

John “Tango” Alcacer

by Doug Kent

Mr. May was born in the 1930’s, the oldest of 8 children, in a small farming town where his father was a medical doctor who owned a small hospital. A normal childhood characterized by family, primary school, and fun summers with visiting relatives was marred by a “shocking experience”, which led to his eventual sexual awakening. From 5 to 10 years of age, two male nurses from the hospital sexually molested him without his parents ever knowing what was going on. His behavior eventually became erratic, so his father sent him off to a strict Catholic boarding high school in a large city. Due to the strict rules, Mr. May could not visit home during the school year. The stress of this “Charles Dickens type story” made it difficult for character development. From the age of 11 to 16, a priest, who was a known family friend, developed a platonic relationship to conduct regular counseling sessions. This did not last and on several occasions in the seclusion of the school library this trusted family friend, a priest of significant standing within the community, sexually molested Mr. May. This further destroyed his self image and self esteem. As Mr. May entered puberty without having benefit of proper counseling to sort out all the implications of the prior molestations on his life, at age 17 he engaged in his first male sexual encounter that thrust him into gay life.

Despite this tumultuous early childhood, Mr. May was able to complete his civil engineering degree and began working in the roadway construction field in his native country at the age of 25. With the death of his father, and knowing that being gay in his country would be a disgrace to his family and friends, he sought new surroundings.

In 1957, aware that the Eisenhower Administration had begun construction on the Interstate Highway System, Mr. May began circulating his resume to various companies and was eventually hired in 1959 by a consulting engineering firm in Illinois. Ironically, to secure his green card to work in this county, Mr. May had to sign an affidavit that he was not homosexual.

Success with his career was at hand for Mr. May. He established himself in the engineering field with projects that involved transportation. He worked with several prestigious firms and was able to travel around the world. His past was still troubling for him, but he was able to function well in his career field.

In 1983 his company Parsons & Brinckerhoff had him working on the Marta Rapid Transit System in Atlanta, Georgia before transferring him to Los Angeles to work on their new Subway System. It was here that he made his decision to retire. He remained in California and enjoyed traveling in the States, Europe and South American.

As time passed, Mr. May decided that he should be closer to his remaining family and moved to Pompano

Beach, Florida. Still troubled by the fact that he has never spoken to his family about his past he manages to live an active, productive life in Florida. His condo is immaculate and tastefully decorated with mementoes from around the world. According to Mr. May, “I am honored and very happy to belong to the Prime Timers of Fort Lauderdale, where I have found a second family of wonderful people and friends”. An avid reader of world history and technical engineering articles, Mr. May also enjoys classical and tango music, jazz of the 50’s & 60’s and his collection of older movies. He belongs to L.A. Fitness and enjoys swimming in his condo pool virtually every day. He is a lover of the Fort Lauderdale beach scene.

I have had the pleasure of meeting this sensitive, warm, articulate and fun loving person who will stick in my memory forever. I now know Mr. May, do you?

POST SCRIPT: In my interview with Mr. May he informed me that he is planning to use this article to reveal his past to his remaining family. He feels that they should be aware of what was so instrumental in his early childhood development and what has guided his adult life. He went on to say “Throughout my life I have met people from all cultures and backgrounds and it has become evident to me that sexual preferences are not a matter of choice”.

