

George Edward Hampton

as interviewed by Judy Hansen
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George Edward “Ed” Hampton was named after his grandfather George Martin Hampton. He was born to Philip Theodore and Emma Myrtle Reeve Hampton and raised in Maysville, Colorado until he was about 10-years-old. At that time the family moved to American Fork and bought a home. However, Alpine School District bought their home so Forbes School could be built and the family moved to Pleasant Grove where Ed graduated from High School in 1956.



After he graduated he joined the National Guard Marine Reserve in Salt Lake and went into active duty for six months at Camp Pendleton, California.

When he got home he went to work as a life guard at Saratoga for the summer. Carma Fern Carter, daughter of Darrall and Fern Carter of Lehi had been working out there as a cashier for three years. Ed and Carma were not interested in each other at all. She didn't like his type and he didn't like her type. Well they kind-of grew on each other because they married in December 1958.

Ed and Carma rented a home in Lehi and Ed went to work for a trucking company for a while. After a short time he got a job with the Salt Lake Police Department as an Officer. They bought a small home in Salt Lake. His salary was so low all they qualified for was a little old two bedroom house by State Street on Winslow Avenue.

Ed kept taking the Sargent's test and would pass the tests with a higher score than anyone else but they wouldn't advance him because they were promoting the older officers that had more seniority. It was becoming a dead-end job.

He had always liked the Marine Corp Reserves and he also always wanted to be an auto-mechanic. He decided he would talk to the recruiters at the reserves office and they told him if he went active duty they would send him to auto mechanic school and he could get his schooling in the military. They told him when he got out he would have a G.I. Bill and he could get more

schooling after his military service. They also told him he would get his housing paid for. Ed believed the man and thought this was a good deal because the police officer position wasn't going anywhere. He went home and told Carma that he had enlisted in the US Marine Corp. She about died.

He went down alone for boot camp at Camp Pendleton, California and then his wife and child went down to live with him in December 1961. He was told there was inexpensive housing on base but he found out his rank was too high to qualify. The Marines took the rent for housing right out of Ed's check. They had a one bedroom apartment on base. When Carma got pregnant they were able to put in for a two bedroom apartment but there was a waiting list. When the two bedroom apartment came up they moved.

Their daughter Lezlie was born October 1962 and this is right when the Cuban crisis came up. Two weeks after Leslie's birth they put Ed and all the soldiers on a ship and sent them away. There were almost no men left in Camp Pendleton. They wouldn't tell the families what they were doing, where they were going, or how long they would be gone. The mission was top secret.

Russia was sending missiles to Cuba in 1962. President Kennedy told them not to do that. They still kept sending the missiles anyway. The United States decided to do a blockade that they called a 'quarantine' around Cuba with their ships. The US told Russia if they kept sending their ships they would shoot them down but Russia kept coming. The marines jammed all these guys on a troop ship and sent them down through the Panama Canal and into the Caribbean. It was a 13-day confrontation.

They never landed in Cuba but they did land in Haiti to re-fuel and gather supplies. They were able to get off there and purchase souvenirs.

Later, all the women heard on the news that the Russian ships were turning around and going home. That is when they figured out where the men were and felt everyone would be coming home soon. They were right. Ed was gone about three weeks.

When he got back to Camp Pendleton he stayed there with his unit and they sent him to school. He never got to mechanic school. They told him they didn't need mechanics so they sent him to officer training school and weapon's repair training. He always got the highest grades in his class. He was at Camp Pendleton for two years. He didn't re-enlist because his rank was low and he didn't make enough to support his family and the Marines weren't training him as a mechanic like they promised they would.

After Ed was discharged from the Marines he went back to work for the Salt Lake Police Department. A lot of the Officers were working two and three jobs in order to make ends meet. Ed was no exception. Besides his full time work on graveyard shift as a Police Officer, he was

working a part-time job in the mornings as a motorcycle police escort and had another part-time job in the afternoons in a car dealership.

Since he had a G I Bill for being in the Marines he decided he might as well go to school. He started taking classes to become a machinist at the Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute.¹ He continued to work at night as a police officer and worked the part time job as an escort while he attended school. He did this for two years and graduated the top of his class.

His instructor contacted United Airlines and they sent someone up to interview Ed. They gave him a job as a machinist making parts for the planes but he had to move to California. They had that little old house in Salt Lake and they couldn't sell it. They put a lot of work into that old house but it was still old. They ended up renting it out.

Ed made good money working for United. It was three times what he was making for the police department. They found out that rent was also two times as high as Salt Lake so they had to move further and further away from his job. They rented a little house in Fremont, California. He still had his G.I Bill available so he decided to get his degree in machine technology. He attended Chabot College in Hayward, California for two more years and got his degree. Having that degree gave him more money with United Airlines. Housing costs continued to rise and it was a hour and a half commute into San Francisco so they decided they needed to buy a house. They found a house they liked in Fremont and then the union Ed belonged to went on strike the day they closed on their house.

He got another job as a machinist but he wasn't making as much money. They eventually called him back to work at United Airlines. He wanted to go back to Utah to live and started thinking that he could transfer if he had a mechanic's license. By this time they had four children and Carma also wanted to raise her children in Utah. He went back to school for two more years. Ed went to school almost the whole time they lived in California. They had an old VW bus and Carma would pack a cooler full of food for his lunch. Ed would drive to school and take his classes, then he would have his lunch and take a nap in the VW, and then go to work at United.

When he finished that education program, he applied for transfer to Salt Lake but United told him they changed their policy and they were only going to have mechanics at Chicago or San Francisco. They didn't want to move to Chicago and they were sick of San Francisco so Ed started looking for jobs in Utah. He could fly to Utah cheap for interviews. When he quit the airlines it about killed Carma.

Ed took a job with a company in Salt Lake that ended up going out of business. However, when they sold their home in Fremont they got quite a bit of money for that. Carma's father Darrall Carter gave them an acre on the North Bench in Lehi but Lehi City wouldn't let them build on it so they bought a little house at 855 N 1060 E in Lehi.

¹ Salt Lake Trade Institute later became Salt Lake Community College.

After working in Springville for a while, Ed decided he didn't want to commute anymore and eventually got a job at Fowler Pump working for De Vere "Dee" Fowler in Lehi as a machinist. Ed was very happy working for Dee and was one of two supervisors at Fowler Pump. He gave his all for that company. He worked there for 17 years and after Dee retired Ed quit and went to work for Joe Colledge in Pleasant Grove. Ed really loved working in Joe's machine shop. He worked for him until he retired at age 65.

They lived on 1060 E for 20 years. Eventually they traded the acre on the bench for an acre behind Carma's parent's home and built a home there so Carma could be closer to her parents to care for them as they aged. They continue to live in this home located at 2074 N Center in Lehi.

Ed and Carma are the parents of four children, Mark, Lezlie Gaskey, Tyler, and Scott.