

## Thinking Out Loud

by *Natalie Lawson*

Here I am all grown up and elderly to boot. I have to move slowly so I don't fall on my face. I know for a fact because I have the scars to remind me. Why do things that never bothered me before irk me now?

I used to read the paper, both the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News* every day for years and years. Now I glance at the headlines and I tell myself enough! So many things to fix. Will I be here to see it? Maybe, maybe not, who knows. I do remember when I was positive and optimistic that once a problem was named, it would all be taken care of since there are so many intelligent people out there, right? But what would the younger generation do if everything was perfect?

I used to have a doggie, my beloved Trixie, in the back yard, but most of the time she was an indoor pet. We had some wild rose bushes out front that had a nuance that appealed to all coming down the walk. I didn't mind when they cut some to be enjoyed. It would bother me when the doggies stopped to do their business on them. At that time, there would be no blue bags and no leash law.

When I came to Windsor Gardens, I was happy to see that they had dog pens. But after a while I noticed that not everyone used them. Instead whether you had a dog or not you had the privilege of watching them lift their legs or squatting. I remember when I visited friends their cats would jump on my lap as soon as I sat down. I was happy that they liked me but then my friend informed me that it was because I was pregnant. Well, that was a blow to my pride.

It's time to think about my story for this week's topic. Of course my mind draws a blank I won't admit that this happens most of the time, I'll say it happens some of the time, laugh, laugh. Is there a difference?

I said I would never have a computer but now that I joined the Writers Group I felt out of place. So okay. Never say never! I am working on getting one. My email is through my daughter's computer for now. I am halfway there. My typist Caroline went on vacation for a month and a half so this helped to encourage me to get on with it.

I do enjoy the group: listening to all the different innovations from a single topic. Which brings to mind, we are all individualistic and by accepting each other's personalities, we are a very special harmonious unit.

Things to think about: What do I want to do? What will I do? Shall I ask for help? I have to say, there are some things I think about that I definitely won't think out loud. Yeah, I'm chicken!