

Jim Hartman

by Doug Kent

It was a very cool Wednesday, March 26th, 1947, when the manager of the Ogden, Utah Woolworth Store got the call that his son was born. He was very proud and extremely happy with this new addition to his family. His daughter now had a younger brother. Little did he know that 68 years later his son would become Mr. September (Mr. S).

Mr. S had a very normal childhood, the first 6 years in Ogden, with the remainder of his childhood occurring in El Paso, Texas. He attended elementary and Junior high with little trouble. He became involved with DeMolay while he was in High School. He also was involved with the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and showed an unusual flair for Spanish. In 1963 he was part of the mystery trip, where he boarded a bus with about 20 other kids and ended up in Disneyland. The next year the trip was to Seattle, Washington and the Seattle Worlds Fair. Adventure was in his blood now. Mr. S worked part time for his father in the Woolworth Store, and spent most of his earnings on toys, much to his father's chagrin, at the other stores in town. In later life Mr. S found out why his father was so upset with his spending habits; it was that his father was paying his salary out of his own pocket. His son was spending his money at the competitors' stores.

After high school Mr. S attended University of Texas at Austin. The pre-dental program did not work out. After one year, he was lured back to El Paso with the offer of a new car from his father. He attended the University of Texas in El Paso for the next three years, enjoying his new car, life at home and working part time in the banking industry. With all this stimulation his studies suffered and in 1968 while on academic probation, he avoided the draft and enlisted in the Navy. The Navy recognized his flair for languages and trained him as a Language Specialist. He spent his entire tour of duty in the States, never making it to a ship. He managed to work part time in banking while in the Navy. Even though he had a Top Secret Clearance with the government, he managed to have his first gay experience while in the Service. Mr. S was honorably discharged in June 1972 and returned to El Paso. He managed to find work at First State Bank and was married in December of 1975. Divorce followed one year later. In 1979 he accepted a position at Continental National Bank as Comptroller.

He met and married his second in November 1984.

Mr. S changed careers and began teaching Spanish and Computers in a local Technical School in El Paso. He was eventually promoted to Counselor and coordinated recruiting for his school. Education became very important to Mr. S and he eventually completed 5 degrees, including a Masters in Vocational Education. In 2007 he began working for his wife who ran several successful businesses. He managed the business aspects for her until she passed away in 2012 of cancer.

With her passing Mr. S sold his property and moved to Fort Lauderdale Florida in 2013. He designed his current home, and in September of 2013 met his current partner on Silver Daddies. They arranged their first meeting for dinner at Peter Pan and it went very well. They agreed to meet for lunch the next day and that meeting extended through dinner. Despite a 3am trip to the Emergency Room that evening they have been together ever since.

Mr. S and his partner are joined in their home by two wonderful, well behaved, totally spoiled, charismatic black dogs who have their owners trained and can secure doggie treats at will. Mr. S is an avid collector of Mexican Folk Retablos, along with an extensive collection of German Beer Steins. He also collects toys and Matchbox cars. Mr. S enjoys talking about his former collection of unique antique cars, one of which was a 1917 Oakland. This soft-spoken humble Prime Timer will take you through his beautiful home that he designed and act as if everyone could do this kind of thing I now know Mr. S; can you identify him with all this information?

