

Bill's Biography

Bill was born in 1935 in Boston, MA, the third of four children of a factory worker and his wife, a recent emigrant from Canada. In his early years Bill attended various elementary schools as the family moved from one tenement house to the next in response to his father's frequent changes of employment. After his parents separated in 1943 things settled down and he completed his remaining schooling in the Dorchester section of Boston, graduating from Dorchester High School for Boys at the age of 17. He promptly joined the U.S. Navy on a Kiddie Cruise (Join before your 18th birthday, and get out the day before you turn 21.) In the Navy he trained as a communications technician and completed his tour of duty in Kami Seya, Japan, interceded by a six month shipboard tour in the South China Sea. While on active duty he acquired an addiction to reading, often memorizing extensive passages of poetry.

Upon release from active duty, Bill married his teenage sweetheart and enrolled in college. During the next four years he studied, produced three children, and held down a variety of insignificant jobs to maintain the growing family and make ends meet. During summer breaks and (briefly) after graduation from Massachusetts State Teacher's College in 1961, he worked door-to-door selling milk, bread, vacuum cleaners and life insurance. He then took a job as an insurance claims adjuster. In 1963, bored with claims adjusting, he joined the staff of Plymouth-Carver Regional High School in Plymouth, MA, teaching English – which he loved, especially poetry, short stories, creative writing and Shakespeare. In the summer '65 he received a grant to study linguistics at Northwestern University, and for the 1967-8 school year was awarded a grant to go to Harvard to earn an M.Ed. It was during this period that he studied under Noam Chomsky and developed a life-long interest in linguistics and psychology.

After Harvard, Bill and two other Plymouth-Carver teachers moved to Maine and started an alternative boarding school based on the Summerhill model. During the next four years Bill also lectured on alternative education at various U.S. universities and, for three summers, taught school administrators in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1972 his marriage ended and he moved to Halifax to run the Halifax South Open School. He also took extensive training in human relations, group dynamics, and psychotherapy - first as a student and later as a facilitator/trainer. This led to an increasing number of requests to consult with organizations so that in 1975 he moved away from school administration to support himself full-time as a consultant and therapist.

In 1980 Bill and Rachel, his new wife, moved to Kennebunk, ME where he served as Director of the Center for Professional Development at York County Counseling Services. After a year and a half he returned to private practice, his preferred work mode. In 1983, he and Rachel moved to the Washington, DC, area where Bill continued his career as an independent organizational development consultant and executive coach. His varied clientele included large and small federal, state, and local government agencies and private and non-profit corporations. Among his clients was the DC Department of Human Services where he met Pat in 1992.

In 1999 after his marriage to Rachel ended, Bill and Pat's friendship ripened into love; in late 2000, nearing his 65th birthday, Bill decided to retire. The rest is history - or at least it's documented on this website. Bill has many interests: kids, grandkids, former students, and other dear ones; the state of humanity; keeping fit and flexible in body, mind and spirit; playing guitar; and roaming round meeting new people in new places. Together with Pat he hopes to have some degree of positive impact on the world to make it a better and safer place for all grandchildren.