

John W. Beggs... a memoriam.

My Dad was a character... Born in Englewood, New Jersey, USA in 1916, the youngest of five sons, he was a bit of a tearaway as a teenager, riding an old motorcycle around town and frightening old ladies. When my Mom went to his High School reunion one time, she told someone who she was married to, and the wifey's comment was, "Ooooh! My mother wouldn't let me go out with *him!*" But he worked hard all his life, always had time to help someone out if he could, and had a ready laugh, often seeing the absurd in many difficult situations. He was one of the best people I have ever known.

In his early twenties, he and a group of pals started a club. They travelled by car around the country, went hiking together, and did all sorts of interesting and creative things. They built themselves a club house called 'the Shack'... actually, according to my Dad, it was quite a properly constructed house, which had electricity and a fireplace... all the comforts of home!



They all had nicknames... my Dad's was 'Satch', and there were 'the Professor', 'Kingfish', 'Duke', 'Scotty', 'Rummy', 'Engle', 'Red', 'Long John', 'Ozzie', 'C.A.', and 'Johnny', as well. Some of them remained my father's life-long friends, and I can remember them from when I was growing up.

During this time in my Dad's life, the gang constructed all sorts of things... trying to design their own radar systems, conducting electrical and chemical experiments... good thing it was in those days, they might be had up as terrorists these days, for their curiosity!

One of my Dad's particular passions was cars, and he stripped down a huge old clunker and built a what can only be called a 'skeleton car', a jalopy which was not much more than the frame and engine, and a seat. There's a photo of my Dad looking extremely proud of himself sitting at the wheel, and the picture is labelled 'Satch's Brain Child'.



I am pleased to have the opportunity to name this trophy in memory of my Dad. He was fearless, crazy about cars, and loved going *fast...* in many respects much like a lot of folks in the SDMC I could mention! I think he'd be chuffed to know that his name lives on in this trophy, as he always had an eye for the ladies! Especially as this club carries on so much of what interested him, and with the same kind of spirit.

Leslie Beggs Spilman

