

Weekend

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## 'BLACK STALLION'

Author's wife dies  
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# Rosemary Farley, widow of 'Black Stallion' author, dies

By KIM COOL

FEATURES EDITOR

Rosemary Lutz Farley, who died Thursday at home in Venice, was as stunning as she was bright.

In 1939, she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in political science. While pursuing her master's degree at New York University, she signed a modeling contract with the famed John Robert Powers Agency, then met and married Walter Farley.

Walter, who died in Venice in 1989, was about to publish "The Black Stallion," a book many consider one of the greatest horse stories ever told. He would eventually write more



Rosemary Farley

than 20 books about that horse, including his final work, "The Young Black Stallion," co-authored with his third child Steven, who completed the book after his father's death.

Rosemary's career blossomed just as brilliantly. She appeared in the pages of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, among

other top fashion magazines. The couple lived in Greenwich Village and traveled a lot in those early years. She later became a travel writer whose work appeared in the New York Times.

The couple's first of four children, Pam, was born in 1949. By then, the couple had acquired a home in Earlville, just west of Boyertown, in Berks County, Pa. Pam was born there. The following year, they acquired a second home in Venice, Fla., where they spent most of the year and soon became founding members of the Venice Public Library.

Walter continued writing about the Black Stallion, which ultimately spawned films

and television shows. In an interview with Reading Eagle reporter Ron Devlin, published on Nov. 8, 2009, Steven talked about the 50-acre farm where the spirit of his father remains in the two-room cottage in which Walter wrote.

"He wanted to be able to look out any window and see a horse," Rosemary, then 90, said in the same interview.

The couple had horses in Berks County and an outbuilding on the farm where he wrote.

In Venice, they had the beach instead of horses but they also had a small outbuilding in which Farley wrote.

After her husband's death in 1989, Rosemary continued to spend summers in Berks

County but spent most of the year in the beachside house in the Gulf Shores subdivision of Venice. Steven used the rear house whenever he was in Venice as he continued to turn out additional "prequel" books about the black stallion.

In another article by Devlin, Rosemary said that the couple's first date was spent riding horses in Central Park. In that Devlin article, Rosemary said they would discuss the books and sometimes suggest changes.

She kept a carved horse in her kitchen and read Walter's

manuscripts.

"We still get fan mail," she told Devlin.

Three children survive. Alice founded the Alice Farley Dance Troupe in New York. Tim is a photographer and coordinator of the Black Stallion Literacy Project in Florida. Steven lives in New York.

In an article originally published On Sept. 27, 2010, in the Reading Eagle, Rosemary was quoted: "After all these years, I've learned that you should take life as it comes."

A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Venice Public Library.

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