

These Boots

By Suzy Hopkins

My life was spent being continuously 'horse crazy.'

I satisfied those cravings during thirty-five years of being taught patience by horses while training them to be trusting, eight years of protecting the public from each other as a mounted park ranger, seven years of riding my mare behind my son on his horse through the wilderness around Folsom Lake and six years of riding with the handicapped kids at the horseback riding therapy facility.

Then I got MS.

I offered my saddle to the State of California, gave my custom made mounting steps to a friend who also has MS but still rides, donated all my tack and grooming tools to the handicapped riding therapy groups and bestowed my extensive collection of books about horses to the library.

Now, all I have left are these riding boots...and a lifetime of amazing memories.