

Don Squire

by Doug Kent

The second boy, our Mr. November (Mr. N), was welcomed into his family on June 9, 1943. His mom stayed at home while dad provided for the family that lived in Oneida, New York. Mr. N was a shy quiet kind of kid but managed to deal with all the trials and tribulations of childhood. These included both scarlet and rheumatic fever, along with some seizure disorders. The family moved out to Long Island where Mr. N attended school. In the 6th and 7th grade, Mr. N designed some clothing for the comic book character "Katy Keene", and in the 7th grade Mr. N was on the track team and was a member of the Archery Club. In 1958 the family moved to Albany, New York, where Mr. N finished high school. His shyness, now a thing of the past, Mr. N participated in all the high school theatrical plays and other activities and became very active in his youth group. He graduated in 1961.

Off to college, Mr. N attended the State University of Buffalo and majored in accounting. He lived in the dorm, and he joined many groups on campus. One was the literary group where he met Ogden Nash and other important figures that spoke on campus. He began performing in theater productions on campus in his sophomore year. He moved off campus in his junior year and continued his many activities. In 1964 he met a girl, and they hit it off very well. In January of 1965, they were married. Mr. N continued his education and graduated in 1966 with his degree in Business Education.

Mr. N was the first male teacher in the state of New York to teach typing and shorthand for the Buffalo City School District. In 1966 Mr. N, his wife and son moved to Albany, New York, where he worked for the State of NY as an Assistant Purchasing Agent. His work allowed him to participate and develop many outside activities such as community theater, progressed to summer stock, went on to regional theater. He appeared in some commercials, did modeling and voice-overs. Mr. N developed these skills throughout his entire career. His daughter was born in 1970. In 1972, Mr. N joined his father's business and developed it for the next 42 years, all the time improving and refining his outside theatrical interests and skills.

Let us go back a few years. Mr. N in his early 20's had an experience with a man in a hotel bathroom. This encounter led to others but caution was necessary because Albany was a big, small town. Throughout his life, he had male encounters and his theatrical connection also afforded him some opportunities. He met Bruce in 1973 and began a very long term relationship. In 1981, Mr. N came out to his wife. Her response was predictable, "I do not want to live with a gay man". Mr. N's response was unpredictable, when he replied, "Well, I do". They separated in 1981. The divorce was finalized in 1995.

Mr. N's Florida connection began in 1999 as a snowbird. In 2010 Mr. N moved to Fort Lauderdale and officially closed his business in December of 2013. With time on his hands, Mr. N has not allowed any moss to grow under his feet. He is active in Prime Timers, goes to the gym three days a week, attends August Gold's sessions at the Pride Center, has an active social life, loves Tropics and does Karaoke at both Tropics and Rumors. If this was not enough, he does needlepoint, is a member of the Etz Chaim at the Pride Center and participates in the Collectors' and History Groups of Prime Timers. He collects Salvador Dali and giraffes in any form. He does volunteer work in mental health, suicide prevention and is a Florida prison inmate advocate. I now know this charismatic, outgoing, shy no longer person.

