

Laurie (Daughter)

I loved to come home from school and she was always there. I knew no matter what time of day I came home she would be there waiting for me. I particularly remember on school shot day that everyone would claim to be sick afterwards and ask to go home, but if their mother wasn't there they had to stay at school. Mom was always home. Sometimes the smell of warm bread would be wafting from the kitchen and she always let us have some. That was the best. She always made an extra loaf or two to take to Reed Madsen or some other old and lonely person. They must have really loved her.

Whenever the kids were fighting she would start singing "Love At Home". I always hated that song because usually we were in trouble when she sang it. Now it makes me cry thinking about her.

For my eighth grade graduation I was going to play a piano solo so Mom took me dress shopping for the first time in my life. I remember being so excited about it. We found what I thought was the perfect dress, but it was \$30. That was WAY too expensive. I was so disappointed. We went home and I was resigned to wear something I had worn before. One day about a week later I came home from school to find the dress hanging in the kitchen doorway. I was so happy because Mom had splurged and bought me the dress. Then I realized that she had made the EXACT dress I had seen at the store. She had done it all while I was not home or late at night. I loved her so much at that moment. When I went to the graduation someone even came up to me and told me they almost bought the same dress. I thought to myself, "no you didn't because my Mom made this one." Mom was the best seamstress I knew. It seemed like she could make anything. She made my wedding dress and many of my sister's too. They were all beautiful.

Mom was super supportive of all of her kids. There was never a play, concert, ballgame, etc. that she was not there in the audience/stands to cheer us on. I loved that. It made me feel important to her and I knew kids who didn't have that same support.

Mom did all kinds of things to stretch Dad's paycheck to feed our large family. I remember her making cheese, pasteurizing milk, buying things in bulk, clipping coupons, sewing school clothes for everyone, etc. to help out with the budget. It was a real treat when we could get 10 hamburgers for \$1 because that was the only time we ever got to eat out. We always had great food though. Once there was a challenge to only eat from our food storage for 2 weeks. We ate the same way we always did and when we took our lunches to school and had Twinkies and Ding Dongs in them, everyone accused us of cheating on the challenge, but we didn't because we had those treats in our food storage.

Mom taught 4-H cooking, sewing, and probably any other class we thought she ought to teach us. I loved having her involved as the teacher. She also was involved in Cub Scouts too.

There are so many great things about Mom. These are just a few. I love her and I miss her being an active part of my life. Even after I was married I could call her for anything and she always seemed to have the right answer. Love you Mom!