

# **POVERTY HOLLOW LLAMAS**

*& JANE HAMILTON-MERRITT*



**CELEBRATE**

## **GALA'S 26<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE**

**&**

**SALUTE THE EARLY OWNERS WHO BROUGHT LLAMAS INTO OUR LIVES**

### **WHEN I AM OLD ...**

I shall wear jeans and a wide brimmed straw hat  
With flowers on it and I shall spend my Social Security on  
carrots and dog and cat food and sit outside in my pasture  
and watch the llamas graze. I will go to the pasture in the  
evening and watch the crias romp and play and an occasional  
older llama feel giddy. If my old bones will allow, I will  
walk with my favorite llama through the trails in the woods and  
train the babies to lead.

And when people come to call, I will smile and lead them past the gardens to the  
barn and show instead, the flowers growing there---my beautiful llamas.

I will learn to shovel and sweat and wear hay in my hair as if it were a jewel.

And I will be an embarrassment to all who look down on me.

Those who have not yet found the peace in being free to  
love a llama as a friend. A friend who always comes to the gate to greet me

And understand that all I ask is that they be there.

For that's the kind of woman I will be

When I am OLD.

by

Virginia Pierson

Crestland Llamas

December 2001

**ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO KNOW VIRGINIA PIERSON TO FEEL THE BEAUTY AND THE THRILL OF  
SHARING ONE'S LIFE WITH LLAMAS THAT IS EXPRESSED IN HER POEM.**

### **THANK YOU, VIRGINIA, FOR THESE LOVELY THOUGHTS.**

Virginia was active in *MARICO* (Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Connecticut Llama Association) *Big E Showing*, *Big E Fiber Nook*, and a *GALA Member*. Diane Lis, Virginia's daughter, reports her Mother's health and safety are challenging, but she is still at home with her beloved llamas and her caregivers. Old friends, Virginia (86) and llama "Silver" (22) still enjoy daily visits. Her spinning and knitting skills have left her and she has forgotten many of the llamas but not "Silver." Eighteen llamas have been re-homed and we're grateful to the wonderful adopters. Thirteen llamas, ages 13-23, remain at Crestland.