

The Old Lady Has Friends

by Vivian Kline

Can one ever have enough of them? There are a few (growing fewer, alas) whom she's known since kindergarten, which means she's seen them thru the thicks and thins of most of their whole lives. That's kinda special.

Then there are the friends she knew in the years when she was a young mother and lived on the East Coast. One year, while writing their yearly Christmas letter, they offered to visit all the friends they knew, as they planned to drive across the country the next summer. Those who said, "yes, come stay" meant old friendships were renewed.

They found some had done well in life, and some had not. The children made pronouncements once headed back to the car, their present home away from home. "I'm not going to bring up my children LIKE THAT," or "I wish WE had a swimming pool."

Those yearly epistles were a tenuous way to keep friends who were now far apart. How much easier if folks didn't move so often!