

# The Beautiful Garden Circle

## Part II



garage made it very hard to see what was painted and what wasn't. The green had to dry for two days before we could flip the benches over to paint the beneaths". Next we painted the wooden slats different pastel colors, incorporated the colors on the tables and then Mom started her finishing touches. She is very artistic and painted flowers, vines and names on the benches and tables. Once all the paint was dry, we applied four coats of polyethylene to each piece of furniture to give a nice shiny finish. We "named" each bench one for Doug (because he instigated the garden), Ken, Joan (they do all the planting and caring) and Mike (he handles the irrigation and mulch) and one for the "kids" next door, Sarah and Jackie Stroth (just because). The benches represent the past, the present and the future. They look just great.

One of Doug's relatives came to visit in February. It was great to see Mary Ann but one of her ideas created a huge project for my Mom and me.

She walked out to the circle, commenting on the beauty of the flowers and plants. The garden benches and tables were purchased in 1999 and had been outside all those years and were showing their age. Wrinkled and flaking, spotted and rough ... sort of like some of us so it must be the Florida sun! Mary Ann said, "You should paint the benches different colors." And she flew back to New York.

The idea festered and I approached my Mom about doing some refinishing work ... emphasis on WORK! Off we went to purchase paints, brushes and hardware.



We needed help carrying the heavy benches into my garage so Ken Roberts and his brother-in-law just went out and moved them. And that was just the start of a very time consuming, physically challenging, irritating (fun?) project! We painted all the metal parts with Rustoleum Green. It isn't a fun medium to paint with and working in the



We had to sit on the garage floor to do most of the painting. My poor Mother was sitting on the concrete floor painting for weeks. There must be a law against a daughter causing her Mother to perform hard labor. Every time I got up from the floor I grunted or moaned . . . never heard a peep from my Mom. Different generation and it showed!

Of course during the painting project some of the wood didn't hold up so Mike Lupinacci replaced many slats and those had to be painted. When all the benches were finished, Don Vernooy, Tim Stroth, Bill Samuels and Ken Roberts moved all the furniture back to the circle. All the neighbors contributed money to fund the project ... once again, these are the best people to have as friends and neighbors. They always jump right in to help, give cash and their time without any prodding.

All the work was completed so we decided to have a rededication ceremony/picnic on April 1. It was a beautiful day, everyone brought food, drinks and chairs. Over the years we have had many of these casual get-togethers and each one has been a tremendous success. Most people bring whatever they decide and it always works out ... if someone calls and asks what is needed ... we just say "you". There always seems to be enough of everything and at least one or two surprises. This time the food was exceptional. We have some fine cooks attending these functions!



All of us had a wonderful time, eating, talking, laughing and enjoying our beautiful circle. We toasted Doug who started the garden idea so many years ago. He is still missed by all of us who knew him.

So if you have a few minutes to spare, take a ride to see the beautiful garden circle on Aruba Bay. The pastel benches are wonderful compliments to the gorgeous flowers.

