

Nelson Dayton

by Doug Kent

It was a dark and stormy night on January 11th on a small farm in NE Ohio when this Prime Timer, much to the dismay of his mother, beat the doctor to his birth. By the age of 5 this gifted child, the second of 5 children, with the help of a toy drum had made up his mind that music was going to be his life's calling. By the first grade this talented student was the smallest and youngest child playing in the school band. With the help of his brothers and sisters, who also played different instruments, he played and excelled on the clarinet, trumpet, guitar and the dreaded saxophone. By junior high he was playing in a local dance band and was earning extra spending money, converting his father, who ran the family farm, from a doubter to a believer in the music profession. Not wanting to be the school nerd, our Prime Timer was involved in activities in high school including sports, glee club and many others. After high school he was accepted into the Mount Union College music program and was forced to choose an instrument for his first year of study, and the choice was simple – clarinet. However, in the second year of studies the opportunity arose that allowed our talented musician to finally embrace this life-long instrument, his beloved bassoon.

After exhausting all the learning potential of the Mount Union College music program, our musician transferred to the prestigious Cincinnati Conservatory of Music on a full scholarship to further his unusual talent and skills on the bassoon.

With a brief interruption for military service, due to the Korean War, he was fortunate to be selected to play in the USAF Orchestra in Washington D.C. After the war, our mystery person finished his undergraduate degree at the Cincinnati Conservatory. While working on his Master's Degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, he was approached and auditioned for a position with the Buffalo New York Philharmonic. For the next 38 years he was first bassoon with the orchestra, managed to do some teaching at the University of Buffalo, and tutored numerous students in bassoon. Several brief relationships preceded his 34 year relationship with his now deceased mate Leonard. A Prime Timer for over 4 and a half years, he has interests in older men, works out at the gym, enjoys socializing at Tropics, has his computer, and shares his retired life with his current partner in Palm Aire.

