

## How Many Footprints?

*By Diane Parker*

How many footprints have I left in my lifetime? Thousands? Millions? There's no way to make count of them... and why would I want to? They are a significant part of my life. Footprints have played an important part of the pattern of who I was, who I am, and who I will still become. Without these I would not have made patterns and I would most likely not have lived much of a life.

My footprints trace over parts of North America's coast-to-coast. Along the sandy beaches of both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Along the great Michigan Lake beaches of Illinois and Michigan. My northern uncles' farm meadows of the 1940's. Backyards and streets of El Paso, Texas and into Mexico.

How many footprints have I tracked in my growing up years in Nebraska? I've left footprints in both Wyoming and Colorado's great forests.

How many have I danced in my lifetime? How many did it take to walk down the aisle to the altar the day I was married ... years later out of the courthouse after getting my divorce? To the doctor's office for sickness, for examinations when pregnant? The nights up walking and soothing a colicky baby. Getting to PTA meetings, church, a job? And there's the countless steps around the kitchen ... oh boy!

I think about all the footprints involved making a life. Why would I? It's part of life. Without them ... who would I have become today? Where would I be and why would I be here at all?