

Chuck Walthall

by Doug Kent

World War II was raging in both Europe and in the Pacific when our Mr. October (Mr. O) decided to enter the world on September 27th, 1943, in Kansas City, Missouri. His father was busy working on the first jet engine, while his mom stayed at home to raise him and his older sister. His early childhood was pretty normal, and school posed little problems for Mr. O. In 1951 his family moved to Raytown, Missouri, where he attended Jr. High. He played the clarinet in the school band. He also had encounters with his boy friends and loved it. In senior high, Mr. O continued with his music, and he played in the marching and concert band, along with being a member of the honor society, participated in the science club, and was voted the school's best artist in the senior yearbook. He graduated in 1961.

Mr. O had received a scholarship to the University of Missouri, but his family moved to Buffalo, New York, in the summer of 1961. There he attended the University of Buffalo. He followed his musical path, playing the clarinet in the marching band and orchestra. He, on occasion, substituted with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. He wrote a paper on Mozart's 1792 Concerto for Clarinet and performed this difficult piece of music on an original 5 key boxwood clarinet. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Arts in music in 1965.

Now, without his 2-S deferment, Mr. O saw the Viet Nam War as a thing that he would like to avoid. He auditioned for the United States Air Force Band and was accepted. He was stationed at Bolling AFB in Washington D. C. He traveled throughout the world with the USAF Band and retired as a Senior Master Sergeant in 1991. There was a short break in service from 1969 to 1972 where he played with the Florida Symphony. He received his Master of Arts in 1969 and his Doctor of Musical Arts in 1981 from Catholic University in Washington.

In 1993 Mr. O purchased the historic plantation house, Burlean Hall, the Posey family home in Faulkner, Maryland. Completed in 1850, this property proved to be a real challenge. It was haunted, had massive boxwood gardens, was a maintenance nightmare and had mice running through the walls, with 6 foot black snakes chasing those little mice.

After 3 years in Burlean Hall, Mr. O moved back to D.C. and began working in a music store. Back in 1987, when his mother passed away, Mr. O received a calling and became interested in becoming an Episcopal priest. In 2001, Mr. O received his Master of Divinity, from the Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained in June 2002. He began his pastoral work in Springfield, IL, and it ended in Washington D.C. when he retired. He received his Doctor of Ministry in 2010 at Sewanee.

In 2013 his only sister became ill and was living in West Palm Beach. Mr. O moved to South Florida to care for her. Unfortunately, she passed away only one month after Mr. O arrived. He moved to Wilton Manors then to Palm Aire where he now resides.

Mr. O has traveled to most of the countries in Europe, to the Middle East, Egypt, China, Japan, Central and South America. He has an interest in Pre-Columbian art and is planning a trip to Peru. He still is involved with his music, enjoys concerts, ballet and opera. Mr. O can converse in French, German and Spanish as well as English. He is working on a book on mysticism. I now know this interesting, unassuming, clarinet playing Prime Timer. Can you identify him?

