

There Was Life after High School for Bob Morazzi

The September following graduation from Concord-Carlisle High School in 1963, I began a five year bachelor's degree program in Electronic Engineering at Northeastern University in Boston. A full load of classes. Everything from Advanced Calculus to Graphics to Physics to Thermodynamics to Electronic Design Engineering and a whole load of seemingly useless courses. When I got my first job as an engineer, I was going to find out how important these courses really were. As if the work load at school wasn't enough, I worked at least two jobs thru college to pay for a car and all those extras we just had to have.



I also played in a rock band that we put together in High School. The Bondsmen became a favorite all over New England and with the help of schoolmate and band manager Bob Petersen, we played all over the area at "record hops" with personalities like WBZ DJ Dave



Maynard. We also played with many big names.

The Kingsmen (Louie, Louie) were one of my favorites. Barbara Lewis (Are You Ready), Little



Anthony & the Imperials, and the Shangrilas (they sang Leader of the Pack) were a few of many popular acts that Bob got us booked with.



We made a record the summer of 1965, or so. Remember what 45's were?

Concord Music sold out of the record in a matter of hours. We played one summer at the Atlantic House in Provincetown. Word has it that the A-House was the hangout for Eugene O'Neill and Tennessee Williams back in the 1920's. It is said to be the



oldest gay bar in the United States. What a rocking place that was. We were not the typical band of the day for Cape Cod. Grubby was the norm. We typically performed in white tennis sweaters and with our short hair, we stood out like a sore thumb. But they loved us anyway. Remember Reggie Cabral, Bob.

Myself and most other students were referred to as commuters at Northeastern. We drove or took the T to and from school. As a commuter, dealing with the traffic, especially on Storrow Drive) was the biggest waste of time. Finding a place to park at the huge NU parking lots was another challenge. The decision to get an apartment in Boston seemed like a good way to avoid the time wasted driving back and forth to Concord. And so, the life of a live-in student became reality. A small 2 bedroom apartment with a friend seemed like a great way to go. Problem was, there was always a party going on and it was hard to say no, especially in the Back Bay of Boston. Especially on Symphony Road. As a result, my grades suffered. The engineering course at NU was tough. So tough and so enjoyable that I decided to repeat my third year. Actually, this was a request (more like a demand) by NU. They basically said.. "If you want to stay, do that year over".



Somewhere during my 4th year, maybe it was my fifth, I married a lady named Linda Haigh from Hudson, MA. My sister had brought her home one day about a year earlier. They worked together at H.H.Scott in Maynard. The next thing I knew, we were a couple. Graduating in 1969 with a BSEE, I started my professional as a microwave design engineer at Sanders Associates in Nashua NH. The biggest shock came when all the June grads were in an indoctrination seminar and were told to forget everything we had learned in college. Really? I suppose that was a good thing, because had already done that. After less than a year, my career at Sanders came to an abrupt end in April 1970, when I was notified by Uncle Sam, that it was time to put on a uniform. The draft got me. If the draft hadn't got me, the lottery would have. I think my lottery number was 69!! Yikes.



life

Vietnam was hot and heavy at that time, so they thought it was time for me to get involved. I joined the US Navy and began my career in, what I believe had to be the coldest place in the US...Great Lakes, Illinois. I stayed working with electronics in

the



Navy and was fortunate enough to get stationed in Oahu, Hawaii, spending my entire 5 year tour there. Imagine spending 5 years in a place where so many people dream of going to for a one week vacation. Five years in Paradise and Paradise it was. One problem...military pay wasn't enough to act and spend like a tourist. The beaches were free, so lot's of time was spent there. Beaches & golf. Snorkeling at Hanauma Bay was the best.

Discharged in April 1976, I moved to Merrimac, New Hampshire. I started work as a design engineer on a new phototypesetting system for Itek Graphic Products in Nashua.



I must also make note that in 1976, the ice age came to

New Hampshire. At least it seemed that way after 5 years in Hawaii. I asked myself many times. "what am I doing here?"

Merrimac, NH happened to be the location of one of Anheuser Busch' Brewery, where I took many a tour.



After about a year in New Hampshire, I went to Hartford, CT and joined the Itek sales force, selling typesetting systems all over CT and Western MA to printers and ad agencies.

I did so well selling the typesetter that Itek then promoted me to Sales Training Manager and moved me to their headquarters in Rochester, NY, another God forsaken city of ice & snow. I believe Rochester is called the "Flower City"!! Shortly after this move, I divorced my first wife. I don't think she liked Rochester. Not long after that, I met the current love of my life, Renee Straite, who also worked at Itek and who became my video production assistant and whom I soon married. I robbed the cradle. She was 10 years younger than me. This was to bite me later in life.



We both ended our careers at Itek in 1989, when I accepted a position as



Marketing Manager at a very large national electronics

distributor in Ithaca, NY on the banks of famous Cayuga Lake, one of NY's finger lakes. This job allowed me to travel the country visiting with and supporting quite a number of sales offices Ithaca was a beautiful area in the summer, fall and spring. Winter was another story. In fact, during the winter of 1993-1994, we saw a total snowfall of over 18 feet. That winter was to be the end of New York and the Northeast for us.

While we were in the Ithaca, we invested in a couple of rental properties. One had a storefront, where we opened a children's resale shop. It was called Karina's Kiddie Korner, after our first daughter.

In February of 1994, we vacationed in Hilton Head, South Carolina and made a decision to move south. There was at least 8 feet of snow on the ground in Ithaca, when we left for Hilton Head, so the decision was not that tough. We wore nothing but shorts and short sleeved shirts while there. For me, the move was a no-brainer.

We settled in Summerville, SC, about 25 miles west of Charleston. That was on the fourth of July, our independence day...independence from cold and snow. I still remember throwing the snow shovels and ice scrapers into the dump as we left Ithaca, NY.

Shortly after the move to South Carolina, we opened a consignment store, named My House To Yours Consignments, in August of 1994. We saturated cable TV with hundreds of ads in the first few months after opening. We used a price markdown system, like Filene's Basement in Boston. The store was an instant success. We went from a 1500 square footed rented space to a building I had built, having a total of 16,000 square feet.



I was also working as a Realtor with a local Prudential office, while helping Renee get the consignment store up and running. Eventually, I ran my own real estate office in a 1500 square foot space in that building with the consignment store. The real estate business was named My House To Yours Real Estate. My House To Yours became a household name in the greater Charleston area for the consignment business that I attached it to my Real Estate business too. Hmmm!

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I specialized in selling real estate to people transferring from the northern states, usually for the same reason we moved here. They were tired of the ice and snow and high taxes. They decided that South Carolina would be the answer to that.



Thanks to the success of these businesses, we were able to purchase a log home on 3+ acres in 2010 in the mountains of North Carolina in a town named Lake Lure. Lake Lure was a place we had vacationed at some 20 years before and was where I always thought might be a great retirement spot. Dreams really do come true. Staying in the log home every few weeks was a dream come true. As an aside,

National Geographic has named Lake Lure the third most beautiful man-made lake in the world with 27 miles of shoreline and surrounded by mountains. Makes one think of a spot in Switzerland, only this is closer. And it is a beauty. We love taking pictures of the lake and surroundings.



its

I also got to own one of my dream cars, a yellow 2002 Thunderbird. And it is yellow. Bright yellow. We take a lot of pleasure trips in the Bird that I've named "Yellow". Most trips in "Yellow" are short ones, since there's not much room for suitcases. We've learned how to travel light.

In 2012, we purchased a 3 bedroom, 3 bath condo in Hilton Head. Hilton Head Island had been our introduction to South Carolina in 1994. Another dream come true. Now we had our beach home and a mountain home.



I also retired in 2012, so I could enjoy my cabin and condo. Unfortunately, since I

had robbed the cradle, Renee decided she had to continue working the business for a few more years, along with help from our youngest daughter, Ana. One day, Ana will be running the business on her own.

Life has been good for us. I find enjoyment in so many things. Cooking is my favorite past time. We do our share of travelling and taking lots of pictures.

We continue to enjoy life here in South Carolina in 2013, with only one regret...that we didn't come here sooner.

Somewhere along the line, I assisted in the making of 5 lovely daughters. There's Jennifer (1st marriage), Ana (2nd), Cassie (1st), Karina (2nd), and Melissa (1st)

Jennifer has two boys and a girl and lives in Nashville.



Ana has two girls and lives and works with Renee in Summerville. Cassie lives and works in Nashville.

Karina lives and works in Alpharetta, GA.

Melissa has two boys and a girl and works as a Physicians Assistant and lives near Nashville, TN.

And of course, there are a whole bunch of grandkids.

