

## THE FORBIDDEN SOFAS

*By Cindy Peters*

In the 1970's my mother-in-law Mary Peters bought a gaudy, orange sofa with big sunflowers. The sofa was placed in Mary's show place of a living room. Her rules on this couch was look but do not touch. Mary would severely reprimand anyone who dared to sit on that couch.

After several years, this sofa was relegated to the basement. In the basement not only were people allowed to sit on the sofa, but they could also sleep on it.

In the 1990's this orange sofa was replaced by a beautiful, pale blue sofa. Once again, this sofa was placed in Mary's museum-like living room. Again, the same rules applied to look but not touch or dare to sit on it. As I recall the only person allowed the privilege of sitting on the couch was Senator Tom Daschle.

Years passed and my generation was forbidden to sit on it, as well as our children and grandchildren. Finally, Mary's great grandchildren came along. They were allowed not only to sit on the forbidden sofa, but they were also allowed to eat snacks on it.

When Mary passed away our family from Colorado joined our friends and family from South Dakota to clear out her belongings in order to sell the home. We were so grateful for all the help we received from the friends and relatives. However, upon our return to the home some items mysteriously disappeared, and the forbidden pale blue sofa was one of the items. We figured that my sister-in-law sold it or gave it away, but we never did hear the full story. Although the gaudy orange couch in the basement looked like new, no one wanted it, so it ended up in the dumpster. As they say, "one man's treasure is another man's trash."

We seriously doubt any new owner gave the two forbidden sofas the love, care, and attention that Mary gave to them. May Mary and her sofas rest in peace.