

QUILTED AWARD FOR HORSEWOMAN SUSAN GLASSER, LOCAL LONG ISLANDER

Two years ago on a beautiful warm and sunny day, one that we are all looking forward to seeing on Long Island here again soon, Diana M. Berthold met Susan Glasser and her very good friend Carol Potts at a dressage clinic at Happy Go Lucky Farm in Yaphank, LI.

Susan's love for horses began with a pony, "Gypsie" given to her by her "Grandpa" at the age of 5. At 15, she met Carol who lived in her "horsy" neighborhood in Smithtown and it was then that they became long time friends. Carol gave her a horse to ride named "Marmaduke" which Susan looks back as three years of fun. Life went on as she got married and had children. She was determined to keep her ten year plan to return to her love with horses. She answered a help wanted ad at Knoll Farm and horses again became a part of her everyday life. Carol, who hadn't seen Susan in 10 years, saw her name on a mailing list at The Riding Shop, Syosset, LI, and came to Knoll looking to see her again. It happened that Susan had a horse that she was experiencing heart break with no matter how she tried.

The horse had physical problems and it turned out that she gave the horse to Carol. The horse became Carol's boyfriend's best friend and pleasure horse and eventually retired in Pennsylvania. In 2000, "Black" Came into Susan's life when Carol called to give her a lead on this 5 year old from Davenport, Iowa located in Medford and owned by a man named Stanley.

"The horse world was different or maybe just looked different through adult eyes. Horses were no longer just about riding, but a way of life. Black made me appreciate the connection with my horse. I was just looking for a friend to have fun with and it has been a journey of ten years with so much more to do." Diana and Susan were on the same page when she told her that "He has made me a better person for having him in my life." Susan went on to say "I have more tolerance and patience and savor every moment with him. They (horses) don't lie to you and I wish more people were more like horses. Horses let you know when you make an error and get back on track. I work with what I have and am lucky for it." The quilts and pillows remind her of her accomplishments, inspiration of life's path, and a reflection not to take anything for granted. They give her inspiration and determination to fulfill goals in her adventure with her mare, "Annie," he is thankful for her husband, who though not a rider, is fully supportive of her goals and for help when needed for the care and responsibility of horse ownership.

Susan called just a few weeks ago to inquire about having a quilt and pillows created with her collection of ribbons earned with her beloved horse, "Black," who now lives with her at her beautiful home and barn in Manorville. The next day she was at Diana's studio discussing the project and exactly a month to the day back again to pick up the finished masterpieces, a quilt complete with embroideries and photos, a photo pillow accented with a rosette, and another pillow created completely with championship awards and a removable satin band bearing three elaborate championship rosettes. During the process, Diana kept her updated with news of the progress.

The special connection between horses and people never ceases to amaze Diana but the connection of horse people is one that she also finds very rewarding when she meets them, listens to their stories, and helps wrap their dreams and memories together as she designs and stitches them all together into quilts and pillows that will last a lifetime. For more information about these commissioned quilts created with treasured show ribbons, go to: www.distinctivedesignsbydiana.com



Susan Glasser's quilt by Diana Berthold