

## Richard Werner

by Doug Kent

As World War II raged in Europe and in the Pacific, it was a rather quiet Friday, January 23, 1942 in the small town of Monte Video,

Uruguay. Mr. November (Mr. N) was born and lived in this small town with his parents and grandparents. At age 2, with the passing of his grandfather, the family moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is where he would be raised and educated. His childhood was short lived and at age 8 he had his first male encounter in a movie theater. He knew that he was drawn to men, and in high school had several more encounters. This early recognition of his sexuality was unusual but it did not affect his education or development. He showed a spectacular flair for languages. German was spoken at home; he attended a French Private School; Spanish was the language among his play mates, and he had a private English tutor at home. In school, he participated in swimming and played water polo. He graduated in 1959 and encouraged by his family he decided to enter college and study law. This turned out to be a poor decision.

After two years of study, Mr. N felt that law was not his calling, and went into the world to find work. Scandinavian Airlines had a position in their cargo division and Mr. N took the opportunity. Later he moved to ticketing; a decision he would never regret. The position paid well and had unbelievable benefits with regard to travel and Mr. N was still living at home. What could be better. In 1961, due to economic circumstances, Mr. N was laid off, but secured the opportunity to travel to Copenhagen, New York, Paris, Rome, London and Madrid. He knew then his heart was with the Airline/Travel industry. Over the next several years, he worked with various airlines and eventually immigrated to the United States in 1963. Again, he worked with various airlines supporting himself, and in 1967 met his partner and they purchased a home together in San Francisco.

Mr. N and his partner lived together for 6 years, and in 1973 severed their partnership but remained good friends. Mr. N decided that he wanted to become a citizen of Israel, so he made preparations and went to Israel. After three years there, learning Hebrew and working, he decided to return to the

and continued work in the Airline/Travel industry. He had become a travel-a-holic.

After 27 years with Northwest Airlines, Mr. N had traveled extensively and enjoyed every second of it. He traveled to Buenos Aires many times to visit family and visited numerous other countries and countless cities. In 2003 Mr. N moved to Tampa, Florida and then retired in 2004. After 6 years in Tampa, he decided to move to Fort Lauderdale where he has his condo in Palm Aire.

This soft spoken, bigger than life person enjoys the Prime Timers, loves movies and musical theater. He enjoys the ocean and beach and has gotten hooked on cruises. He still travels back to Israel to visit his extended family that lives there. Can you imagine, that after all that travel, he still enjoys going and has become a true world "Gypsy". I know Mr. November, can you identify him?

