



# Robert R. Rainwater "Bobby"

## SHAGGERS HALL OF FAME POSTHUMOUS ROBERT R. RAINWATER - "BOBBY"

A quote from the 1947 Florentine High School Annual: "good-looking clothes . . . well-rehearsed line . . . girls, beware!" Honors: Utopian Literary Society; Boxing (can you imagine Bobby a boxer?); Treasurer of Sophomore class (more appropriate as Bobby did well with his life earning much respect as a professional and successful business person).

The summer of 1947 was very exciting. Having graduated (not necessarily with honors), we were free and began our trek to O.D. Myrtle Beach was more known for out-of-towners, red necks, etc. Ocean Drive was the hot spot alternating between Cherry Grove and Spivey Beach.

Many members of Florence's teen-age club were friends of Bobby's; Mike Palles, Tommy Turner, Vince Flowers, Doodle "Rhett" Munn, Pete Corley, Gary Rogers, Jimmy Calcutt, Vera Munn, Leon Williams, Harry Baker, Heyward Collins, Lottie Mae Woods, Herman David, Carolyn Pender, Nellie Richardson, Billy Flowers, "Buckshot" Daniels and many others offered many memorable and wonderful times at O.D. They were all excellent "jitterbuggers," now called "shaggers," and mesmerized onlookers with their own distinctive styles.

While most relaxed, danced, enjoyed the sun, water, and companionship, others worked. Leon "The Task Master" was O.D.'s ultimate entrepreneur -- Bingo Caller and Ice Cream Vendor. For \$1.00 per day Bobby and I were employed as Bingo Checkers and the manpower for the ice cream cart. Bobby would push to the pier, and I would push back. Leon would be waiting for the cash!

After work, there was play. Bobby and friends would crowd into his 1946 green Packard and away we would go from one dance to another -- often to Charlotte or Charleston to hear the big bands of the era. Bobby was fondly nick-named the "Dollar-Man." Whenever you rode, it was "dollar me" (\$1.00 for gas). That was Bobby's way of reminding all of us that life really isn't a free ride -- you pay your way.

I will miss him.

His Friend.

Ellison Stokes