

## **Don Burns, 1969 – 1971**

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**Years Attended:** 1969-71

**Area of Study:** Computer Programming

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“I graduated from YC in the first graduating class. After 13 years in my chosen field, I enrolled at ASU taking night classes when I could and then 14 years later received my bachelor’s degree. I am now retired after 32 years in computer programming and have moved to the Verde Valley where I took a position as an adjunct faculty for YC teaching computer classes.

Learning programming at YC was a bit challenging to say the least. The college did not have a computer so we students would write our programs, key them in to punched cards and then every weekend would drive to Phoenix and run and madly debug our programs at Maricopa Technical College where YC leased computer time until we got our very own IBM model 25 - it had 24k of memory, what a monster.

I will never forget Bill Rinaldi who was the entire data processing department. He knew computers and was a great teacher.... his ego may have been oversized but we overlooked that. Under his teaching, the students who stuck with him knew virtually every single aspect of the mainframe inside and out.... literally.

I love teaching at YC but to stay in touch with reality I also have an excavation business that lets me get down and dirty. The best job that I ever had in computers was undoubtedly at America West Airlines where I had the sole responsibility for all of their voice response systems. I programmed and maintained the computers in Phoenix, Reno and Kansas City that had 672 telephone lines that answered approximately 400,000 calls per day.”