



"Big George" Lineberry 1984

"BIG GEORGE" LINEBERRY

When I first went to "the beach" in 1945, "Big George" was there and he was called "Big George" for the same reason he would be called that today. He was large compared to all of us skinny teenagers but he could just as easily have been called "Smiley" because a smile is one thing he has never been without. Friendly with the old beach bums and just as nice to the newly arrived and to the tourists.

The beginning Beach Bums looked up to George because he was "King of the Beach" and they tried to copy his dancing style - a style of dance that was developing then into what today is called "The Shag" but then was "The Jitterbug." A crowd always gathered when George was dancing and he was a big hit with the tourists who were eager to donate when George and his followers "passed the hat" for jukebox money (some of which actually made its way to the jukebox).

The fraternity of beach people of that era will always consider those the good old days and even though "Big George" left Myrtle Beach to make his fortune in Virginia Beach, our nostalgic thoughts will give us that good feeling again, the feeling of belonging when we were considered a part of George's crowd.

Myrtle Beach of today is not like it was then but we liked it the way it was and we were doing exactly as we wanted. There was a lot of activity day and night and one of the neat things was that no decision was made until we found out what "Big George" was going to do because that would determine where that crowd would be.

Consider that all of this occurred about forty years ago and one can see the strength of the friendships that developed then and still endure. I still consider it a privilege to be counted among "Big George's" large circle of friends. At the SOS reunions we've been having the last few years, it was a big pleasure to note that everyone remembered that "Big George" reigned back then as "King of the Beach."

Burt Bennett