

# Excellence from the Heart

## Bill's Story

Our family has a vacation cabin near Creede, Colorado, and I was pleasantly surprised when asked to be a part-time dentist in this town. Without government funding, this town would be the last place in The West one would expect to see a dental clinic. Multiple extractions and denture fabrication are the main game in Creede, Colorado. I never dreamt of undertaking a LeBeau "Case Of The Month" in a clinic aimed at providing "low cost" services.



Bill had an unusual reason to be "ready" for dentistry now. His wife had, just a few weeks prior, passed away quite unexpectedly. She was only in her early fifties, healthy, and a beloved metal sculpture artist in the community. Bill came home from work one night and she was no longer alive. I was shocked that he was interested in dentistry at this time in his life, until I heard the rest of the story.

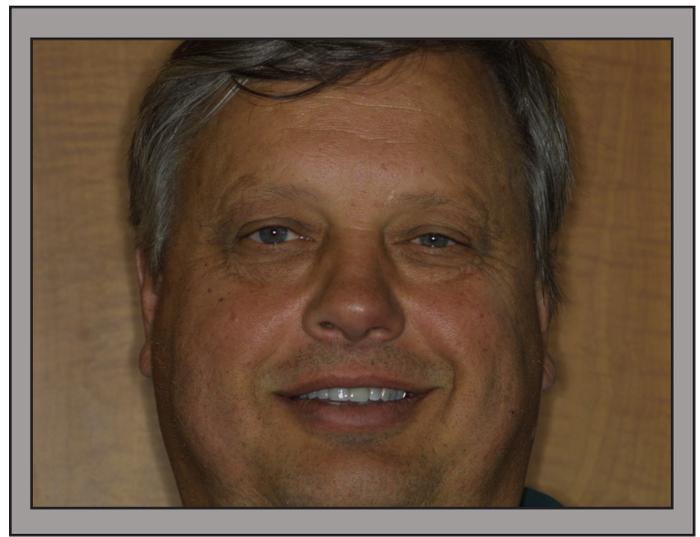


Shortly before her death, she had expressed a desire for him to have his dental health addressed, specifically asking that he do something about his front teeth. He wanted to honor her wish by having me restore his smile. Bill said, "I want to do this for the love of my life. She would have wanted this." His healing process was now part of my life.

Diagnostically, Bill's risks were minimal for periodontal, biomechanical, and occlusal concerns. Dentofacially, he presented with very old PFM crowns and darkened exposed roots. Teeth 7, 8, and 9 had been endodontically treated long ago, and 7 was significantly darker than 10. We chose a treatment of layered zirconia crowns for 7, 8, and 9, leaving 10 and all other maxillary teeth as they were. The Laboratory was able to artistically create beautiful restorations for these teeth that perfectly matched #10 and fit into his smile.



Bill's expectations were far exceeded, and graciously he allowed me to check his tissue healing six weeks after we seated the crowns. He told me again how happy he was with his new smile and how natural it felt. It was great seeing him again. I felt the need to thank Bill formally, so I wrote him a letter (See below) to complete the cycle. I am exceptionally blessed to have had this opportunity to be a part of Bill's life.



### Letter to the Patient

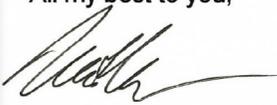
**horizondentalcare**  
Mike Martin, DDS

August 12, 2015

Dear Bill,

I just wanted to take time and thank you for allowing me the privilege of being able to provide your dental care. It is always rewarding to help someone achieve a significant cosmetic change to their smile. You made the experience very special by sharing your story of how you were motivated to address your teeth. I feel extremely honored to be part of your life, and must say that it is wonderful that you did this with the spirit of your lost love. I know your smile will be part of your shared spirit forever. Thank you so much for the chance to be part of your healing and transformation. Helping you is one of my greatest memories.

All my best to you,



Mike Martin, DDS



Dr. Mike Martin is a general dentist in Grand Junction, Colorado where he has practiced for 36 years. He is a life mentor at the Kois Center, having started his studies there in 1997. Hobbies include fishing for native Rio Grande Cutthroat in the streams of Southern Colorado, rowing his wooden dory in the Grand Canyon, backcountry skiing, and playing guitar. Creede, Colorado where he now practices part time, recently became “famous” for hosting the filming of “The Lone Ranger”, and the stars are unbelievable there on a clear moonless night.