

Jim's Perspective...

The Roaring Twenties!

Janie and I are members of Hillcrest Country Club located here in Lincoln. Last month we received our Hillcrest Highlights newsletter outlining some of the upcoming events in early 2024. The newsletter gave members notice that Hillcrest would hold a Roaring Twenties dinner/dance party on Valentines Day. We saw this, and we both looked at each other and started laughing. Let me explain our response to this proposed party.

In the fall of 1969, Janie and I were both sophomores at the University of Nebraska. Janie was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and I was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. In early December of the fall semester, Beta Theta Pi held a Christmas dinner/dance at the fraternity. This social event was titled The Roaring Twenties Party. The ladies were encouraged to dress in their finest flapper dress and throw on some pearls. The men were encouraged to dress in a Great Gatsby double breasted suit with a fedora hat. In the week prior to the party, I was trying to figure out what to wear. I went to a downtown costume shop to see what they might have that reflects fashion in the Roaring Twenties. They had some suits and hats, but I also noticed they had some unique Medieval men's clothing. Suddenly, I decided I wanted to dress as if I came from the time of Charlemagne! And so, I rented a linen shirt and linen pants. I also rented a silk trimmed wool tunic (a woven pullover top that reached a little above the knees). My costume also included a big black hat with some type of feather on it.

On the day of the party, I arrived at the Kappa house to pick up Janie. She came into the living room and she was very surprised by my appearance as a medieval man! We went to the party with another couple. The other couple were also members of Beta Theta Pi and Kappa Kappa Gamma.



Back in the 1960's, when a Greek House had a big social function, the House holding the event always hired a professional photographer to attend the event and take pictures that those in attendance could purchase as a remembrance of the event. Janie and I, and the couple we went with to the Roaring Twenties party, are shown above. Don't you like my medieval clothes?! Many of the party-goers came up to me and wondered what I was doing dressed like a medieval man. Why didn't I wear Roaring Twenties attire? I explained that I knew it was a "Roaring Twenties" party, but nobody told me what century the Roaring Twenties party applied to. I didn't know it was the twentieth century. . . This got a lot of laughter! It was a fun 'knight'! Also, this gives you an idea of what poor Janie had to deal with when I was a young man. You might say she had "a heavy cross to bear."! Ha Ha!

Finally, I want to clarify that I usually dressed conservatively and appropriately at all social functions. I just fit in with everyone else and made no attempt to be a spectacle. In that regard, below is another picture of Janie and me in the spring of 1970. The picture shows us at the Kappa Kappa Gamma annual spring formal event.

It's so fun that the two of us can reminisce together about our time in college and also in high school. It was a time of working and studying to figure out how we were going live our lives in the future. We basically had our whole lives ahead of us. How exciting!



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Questions or Comments? Please email jbdobler@outlook.com