

They Knew I Was Coming So They Baked a Cake

by Joan Black

The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men well, you remember the Robbie Bums warning. So it was that my (our) dream of living in the house in Albuquerque until such time as we moved to The Great Beyond, gang agley (or, to translate from the Scottish, "went down the tubes") What had seemed like adequate space for 2 adults, 2 sons and a dog in a 3 bedroom house with a Den and a nice yard, morphed into a big empty bam and an acre of land with the departure of the boys and death of a spouse. **Unexplainedly** the house and yard kept getting bigger and bigger as the years went by until it was just entirely too much for a li'l ol' lady to maintain. The fact that burglars broke in and stole many of my valuables and memorabilia, radically changed the ambiance of the home I had lived in and loved in for 30 years.

On a visit to my son and family in Centennial in 2001, I was invited to tea by a very dear, long-time friend of theirs who lived in Windsor Gardens. She had been one of the original owners when the complex was built on the far eastern boundary of Denver in the 1960's and as she described it "way out in the country on what had been a Dairy Farm." That afternoon Margaret took me on a tour, showed me around Center Point, the Auditorium and the Golf Course. She pointed out the indoor and outdoor Pools, Library and Restaurant and described the myriad of activities and amenities available. Round the clock Security and EMTs on duty sounded comforting after the trauma of the break-in, and the proximity to Family was definitely a plus. So, I sold the 'forever' house and came 450 miles north into a condominium.

On that day in June 2002 Windsor Gardens welcomed me in grand style. The day I moved in they hired a Big Band to play 40's tunes and my new neighbors danced and partied in the Auditorium parking lot and there were hamburgers and hotdogs sizzling on the grill by the Pool and the Gazebo overflowed with people celebrating my arrival. I was really impressed and delighted by this overwhelming display of hospitality. It was just coincidental that particular day happened to mark the 40th anniversary of the opening of The Windsor Gardens Retirement Community.