

My Life Needs Variety

by Liz Gibbons

When we spent Christmas 1979 in Hawaii I felt as if I had found the perfect place for me to live, the place where I belonged. It was warm, had lots of water, offered great places to explore, and had an interesting history to learn about. We were living in Colorado Springs at that time, and I told my husband I wanted to stay there and never have to deal with snow and cold weather again. But reality won out, and, of course, we had to return to Colorado Springs.

In the early years of our marriage we moved to a different location every few years. Then we lived in Rochester, New York, for ten years. While we had many enjoyable experiences there, the climate was not satisfying to us. With the long winters I was “climbing the walls” by February. I convinced myself that I had an authentic case of Seasonal Affective Disorder. We decided we could live any place in the United States.

Studying a map and taking a few trips to check out potential locations, we finally decided to move to Colorado Springs. We knew no one there but felt we had to take the chance that it would work out well. We lived there for the next ten years. We loved exploring the mountains and the various tourist attractions in Colorado and adjoining states. But when Colorado Springs hit a recessionary slump it was time to move on.

The next two and a half years in Fayetteville, Arkansas were an eye opener. We saw the good ole boy network in full swing in Arkansas. Then on to Atlanta. We kept exploring other places thinking we would eventually move to another location. But I ended living there for 31 years. Now that I was in my eighties the next logical move was to live nearer to my sons. When my older son suggested the best place might be to live in Denver, I resisted, at first, because of the cold, snowy winters. My other son lives near Los Angeles, California, and no way was I going to live there. Moving to Denver and to Windsor Gardens has opened up new vistas in my life.

What I have learned about myself is that I love exploring, so becoming familiar with a new location is fun and exciting. I don't mind moving. Living in one location for ten years and then moving on seems most ideal. My body prefers a warm climate. I like a place that offers a wide variety of fascinating places nearby to check out. I always find interesting people to associate with. While I am an introvert I have developed lasting friendships in all the places I have lived. I feel blessed that I have an innate curiosity that is still very active as I have aged, and that I am able to adjust to new situations fairly easily.