

## *Jim's Perspective...*

### A Romantic Ceremony

The leaves are turning yellow, and falling. Autumn sunset reduces daylight hours. College football is well under way! This time of year always reminds me of my days in college at the University of Nebraska Lincoln campus. I think of my wife Janie and me involved in many social and educational activities on campus. Both of us grew up in Lincoln and attended Catholic grade schools through 9<sup>th</sup> grade and then we both attended the only Catholic high school in Lincoln, Pius X High School. So our time in grade school and high school involved socializing with many of the same friends for all those years. As we began our college experience, suddenly, we were in a position to develop a whole new set of friends. It was a completely different, and fun, environment! Janie was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and I was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. The Kappa's and the Beta's consisted of young men and women from all over Nebraska. A brand new mixture of friends for both of us. A big social change from what we had in Lincoln for grade school and high school.

The sororities and fraternities had many organizational activities. I always think of one romantic ceremonial event that Janie and I experienced in the fall of 1970. All the sororities and fraternities on campus held a romantic ceremony that was usually scheduled on Monday evenings. This ceremony was called a "Pinning." A Pinning was a ceremony that a boyfriend and girlfriend lovingly decided to engage in which was organized and attended by the sorority and fraternity members that the young man and young lady belonged to. The ceremony was usually held in the living room of the sorority house. Every sorority and fraternity had adopted some type of symbol or emblem that was solely associated with each sorority and fraternity. Kappa Kappa Gamma's symbol was the "Key." This key looked like an antique key that might be used to open a treasure chest. Beta Theta Pi's symbol was the "Dragon." The Kappa Key pin and the Beta Dragon pin were worn on the upper left-hand side of a suit jacket or the upper left-hand side of a dress. Wearing the Key pin or the Dragon pin told people around you that you were a Beta or a Kappa.

For Janie and me, the Pinning Ceremony involved attaching together the Kappa Key pin and the Beta Dragon pin. The decision of a young man and young lady to have a Pinning and attach their two sorority/fraternity symbols or pins, was understood to mean that the young man and young lady were in love with each other and were planning on a permanent romantic relationship together. In other words, a Pinning was viewed within the Greek sorority/fraternity system to be the equivalent of an engagement event that would signify the couple would eventually get married.

And so, in the fall of 1970, I knelt down in front of Janie and proposed that we have a Pinning Ceremony. She loved the idea! We scheduled the event for a Monday evening. All sororities and fraternities held a "Monday Night Dinner" followed by a formal weekly meeting of the membership. This is when all members usually spent the evening at the house, and so this worked as a good evening to have the Pinning because all members could attend the Pinning. So, one fall, Monday evening, I was in a suit at the Beta house, and it was time to walk to the

Kappa house for the Pinning. I left the house, and all members of the Fraternity followed me to the Kappa house which was about two blocks away. We all entered the living room area of the Kappa house. The Beta members and Kappa members stood in the living room and created one narrow pathway through which Janie was to pass and come up to me where I stood at the end of the pathway. I was holding the attached Kappa Key and Beta Dragon pins. Janie was on the second floor, then suddenly appeared at the top of a winding or spiral staircase. She began to walk down the staircase. Suddenly, the Beta men started to sing a song to Janie. The Beta fraternity was known on campus as a fraternity that performed the best singing of any fraternity. It was like a men's choir! The song they sang was a song written by members of Beta Theta Pi. It was very unique. The song was called "*Honey*." I do not have a recording of the actual singing of the song. I do remember the words. It goes like this:

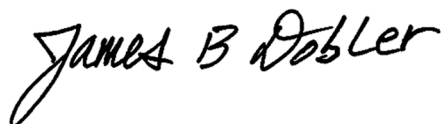
Honey . . . Honey, bless your heart; your the honey that I love so well. . . (honey that I love so well) . . . I've done been true, sweet heart, to you, . . . your the honey that I love - so - well, . . . A Boom, Boom, Boom!, . . . honey-honey-honey-honey; honey-honey-honey-honey, bless you heart . . . your the honey that I love so well . . . (honey that I love so well) . . . I've done been true, sweet heart, to you. . . your the honey . . . that . . . I love . . . so well. . . (Honey, honey, honey that I love so well!)

She walked quickly up to me, I proceeded to pin the attached Kappa and Beta pins to her dress. Everyone clapped and roared! We waved, chatted and laughed with all the Kappa and Beta friends, and then left the Kappa house for a celebratory dinner, just the two of us. I can't remember where we went for dinner, but we were all dressed up, so I am sure it was a Lincoln, fine-dinning restaurant, such as Tony and Luigi's on 'O' Street or maybe Misty's Lounge in Havelock or perhaps the Steak House out on Cornhusker Highway.

Yes, a very fun fall evening. Spending some time with all of our friends, and celebrating our loving and very fun relationship together since 1967! Such is life . . . gathering with friends and sharing experiences . . . learning about each other and admiring the things our friends have done . . . all of which makes each day more rewarding! And too, these types of experiences are things that we remember forever!

And so, I leave you with a love song from the Everly Brothers titled, *Let It Be Me*. Back in the late 1960's, as a shy, socially awkward young man, this song reflected my feelings back then, and my hope for a life with a beautiful young lady that I was dating, Janie. Those feelings are still mine today!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=lvA-STM7oJk>



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