

“AND THEY ALL GET ALONG”

A Grateful Remembrance  
of God’s peace, trust, healing, joy, and humor  
as experienced at Peace Place  
through its special people, pets,  
circumstances, and adventures.

By Carol Stiefvater, OSF

It all happened in the Appalachian hills of southeastern Kentucky, truly a Place of Peace.

For 16+ years Peace Place was home to more than 200 children of all ages (two to seven youngsters at a time for periods varying from one day to almost six years). Sister Syra and I were the privileged foster parents. The first Peace Place home was a charming very old house in a sprawling, welcoming “hollar”.

One bitter winter chased us to a cozier refuge some miles over yonder, then summer welcomed us back to the Old Place. After a couple of more years there, Peace Place bought its own 4+ acre plot of land with a sturdy little house, old barn, a few little outbuildings, wire fences, and graceful hills. Lovely!

Then Sr. Syra died, and there was a gradual shift in focus of care. With a new partner came the initiation of Peace Place Respite Care for adults and children with disabilities and/or problems. This service provided 24 hour care and activity for small groups of persons for short periods at a time. A few years later, with the popular Respite program operating very successfully, I moved on, leaving Peace Place in good hands.

If only you could hear the fascinating, exciting, sometimes heart-rending, and often humorous stories of all the special folks who at some time or other made Peace Place their home! Out of respect for their privacy, though, we’ll leave their memories

with them.

However, this very extended family *would* love to have you meet their good friends, healers, counselors, teachers, diplomats -- the special pets at Peace Place! Each animal had its own charm, its own gifts, and its own stories! Unfortunately, the pet reception line would be too long, and the story recital too overwhelming, so how about a leisurely read of an abbreviated array of animal anecdotes?

(By the way, names of some persons mentioned in these stories have been changed. Also, mostly sincere apologies for the liberties taken regarding actual words, spelling, grammar, punctuation, style and other proprieties.)

Enjoy anyway!