



WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

A Room with a View

Everyone needs a room with a view that makes their heart happy. My honest favorite panorama would be either the mountains or the ocean. I have yet to convince my hubby to make permanent moves to either, although he does enjoy the visits as much as I do.

The location of our house on our ranch does not provide the expansive field of vision of our land that I would enjoy. So, I have created a room decorated and furnished in a way that gives me smiles, giggles, and a wonderful peace-filled feeling when I am hanging out in it.

I am in that place right now writing this column. I am in a lounging position with my computer in my lap on the chaise that was once my sweet mama's. I had it reupholstered this year to give it a fresh look.

Beside the chaise is my mama's sofa table where framed photo memories of my husband and me stand along with a favorite lamp that was my mama's, photo books created from our travels, and a Ralph Waldo Emerson sign given to me from our daughter that I absolutely adore.

As I gaze around, I relish in walls filled with photo canvases from various trips, my art as well as my mama's art on canvas, more quote signs and photographs of sweet family members, as well as furry friends throughout my lifetime. There are also mementos from a variety of trips displayed on bookshelves, as well as on my desk.

Sometimes I write these col-



Annette Bridges created a room decorated and furnished in a way that makes her smile and gives her peace. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

umns sitting at my beautiful writer's desk my husband built for me as a Valentine's Day gift some years ago. My chaise corner is on the southeast side of my room, and my desk is on the north wall in front of the window where I can see my hubby when he is working on tractors and other equipment.

It is a very magical place for me that brings back all the happy memories of my 65 years on earth. Any sad reminiscence is banished from my happy place which makes

this room my favorite spot in our house.

My special room has not always been used the way it is today. When we first married it was a den that included a sofa bed for guests.

It was also home to my sewing machine. It later became our daughter's nursery and was her room until she was three years old when we built a new master bedroom, and our daughter's bedroom was moved into our original master. It became a schoolroom

and library when we first started homeschooling. Of all the rooms in our house, it is the one that has changed the most through our many years together. I can feel its rich history as I lounge on my chaise now, and that brings me immense satisfaction and contentment.

Even if it is not possible to designate an entire room as your very own, I hope you can create a vista that brings you joy and calms any worries.