be your first JOB related to your degree. What it IS is that great stepping stone towards your goal!

Think about how they shape you. The exhilaration, the pure joy that these firsts bring can completely change our lives if we let them. They are often celebrated by the people who love us. They may even be celebrated on a national basis. Regardless, they make such a difference that I want you to reflect and take time to stop and feel how they have moved you forward in your life and put you where you are now.

My latest first is something that I have wanted since childhood. Horses became very special to me early on. I was probably in elementary school when I came to love them. I was around horses, but never had one as my own.

Not until I became fifty. I saw a really old horse, the oldest I'd ever heard of, who

was about 45 years old, named Misty. She was skin and bones, with a mane that was so tired that it barely covered her scrawny neck. And yet, Misty was holding on, giving a sense of love to anyone who paid the least bit of attention to her. Because of her, I decided to take a big step and buy my first horse at the age of fifty! I contacted Misty's owner and embarked on finding my horse. I ended up (through divine intervention) with an absolute beauty, Summer, a palomino, both Arabian and Quarterhorse. Later I would discover how very lucky I was.

Summer turned out to be one of the most special horses you could find. Her gentle spirit, her acceptance of everyone and her tolerance for whatever situation came her way, was truly remarkable. She loved people, kids, dogs, food...you name it. I got lucky.

EXCEPT that she had a condition that is congenital and there was nothing that could save her. So, my first horse left me this last Thursday. I had about two years of being able to ride her and the last ride we took was the longest ride we had. That was several years ago. I still treasure it and still question if I pushed her too

far. It doesn't matter.

My point is, to EMBRACE those firsts, no matter how quickly they fade away. Treasure those markers in your life, because they truly add to your character and your growth.

Gayle Rich-Boxman
REALTOR® Vernonia Realty
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- Tues. August 19th 10:30 a.m.**
Learn about what robots do every day.
- Wed. August 20th 3:00 p.m.**
Snack and science dvd.
- Tues. August 26th 10:30 a.m.**
Party for end of Summer Reading Program!
- Wed. August 27th 3:00 p.m.**
Snack and science dvd.

* There will be programming for youth K-6th and for youth age 1-PreK**.
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