

grapes smelled. For a good month we would smell it throughout the house. Every night at dinner Mom and Dad would sit down at the table and there would be his special wine bottle with the grapes and vines going around the whole bottle. To me the wine tasted horrible, but to them it was the greatest. I miss his laugh when my kids would make him laugh. When he was so sick, he always lit up when one of the grandchildren would walk into the room. He never ever said it, but I know he loved them dearly.

Growing up was great. I was never alone as far as aunts, uncles, and cousins were concerned. Everyone lived around one another so how could you be lonely. All my aunts and uncles were the best. I can always remember being with them and having so much fun on holidays or whenever they were around.



My sister and brother were fun to have around although with my age difference, they were with their friends a lot and I was with Mom and Dad. I remember hanging out with my sister when she had to babysit me. She and her friends would go riding around in their cars and go to the cat lady's house on the south side of town. How scary for me as a little kid.

I thought my brother had the coolest room. My father had built a desk right under his front window. He could look out and see who was going by on Mountain Avenue. Of course, as soon as he was out of the house, I got that room. I loved having my own room because for so many years my sister and I shared one.

I feel sad at times that everyone doesn't live around in the same town as it was years ago and everyone's kids aren't closer together. But times have changed; things are very different now than they were when I was growing up.

I miss those times very much.

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