

Charles William Matkin, B.SC., P.ENG.

Born February 26, 1938 in Empress, Alberta, Canada

Died December 14, 2005 in Fairfield, Iowa

Upon completion of a civil engineering degree from the University of British Columbia, in 1962, Bill began his career as a structural engineer in Vancouver.

Bill learned Transcendental Meditation in 1962. He married his childhood sweetheart, Frances Magwood, in 1963 and they had four children: Marilyn, Michael, Charles, and Elisabeth. The T.M. community and schools drew the family to Fairfield in 1986. He founded C.W. Matkin Engineering, and designed many houses and commercial structures in Fairfield and around the country, and most of the new buildings on the University campus. He was an exceptional engineer who was incredibly generous with his time and expertise.

Some of Bill's most memorable local projects and those of which he was most proud include: the design for the replacement of the steeple on the Jefferson County Courthouse, completed in 2004; his own little house, which was a great delight for him to design and help build; and six of the bridges in the Jefferson County Trail System, including the original drawings for the bowstring arch bridge now dedicated in his memory.

Bill was a common sight riding around Fairfield on his bike with his cherished, relic of a briefcase on the handlebars. Golfing was his passion, but he was also an avid outdoorsman and bird watcher, so this trail was very near and dear to him. Bill was known for his iconoclastic sense of humor, his deep generosity, and his love of life. He was an endlessly devoted family man, and he delighted in all of his children and grandchildren. His cheeky sense of humor endeared him to all. He will be remembered with a smile.