**Whatever Happened to Rick James**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Then</th>
<th>Capsule Summary</th>
<th>Now</th>
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| ![Young Rick James](image1.png) | **Born in:** Birmingham, AL  
**Grew Up in:** Birmingham, Indianapolis, Atlanta  
**High School:** Tucker, GA  
**Undergraduate Degree:** BS Math, GA Tech, 1965  
**Entered Purdue:** Fall, 1965  
**Purdue Degrees:**  
- MS CS 1967;  
- PhD Gave up in 1969  
**Lived/Worked in:** Silicon Valley;  
**Current residence:** Los Altos, CA  
**Family:** Married, 3 sons (all in hi-tech), 4 grandchildren | ![Old Rick James](image2.png) |

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<th>Purdue Highlights</th>
<th>Career Highlights</th>
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| Gee, I’m supposed to remember that far back?  
I lived in the South Campus Grad students housing (re-purposed old married-students housing), then the (first) Grad House. And finally, after getting married, a rundown flat.  
I remember the biting cold of walking to classes, and the wind tunnel under the new Math-CS building, which I had watched them build. The tunnel from the Grad House was a welcome change.  
I lived on PMU cafeteria food and the Home Ec building. Decades later, when my son was graduating from Purdue, I got to see the major updates PMU had done over the years. | CDC was hiring an Minnesota and Silicon Valley. Fall in Minnesota was defined as the millisecond between Summer and Winter. Guess where I went.  
Speaking of TEXTJAB, Ragan and I brought it to CDC in Sunnyvale, where it lived on for some time.  
At CDC I dealt with optimizations and wrote a simulator (Track) for the CDC machines. It would even compute the timing for the 6600 and other models.  
In the 80’s I worked for a startup that was trying to build a word processor for Unix machines. It never really flew. Currently I am at Yahoo, and claim to be the go-to guy for MySQL, especially in performance issues. |