

# Where are they now?

The Bond Interviews Frater Bill Hampton, Beta-Psi 480

Where do you call home?

All my life in and around Malden, MO.

What do you do for a living?

I retired in June of 2000. At that time I was a District Manager with Farmers Insurance Group and had been with Farmers for 27 years. I also co-owned the Malden Speedway and after retirement was going to focus my efforts to managing the 3/8 mile dirt track. Late that summer I was elected to the Malden Chamber of Commerce Board and they were looking for a director for the chamber, so they hired me at a whopping \$650 per month since I was a retiree. The City of Malden then hired me on a part-time basis as Economic Developer to go along with the Chamber Directorship. Then in April 2004 I started a local cable television station. Malden had lost its radio station and the local paper is a weekly. A new cable company came to Malden and I pitched them a deal to give me a channel and equipment and I would do local news Monday thru Friday and cover local events. The station now covers 19 communities in Southeast Missouri and Northeast Arkansas. Over 11,000 households now watch local shows and news plus over 50 high school basketball games and Piggott High School football. The station known as YHC (your hometown channel) is in negotiations with two other cable companies to carry our programming which will grow our households to over 30,000. I don't think Ted Turner has anything to worry about, but you never know.

What years were you a Teke at ASU?

Spring of 1968-1970

What are some of the things your remember from your time as a Teke at ASU?

So many good things. The 1968 spring pledge class had 25 pledges. Great guys, lots of fun, wonderful memories. Red Carnation Ball, Hell Week, SHINNEY, football pep rallies with the TKE bell leading the way, also the beer shakers at those pep rallies. The TKE table at the Reng Center where we all ate. The sad times: losing four Beta Psi brothers in two different automobile accidents.

Beta Psi helped me grow into what I am today. Learning to cope with the good and bad along with the happy and sad times. I would never have graduated from ASU if not for the fraternity. There is only two times in my life that I would ever go back to if I could and that would be my time at ASU and the three years I coached basketball at Clarkton High School. There is hardly a day that goes by I don't think of something that took place during my college days. I still wear my TKE 1970 class ring. I wish more of the members of the late 60's and early 70's would have a reunion sometime in the near future. Homecoming 2009 would be a great time to see everyone.

Do you have any advice for the future undergraduate chapter?

Enjoy the moment. It will create lasting memories.

Got any funny stories about a fellow Teke?

Got a lot of them, but we all cut fingers and promised not to tell. But I do remember when I was a pledge, Joe Bill Johnson came to my room about 3 in the morning and woke me up wanting his shoes shined. I told him to put them over on my desk and I would get them tomorrow. He said he wanted them shined right then. I got up and took one look at his shoes. They were brown and I put black shoe polish on them and took them to his room. The next day he said that was the best shine he had ever had and from then on I was his personal shoe shine boy.

Tell us about your family.

Married to Connie soon to be 38 years. Connie is a retired school teacher of 29 years in the Malden School system. She now is the center coordinator for Three Rivers Community College in Malden. We have one son William Robert (Billy Bob). He graduated from Malden in 1995, received his Bachelor Degree in 1998 and MBA degree in 2000 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. He worked for the University for six years before taking a position with Dubai Aero Space in Dubai, UAE. He lived there almost three years and now has returned to the U.S.A to work again for Embry-Riddle. He is still single but has given Connie and me his dog so we are grand dog parents. What a wonderful addition to the family.

Do you have any big plans for the future?

Connie and I both plan to officially retire on March 7, 2014 when I will be 66 years old and move to a much warmer climate. I love racing and golf and just enjoy life.