

July 24, 2006

I arrived in Winnebago, IL (just outside of Rockford) on Monday July 24.... It was later in the day when I was picked up from the post office, Lori and her children had just returned from an unexpected trip out of state, and were tired. We relaxed that evening, as I also was pretty tired from my trip. I did really enjoy meeting all of the other grow hair girls, and was grateful that I bonded quickly with a brown haired girl named, can you believe it, Crissy!!! We had a late night as I told her all about my adventures so far.



July 25

Tuesday was a busy day for Lori, and we decided that she should go ahead and get some errands out of the way, and free us up for some quality time on Wed. I had a great time hanging out with these lovely sisters.



July 26

Wednesday was a really fun day.... Lori said it is usually the best day of her week. She and her 4 year old daughter, Autumn took me to the YMCA. They go every day, but on Wednesday Lori takes her 2 favorite classes, Stability Ball and Yoga... The stability balls seemed way to large for me and the class was loud, so we decided I should sit that class out... Yoga was great though. Several of the ladies commented on how beautiful I am, and suggested I come often, like a mascot. Even though I told them, I'm not sure they really believed I was on vacation from Georgia....



The instructor, Jean, said that my form was good. I did much better on poses like "down dog" than sideways bending poses. We all laughed at the idea that I would be stepping on my hair during class. I felt so de-stressed

after class that I hope I will get a chance to take another class, perhaps when I get home. I had better get some rest tonight, as tomorrow Lori and Autumn have a lot of animal chores and yard work to do. They have 5 horses and a mini donkey. They are going to find some work clothes for me, and we will go horseback riding tomorrow.



This is Jeremiah....Along with Autumn and Sara... I don't know if you can see my little saddle. Jeremiah is a miniature Donkey, and is extremely gentle. He is also extremely curious, and I don't think he's ever met anyone quite like me before.



This is Hope. She is one of Lori's 4 barn cats... She is certainly more my size, and like Jeremiah, she was quite interested in getting to know me.



Autumn has decided that I am her favorite of the growing hair dolls....



This is Ruby... She is a 12 year old Arabian... And though you can't tell in the picture, she looks a lot like me; same beautiful red hair.



We did lots of barn chores and lots of riding early in the day and again toward evenings. It's been 95 degrees here...Whew....We even spent some time setting fans up in the walk in for the horses. They were pretty happy about that...all 6 of them huddled around a fan. We should have gotten a picture of that.

Monday, July 31

On Monday we went to Galena, IL, a popular tourist stop about 90 miles from Rockford. It was the home of Gen. U. S. Grant and 7 other Civil War Generals. We did a lot of great shopping, although the temperature was 99 degrees. Needless to say, we stayed in the air conditioned stores as much as possible.



Here I am having lunch with Lori's daughters Michelle, Autumn and Sara (who didn't get In the picture) The red haired girl in the corner is Sara's friend Jessica.



Here are Lori, Michelle and Autumn.



It was a great day for an iced latte.



The beautiful down town *Galena*.



US and Julia Grant's Home.



And on our way home, we stopped at a 76 foot observation tower. Some of us climbed, some decided it was just too hot today.

Wednesday, August 02, 2006

My last day is today. We went to the YMCA, and than to the Burpee Museum of Natural History. We had a great time. They have a young T-REX there that they call Jane. She was uncovered by a team sent from Rockford, in South Dakota... Autumn and I picked up dino souvenirs. Autumn is sad to see me go, but we had a great time.

