

## Whippoorwill E-Comment

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My former employer, Transylvania College, in Lexington, Kentucky, publishes an Alumni news magazine quarterly. The most recent issue featured five former old codger professors in a *what are they doing now?* feature article. Egotistically, I include the short section they did on me recently. Now you can see what I have been doing.

### J. Hill Hamon *Staying in Touch*

J. HILL HAMON has an interesting way of staying in touch – figuratively and literally – with three of his former Transylvania students: he depends on them for healthcare expertise in dentistry, primary care, and surgery.

The former biology professor, who retired in 1996 after 28 years at Transy, opens wide for J. B. Embry '72, who practices dentistry in Lexington; sees Allen Haddix '87, a physician in Frankfort, Ky., where Hamon lives, for general checkups; and has Brian Shouse '87, a Frankfort general surgeon, for surgical needs.

"J. B. and I really enjoyed talking with one another, so he started adding a half hour to my appointment so we could talk after he cleaned my teeth," said Hamon. "This evolved into having lunch the first Wednesday of every month, and we're joined by other Transylvania friends like Mike Nichols ('68). I see Allen for lunch too."

Hamon and his wife, Libby, live on 13 acres about eight miles outside Frankfort. Their daughter lives with them, one of their two sons also lives on the property, and the other lives in Lexington.

Those who knew Hamon while he was at Transy marveled at the extent of his interests, which range from typesetting and letterpress printing to photography, classical music, journalism, reading, and writing. He credits his Transy years with bringing out his Renaissance-like approach to learning." I sat in on about 50 classes while I was at Transylvania," he said. "I was able to experiment and do things I probably couldn't have done at a large school."

Retirement has changed none of that – it's only given him more time to pursue his many interests. And, though he does travel

some, Hamon has little need to. "I have everything at home – my darkroom, printing press and types, piano and library," he said. "I don't need to go anyplace."

Hamon has long been involved in amateur journals and private, or hobby printing, which preserves the art of letterpress printing. He produces many of his essays and journalistic pieces in the pages of his *Whippoorwill Comment*, a small periodical. He belongs to the National Amateur Press Association, the American Amateur Press Association, and the Amalgamated Printers' Association, and attended the AAPA national meeting in Colorado last year.

Playing classical music on the piano, reading about music and musicians, and watching DVD movies almost nightly with his wife are among Hamon's favorite activities, along with writing. He has produced memoirs of his years growing up in Garrard County, Ky., and of his experiences at five universities that are now in the libraries of his hometown and those institutions.

Hamon keeps in touch with Transylvania sociology professor Richard Thompson and retired history professors John D. Wright, Jr. and Paul Fuller, as well as with many former students. "I had 28 of the best years of my life at Transylvania, and now I'm blessed with a lot of friends and family," he said. "I'm never bored. I've got everything a person could want."

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*Whippoorwill E-Comment* is the electronic journal of J. Hill Hamon, 1515 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. [KyHamon@aol.com](mailto:KyHamon@aol.com).

This small issue is out of sequence. It should have been published before issues 33 and 34. I very much look forward soon to seeing again all of my old friends at the Scottsdale, AZ convention, and meeting new friends. I haven't seen Gale Mueller since the Little Rock, AR meeting. I think of him every day because two of his marvelous wood engravings of birds hang framed in my den, admired by all who view them.