

Everybody loved Nancy and she knew how to treat people. She was so laid back and calm it was always great to be around her. In a lot of ways Nance was the opposite of Bill. She was so aware of other people. When she'd talk to me, I felt like she was talking "to me"! That smile would always come through and everything was good. Nance would never wear shoes in the house, she could sleep anywhere, and did, and other people always came first, especially her kids. I loved her cooking. She brought the best out in every meal and seemed to do it so effortlessly? Mom always marveled at what she could make out of basically nothing, usually with at least one or two kids clinging to her side.

As I grew older I developed a tremendous respect for Nance. When she and Bill were having their troubles Nancy never shut mom out of her life. It would have been so easy to minimize her contact with mom and focus on her own problems but she wasn't wired that way. As things in their relationship deteriorated over the years mom would get so upset with Bill? I know how hard that was for mom to watch and not be able to do one thing to help change or fix anything.

I think a lot about Bill and his life. In some ways it was so full. He used to ask me how I could stand to work year after year at the same place (INEL) doing the same thing? I really marveled at his vision and ability to see things differently. He was so totally unconventional. He didn't seem to consider failure as a possible outcome? There was always some positive to be learned from every experience. I admired that spirit and wish I had more adventure in my nature.

After mom's funeral I was going through some of her file cabinets and found a folder on each one of us kids. She had collected cards, letters, and other mementoes from over the years. I pulled Bills folder out of the file to take a look. On the front of his folder she had simply written "I miss him".

I miss them all