

## Eddie Sokol

by Doug Kent

This “pavement kid” was born in the Bronx, N.Y. on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1945. He quickly learned the ways of the big city. He attended PS 105; escaping with few mishaps and decided early in his life that stick ball was no way to earn a living. He was wise enough to know that art was his calling. Because his loving parents also recognized his early talent, his wall drawings at home did not draw scorn, but drew encouragement. He attended the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan where he focused on music theory and fine art. With this early encouragement he completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Hunter College, and went on to further technical studies at the School of Visual Arts.

As a freelance designer, one of our Prime Timer’s designs was commissioned by American Airlines for the interiors of their aircraft. This was the launching of his art career. Participating in outdoor art shows led to his first One-Man show in Manhattan. His art has been exhibited in a number of museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Brooklyn Museum Gallery, the High Museum in Atlanta, the Smithsonian Institute, and is in the collection of numerous Governors Mansions and 3 U.S. embassies. The artist’s works are now in over 7000 collections worldwide.

As if this extensive art career would not keep a person busy enough, our Prime Timer has redesigned and renovated 10 different residences, including a 20 room Episcopal rectory, a Montessori schoolhouse in Manhattan, 5 houses and a bay front townhouse in Boston.

In his spare time he has managed to write and illustrate a children’s book, with two others in the works, and is working on a humorous novel.

This is not the end of our story; there are more facets to our Prime Timer that must be mentioned. Way back in the summer of 1968, our mystery person moved to Greenwich Village ... (who would believe that an artist would move into the Village in the 1960’s!). It was here that he met his partner at the Stonewall Inn bar almost a year before the riots. In his words, “it was love (and lust) at first sight”. These two wild and crazy guys are still together after 45 years, and are still very much in love and committed to each other.

Despite everything else going on in his life, our mystery “Hottie” has managed to find time to enjoy his favorite hobbies. These include landscape gardening, bowling, singing with “Doo Wop” groups and collecting 1000’s of early rock and R&B 45 rpm records.

