

Rich Rooney

by Doug Kent

What does a part time Santa Fe railroad “Red Cap” have in common with Geology? Please read on to find out. Born on February 12, 1934, our Prime Timer was the younger of two boys born to Midwestern parents in mid-town Manhattan. He attended PS133 for 8 years then qualified to attend Brooklyn Technical High School committing to a 3 hour daily commute. Upon graduating he attended NYU in liberal arts for two and a half years. In 1956 he graduated from Colorado College with his degree in Geology. During the school year he had 3 part time jobs and in his summers, he worked for the Santa Fe railroad as a “Red Cap”.

Drafted into the Army in 1957, our Prime Timer worked on the first surface-to-air missile defense perimeter in Germany. He enjoyed traveling all around Europe as a young army stud. In 1959 he returned to New York to attend City College as a non-degree student to get credits in Meteorology. This already educated, interesting and well traveled character took a position with the U.S.

Oceanographic Office and was trained in military oceanography.

For the next 20 years, he traveled to many parts of the world doing ocean and coastal surveys in the Bahamas, Virgin Islands, Korea, Turkey, Japan and coastal Russia, just to name a few places. In 1979 the government moved the office to Mississippi, but our Prime Timer would have no part of that move. He resigned, but remained in Washington, D.C. to continue in real estate investments and added sales to the agenda.

In 2003 he relocated to Fort Lauderdale while maintaining an apartment in D.C. He spends some time between June and September in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Our Prime Timer collects some art, still enjoys renovating property, is a bowler, and was a volunteer at the Abandon Pet Rescue, where he met his ‘Jodie’. He has had two relationships that have turned in life-long friendships.

