

## **Mom.2 : Nurturer**

Back in the 1950's and 1960's, when my siblings and I grew up, mothers did most of the nurturing. My mother was no different. However, by her having been college-educated and coming from a family of college-educated men and women, she encouraged us and instilled in us certain values such as: pride, confidence, respect, importance of education, manners, courtesy, good nutrition, being your own person, setting high goals, and how to "sit still and be quiet!" As a young child and later a teenager, when I visited the homes of my hang-out buddies and met their mothers, I soon realized that my mother was a little different and that I was quite fortunate. My mother kept us clothed, well fed, and clean. When our stomachs ached, or our heads hurt, or we fell down and scraped our knees, my mother knew just the right medicine, the right touch, or the right words that would make the pain go away. In some instances, she would walk across the street and get that 'magic' potion from Mr. Young. He was a part-time bartender! When we got really sick, she would take us to see Dr. Lumpkin or Dr. Lemmer. She cooked, washed clothes, sewed, washed and pressed the girls' hair, and monitored schoolwork day in and day out for seven children for several years. Make no mistake, she had a full-time job! To this day, my mother will tell you that she truly enjoyed being a mother and a housewife, and raising seven "perfect" children. The fact is, we enjoyed having her as our mother! Believe me when I say, "The late Dr. Spock had nothing on my mother when it came to the topic of raising children!!!"