

# Bill Richie: 21 years of Cracking Bones!

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Bill Richie grew up and attended high school in New Berlin, Illinois. He then continued his education at the University of Illinois where he majored in Kinesiology. After attending chiropractic school, he opened his own chiropractic business in Springfield, Illinois. He then married his high school and college sweetheart. Together, they now live in the country with their 3 kids.

This interview took place in the kitchen at the Richie Residence. Interview has been edited for length and clarity.

## Question & Answer Interview:

### When you were a child, what was dream job?

**Bill Richie:** I wanted to be a professional athlete in basketball. I spent a lot of my time playing basketball and thought I was really good. Then reality struck and I grasped that I was just a 6'3" white guy and really slow.

### What was it that made you interested in being a Chiropractor?

**BR:** When I was in high school, I got worked on and adjusted quite a bit for various injuries, aches and pains. I benefited a lot from going to the chiropractor in town. These experiences sparked my interest and I got the desire to help people the way my chiropractor helped me. I also really enjoyed anatomy.

### What colleges were you deciding between?

**BR:** I was deciding between SIU Carbondale and the University of Illinois. I ended up choosing U of I because it seemed like the obvious choice. I did not think I was going to get in, so I was very surprised when I did. I was a big fan of the school growing up. Also, not to mention... my girlfriend was also going there.

### What was it like attending the same school as your girlfriend?

**BR:** It was so much fun! We saw each other every single day. I ended up sleeping in her dorm room more than I slept in mine. We would study together quite a bit whether it was at the library or at Hardies on Green Street. When we weren't studying, we would go to basketball games and the bars. We made a lot of memories at that campus. That is why I proposed to her on the quad.

### What was your favorite part about college?

**BR:** My favorite part about college was going to all of the basketball games. Well, I also enjoyed all of the bars. I was bartender at O'Malley's. Living with my three best friends in an apartment was also one of the best things. Obviously, I cannot choose just one favorite. I do not think there is something specific I could choose from college that is my favorite. It was all just a blast. I would go back if I could!

**How did being away at chiropractic school affect your relationship with your girlfriend?**

**BR:** It worked out okay because for the first year she was in Carbondale for medical school. Then she was at home in Springfield. An hour and a half is not that far away. We were both also really focused on our schooling at that time, so it was not a big issue.

**When you graduated chiropractic school, where did you start working?**

**BR:** I opened my own office, but within another physician's space. It was downtown Springfield close to the new house your mom and I had just bought.

**How long have you been in the chiropractic business?**

**BR:** I have been in the business for 21 years! I have moved locations I think 5 times. I am starting to get tired of it, but I do still enjoy it. If I can I plan to retire when I am 60.

**Currently a lot of small business are shut down due to COVID19. How has your business handled this?**

**BR:** We wear masks and wipe down before and after every patient. We have condensed our hours and are only allowing one patient in the facility at a time. Our office manager is working from home. Our overall patient volume is down 70% so our revenue is being greatly affected. We recently applied for help with the SBA EIDL Loan and the PP Program. That should help us get through it!

**What would you have done differently to get to where you are today?**

**BR:** I would have finished my teacher's certification at the University of Illinois. I would have tried to spend more time with the basketball team as a manager or something. Just to be involved with the program to learn more about coaching. Then I would have maybe pursued a career in administration and coaching.