



Max Morris Cooper and Mary Frances Wynn Cooper

## **MAX MORRIS COOPER**

**Jul. 12, 1944 - Living**

Max was born in the Enzor Brothers Hospital in Crestview, Florida on July 12, 1944 to Morris and Pansy Hartless Cooper. He grew up in Holt, Florida and spent much of his childhood swimming in the Blackwater River and rambling in the fields and forests of that area. He attended Holt Elementary School in the 1st, 3rd & 4th grades; 2nd grade in Tallahassee; 5th & 6th Southside Elementary in Crestview; 7th - 12th at Crestview High School.

Frances was born in Wilmington, NC on March 4, 1946 to Leigh and Leola Bloodworth Wynn. Her father worked for the US Civil Service on Camp LeJune Marine Base. In 1950 he was transferred to Eglin Air Force Base and they settled in Crestview. Frances attended Southside Elementary School and Crestview High School, where she and Max met. After graduation from CHS, she attended Okaloosa Walton Junior College in the nursing program.

Max attended college in Pensacola in 1962 - 1964 at Pensacola Jr. College earning an AS in Drafting. After Graduation he went to work for the Chemstrand Corp and worked until 1966. During this period, in 1965, he joined the Florida National Guard and left Chemstrand for Army Basic Training in 1966. After returning from his active military duty, Max went to work for Vitro Services on Eglin AFB for several months. During the summer of 1967 he was accepted in the newly opened University of West Florida; becoming a member of the charter class. He and Frances married on December 15, 1967. Max continued on at UWF and graduated in 1969 with a BS in Industrial Technology. During this time, Frances worked with M,R & R Trucking Company to supplement their income.

During his active military duty he was stationed at Ft. Jackson, SC for Army Basic Training and then at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri for Advanced Individual Training. Max served in the Florida National Guard until June 1971.

After Max graduated from UWF in June 1969 he went to work for Southern Bell in Jacksonville, FL in the Building and Equipment Engineering Department as a Jr. Engineer. He was promoted in next few years to Engineer and then Sr. Engineer. Frances worked with Ryder Truck Lines until their son Adam was born on June 3, 1974.

In 1977, Max was promoted to Manager and assigned to the Bell System Center For Technical Education in Lisle, Ill. They lived a short distance away in Woodridge, Ill. While in Illinois, on April 4, 1978, daughter Natalie was born. The family really enjoyed the Chicago area and met many new friends during that two-year assignment.

Returning to Jacksonville in 1979, Max was given the following assignments with Southern Bell: Manager - Building Planning, Manager - Building Design and Construction.

During the childhood years of Adam and Natalie, both Frances and Max served as volunteer workers with the Boy Scouts, Indian Princesses and Girl Scouts. They also were Sunday School Teachers at the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville.

In 1989, BellSouth sent them to Atlanta where Max was the Company Asset Protection Manager on the Property Management Staff. Max closed down the PM Staff office in Atlanta in 1991 and moved on to Charlotte, NC as Eastern NC Manager - Building Design and Construction. In the mid 1990's, corporate America thought it best to began 'downsizing' its work force and BellSouth caught that fever too. Given the opportunity, Max retired from BellSouth on July 31, 1996. He did a little consulting in 1997 as a Contract Manager with Lee - Nichols - Hepler Architects in Charlotte. This only lasted a year because Max became a 'full time volunteer' (almost) working with the Boy Scouts of America.

Max 's civic involvement has spanned several years, but in the past few years, his prime interests have been serving as Vice President - Properties with the Mecklenburg County Council, BSA; Assistant Scoutmaster - Troop 49 and he served as Lodge Adviser - Catawba Lodge, Order of the Arrow from 1997 through 2000. As an adult Scouter, Max has been awarded: District Award of Merit, OA Arrowman of the Year, OA Founder's Award, Good Shepherd Award, OA Vigil Honor, Silver Beaver and is a James E. West Fellow. He served on staffs of many adult training courses and as Course Director (Scoutmaster) for Wood Badge Training Course SR-406.

*Written by: Max Morris Cooper, G G Grandson of John Jordan Cooper and Louisa Slay Cooper.  
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