



Flo and Question Mark / Lucky, 1957.

Flo was born in DC, and raised in Arlington, Va. Her Grandma and grandfather, Frankie, lived on the Van Patton farm on Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Her Grandma raised cows and chickens. Frankie worked at a Georgetown Pike toll booth, and boarded fox hounds for various folk, including the famous Washington Senator's ball player, Walter Johnson. Flo came out on the weekends for Sunday family time, and whenever else she could to visit Grandma's farm.

In the 1940's and 50's, the center of Great Falls had Buck's Store, Slack's Garage, the Grange Hall and Bradford's turkey farm at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road. During that time, Mr. Rhinehart used to ride his horse to vote at the Grange on election days.

When Flo was very young, Mom and Dad took her to see the movie, "Black Beauty" and from then on she begged for a horse. In fact, she told dad that she expected a horse beside her bed the very next morning! "Stick horses" worked, but left a lot to be desired, until a relative loaned her a pony for a few months.

She began riding at Rhinehart's Stable on Leigh Mill Road for \$1 an hour. Flo fell in love with a big, 16h chestnut gelding named Question Mark. He had a blaze, and was everyone's favorite. When Flo was 13, she finally talked her parents into buying Question Mark. Frankie agreed to set up a place for Question Mark on the farm, with a small paddock, and an old shed for a "barn". He arrived on a large truck, and Flo and Grandma could see his face above the truck as they pulled in. Grandma asked what his name was and Flo said "Question Mark". Grandma promptly said "there will be no animal on this farm with that name". He was quickly re-named Lucky!

Lucky settled in to the farm nicely – after deworming and the rich grass, his ribs "disappeared". Lucky lived over the fence from the cows, and never missed his horse buddies. He especially loved Sundays, when the cousins, aunts and uncles came to visit and play, and he was often the center of attention.

At 18, Flo was off to Madison College, (now JMU) and everyone agreed that Frankie, due to his advancing age, shouldn't have to take care of Lucky by himself. Mom and Dad sold Lucky, along with all his tack to a neighbor on Arnon Chapel Road, who promised to give Lucky a good home.

Just after Lucky was sold, Flo's Uncle John saw Lucky's face looking out of a truck, driving toward Mr. Money's Stables at Springvale Road and Rt. 7. Uncle John called Flo's parents and they called the neighbor, who claimed that Lucky was wind broken, and they had traded him and a stove for 2 of Mr. Money's horses. Horse trading moved quickly, and by the time they got to Money's, Lucky was gone. The Moneys had already sold Lucky to a stable in Wheaton, Maryland. Nevertheless, the family kept going to find Lucky.

Flo came back from Madison College, and they journeyed up to Wheaton to find Lucky. They found him, and had a vet check done. When the preliminary checking was done, the vet had Flo get on Lucky and canter him until he said to stop. After a time, Flo came back in exhausted and asked if they could stop. The vet said no, keep on going. After what seemed like hours, he motioned the pair in, declaring Lucky free of wind problems but he wasn't sure about his rider! Mom and Dad bought Lucky back, at a considerable price, but delighted to have him back safely.

Lucky still needed a new home. Mom and Dad had friends who had a big farm near Richmond. They gave Lucky a wonderful home, he taught their grandchildren to ride and was much loved! The reports on Lucky were glowing. He spent his last days in a "horses' paradise".



Lucky still holds a special place in Flo's heart!