

I grew up in Waynesboro, Va, and like so many children of that era, had a mouth full of "silver fillings" before I was sixteen. In all fairness, my sister and I both had a significant exposure to lead as we spent one summer scraping and painting our old Victorian house. My troubles began as I began to gain weight in spite of the fact that I was the most athletic of our family of eight children. By the time I graduated high school I was 165 pounds, 45 pounds over my ideal weight. No amount of diet and exercise helped. It was soon discovered that I had a thyroid tumor. It was surgically removed and I was put on thyroid hormone which helped bring down the weight for a short time. It was also the reason given for my unexplained extreme fatigue.

After getting married we began to try to have children. It seemed I was able to conceive, but was not able to carry a pregnancy. I had two miscarriages, a successful pregnancy with threatened miscarriage, followed by four more miscarriages. I began to do some homework on my own and found that in ancient roman days women used mercury to induce abortion. At the same time my sister sent me an article titled, "It's All In Your Head," which was a report of the effects of dental amalgams on health.

I went to my dentist to discuss the possibility that my miscarriages were due to the mouth full of mercury. He was noticeably uncomfortable and insistent that mercury fillings were safe. While he would not take them out because of medical reasons, he did offer to take them out for cosmetic reasons (which meant I had to pay for it out of pocket.) I had them out immediately and within three months was pregnant with my second child. We had three more children after her without problems. I do believe that I have residual toxicity and am presently trying to find ways to take care of this. I hope my story gives others hope.

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