

Joyce Benson Kitchen – Sept 2014

As requested I will reluctantly make a valiant effort to answer the question of rolling the last fifty years into a few short sentences. If I didn't make the deadline that's okay.

I graduated from CSU with a degree in interior design, married Ed Kitchen ('60). We built a log house on the Buckhorn, had three kids then moved to Estes Park in 1983 to be closer to Ed's excavating work. I helped in the field some and have been licensed with BATF which always makes me laugh to myself. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms indeed! I've known them all fairly intimately, though I'm not a very good shot with firearms, I have loaded holes for blasting water lines and basements. Coors and Copenhagen used to be my best pals but no longer. Cancer three times and some one day at a time recovery has me convinced that the old ways no longer serve me.

I've been proud of my thirteen year stint on Estes Valley Planning Commission and just retired from the "national award winning" Rooftop Rodeo Committee after eighteen years. I've accomplished the art of china painting and manage to spend time with paper, paint and canvas to satisfy my creative muse to some extent. In the past few years I've been on an interior pilgrimage searching the mystics and their writings. For fun we do some dancing and play a bit of pinochle. Ed has not retired and I suspect he may never figure how that might be a possibility.

It seems that more and more I am curious about what the next years will bring. Untold wonders, I am sure! "I wonder what I came here for... I wonder where my phone and my reading glasses are... if I'll be able to find my way home from the grocery store... if we'll ever get that dream house built..."