

Nell: And then John came to me and said "Would you make me a.." in the meantime I was doing little designs right along. And he said "make me a vulture, a hungry vulture". And this was for, you know, kind of the miniature line. So I made what I thought was a little, fat, you know vulture because everything, all of our little miniatures were all cheerful little Disney-type, not Disney but cute. So I did the vulture, and I made the limb for it to sit on. And he said "No! A hungry vulture." And I was so dumbfounded, because normally my approach to things is a little more like the hungry vulture but I tried very hard to make cheerful critters. (laughs) I made a hungry vulture that looked like it was really ready to rip your heart out and he took it and had a mold made of it. His idea was, he also had this kind of a sense of humor, that it would make a nice little gift to send to somebody in the hospital. (laughs) And you know, that amused me, too. I thought that was funny.

Nancy: Kind of morbid

Nell: Yeah, not to somebody that was really ill. Anyway, then he came to me and wanted me to make some things, kind of the same idea. And so that's when the Little Horribles started. I made, oh, that little green man with the, the hairy man and I made a house for him which was kind of a green cave, and a little blue kid that looked a lot like the hairy man for him to have as a friend. And I made the little froggy, toady, monastery-looking thing for his pet. I think everybody, even ugly people, deserve to have friends and pets! The beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, that's how it works. So, anyway, I was having a great time, and I made, oh, he said one day "Make a six-finger hand". So I made a hand with six fingers and he said to put "think" on the fingers. T-H-I-N-K, you know. His kind of approach to humor was my kind of humor, so they appealed to me. I did not name the Horribles, however. He came up with that name. And it really kind of offended me because by that time they were my little friends and my little critters and I didn't see them as horribles. However, it was a good, catchy name.