

S.O.S. 5th ANNIVERSARY ... 1980 - 1985
Remember the first one at the Oak Tree Inn?

It's hard to believe! Five years ago S.O.S. was a decades old dream beginning to formulate. Every phone call was an upper. The adrenalin was flowing. Beach kids from the late forties and early fifties were contacting me for the details. Only there were no details. No plan. We didn't know what to expect. We were just going to get together again, at long last. Those colorful, fun loving characters of yesteryear were going to have a one-time reunion party at the playground of our youth, Ocean Drive Beach, S.C.

It was coming true, this dream. It was actually becoming a reality! The doubts were now gone. The media had shattered the barriers. We could now reach the people. Lack of names and addresses was no longer the gigantic problem. Newspaper hype and ink were everywhere. Coast to coast.

Five long years have zipped by. Many of us will never forget that first S.O.S. gathering. The thrill of seeing our beach friends from the past. Ah, that first reunion at The Oak Tree Inn! Seeing Del Dorn, Wormy Wall, Larry Blake, Leon Williams, Frank Holt, Billy Martin, Craig Blackman, Jack Nichols, JoJo Putnam, Maurice Treadway, Frankie Wiggins Mckinna, Bobby McQueen, Marilyn Bessent Talbot, George Meyer, Betty Sims Pressley, Joan Mabry Yarborough, Weezy Rogers Vickery, Charlie Porter, Dennis Beam, and countless others for the first time in over a quarter of a century was unreal. There were many tears and misty eyes. I'll never forget that experience.

There will never be another like it. The years will roll by. S.O.S. parties will come and go. But never, never, will there be another beach gathering like that glorious September back in 1980. It was one of those magic moments that can not be repeated. The dream had come true! *Fait accompli!*

The mission was accomplished. The past and present were one. A new era of beach music interest was born at that party in 1980. A spark had been kindled in a new generation.

For one, I'm proud, very proud, to have played a roll in fostering that reunion of 1980. It, too, has now become a fading memory.

Too bad all of our old beach friends couldn't have attended. Many were gone. They would have loved this first gathering - it was a grand party.

Five years ago ...

Harold Bessent

King of the Beach ...

There's no doubt about it. In beach music circles, Harold is king.
Numero uno.

He deserves the crown. Harold has worked hard. Very hard. He has treated his customers right. He shoots straight and sticks to his word. Believe me. I've worked closely with him for four years on S.O.S. functions. I know.

Harold started out as a "beach monkey," carrying floats and umbrellas for the life guards.

In 1981 Harold was a partner in the Spanish Galleon. He sold out his interest and opened up Harold's Across the Street.

Today you'll find his name towering over several beach businesses. Harold's on the Ocean. Harold's Country Time Kitchen (leased and operated by David and Carol Harris). Harold's Across the Street. The Pad. And now, he's added the ultimate for S.O.S.ers and beach music fans, Fat Harold's.

If it wasn't for Harold Bessent, S.O.S. would not be the viable organization it is today. He has been one of our biggest boosters. I have been one of his biggest fans.

Harold doesn't know I'm writing this. He would object, I know. But it's time he gets some of the credit he deserves.

Many times, when planning an S.O.S. event, Harold has asked, "How about free draft beer for a couple of hours." Or, "Would your people like some free hors d'oeuvres?" While this is good business, it's not done often at the beach. Beach promises are easy to make. Seldom kept. With Harold, his word is his deed.

Harold is one of us and our friend. Remember it the next time you're at O.D.

Harold is king. King of the beach. Long may he reign!



S.O.S. NEWSLETTER - WINTER 1985
Gene Laughter, Publisher and Editor
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MORE S.O.S. NEWSLETTERS IN 1985

I promise. Time is the only enemy. S.O.S. now has money in the bank and can afford to do things a little more professionally. Like the computer I'm writing this on. It also addresses your mail. Three years ago I hand lettered the newsletters and hand addressed your mail. Those days are behind us. I hope to get out 4 or 5 newsletters this year. Intended to get one out in Oct. last year, after S.O.S., but was too tired and slothful. Also plan to start including photos in the newsletters and to turn this into a first rate publication for the S.O.S. members. This issue indicates the new direction.

WE GET LETTERS ...

"I've been to every S.O.S. and have had a ball. When is the S.O.S. going to have a shag contest? All the clubs have them, shouldn't the S.O.S. have contests too?" B.T., Charlotte, N.C.

We held one in Nome Alaska in 1983. It was won by Charlie Porter and Paula, the dancing bear. The S.O.S. plans a highland fling contest in '87 to be held at a loch in Scotland. Big prizes. Details later. Editor.

"I didn't receive my 1985 S.O.S. renewal card although my friends did. What Happened?" A.W., Greensboro, N.C.

Not intentional! Names and addresses are on 5 different programs on 2 different, incompatible computers and we're in the process of merging them onto two programs on one computer and cleaning up the mailing list. All past records are being re-entered. It's a nightmare, but we're making real progress! There have been input errors and we do get about 85 pieces of mail returned every mailing due to changes of address. Also, many applications are completely illegible! We're trying & it will get better! Editor.

"Change my name on your mailing list from M.H. to Mrs. F.G. We met at the S.O.S. two years ago and got married last fall. Are we the first to get married as a result of meeting at the SOS?"

Heavens no! S.O.S. marriage notices have rolled in during the past couple of years. (Separations and divorces have resulted from past S.O.S. parties, too!). Be careful! Editor.

LOST S.O.S. CARDS. GIVE US A BREAK.

Pretend they are tickets to the A.C.C. tournament. Or, tickets to the Carolina-Clemson football game and you lost them or left them at home. What would happen? There have to be controls and we're just not setup to handle all those "lost cards." So, keep up with your '85 S.O.S. MEMBERSHIP CARD. It's yours ... and your responsibility ... o.k.? THANKS!!!

If you were an '84 S.O.S. Member and didn't make it to the Migration, we've got a couple of cartons of yearbooks left. Bring your unpunched S.O.S. card to the SAFARI! First come ... first served.

S.O.S. SPRING SAFARI ... MARCH 28 - 30 The BIG Spring Break Party for Adults ... Don't Miss this One ... No Hurricanes!

Like past S.O.S. Spring Parties, this one will be more laid-back and less structured than Fall Migrations. An adult Spring Break at the beach! The crowd will spread out between Fat Harold's and H.A.T.S. - with shuckin' 'n' jivin' for Oldies, but Goodies, at the PAD. The Galleon will feature a "name" beach band at night for those who prefer their beach music live! WE'LL HAVE A BIG SOS SAFARI PARTY at FAT HAROLD'S on Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5 for SOSers only! Get out your pith helmet and go on Safari with the S.O.S.!

DISCOUNTS FOR '85 SOS MEMBERS

10% YEAR 'ROUND DISCOUNT

SHOW SOS CARD WHEN PLACING YOUR ORDER:

ANNIE ROONEY'S RESTAURANT

CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

DON'S PANCAKE HOUSE

HOSKINS & KEITH'S

MARINA RAW BAR

SHIP'S BOUNTY

STRICKLAND'S SMORGASBORD

S.O.S. WEEKEND SPECIALS - SPRING AND FALL at HAROLD'S COUNTRY TIME KITCHEN

NO COVER YEAR 'ROUND EXCEPT MAJOR SHAG
CONTESTS AND LIVE MUSIC NIGHTS
FAT HAROLD'S / H.A.T.S. / H.O.T.O.

Year 'Round
\$2 OFF COVER CHARGE ... LIVE NAME BEACH BANDS
THE GALLEON

More S.O.S. Discount Locations to be added and
Announced as the Season Progresses! Join the
S.O.S. NOW and take advantage of the Annual
S.O.S. Membership DISCOUNTS!

BETWEEN THE S.O.S. BOOKENDS ...

UNsung HEROES OF ROCK 'N' ROLL by Nick Tosches. 245 pages. \$8.95. Charles Scribner's Sons. Illustrated. Colorful behind the scenes chapters on such greats as Big Joe Turner, Louis Jordan, Wyonnie Harris, Amos Milburn, Roy Brown, Stick McGee, The Clovers, The Dominoes, The Midnighters, Jackie Brenston and more. General interest book for all beach music buffs. I got it at Dalton's. You can order it at any book store.

BIG AL PAVLOW'S THE R&B BOOK by, you guessed it, Al Pavlow. This is it! A must if you are a serious record collector or interested in R&B of pre-60's. Given to me by SOSer Ransome Anderson. Covers each year from 1940 - '59 in depth with emphasis on top black recordings, labels, artists, etc. Lots of discography info. ORDER IT from Music House Publishing. POB 2271, Edgewood Station, Providence, RI 02905. \$9.95. 111 pages. Illustrated. Thanks, Ransome!

THE SILVER SCREEN ...

OCEAN DRIVE WEEKEND ... A low budget flick filmed at O.D. with Atlanta actors and by Atlanta production company. College kids come to O.D. in the mid 60's for a weekend of fun, frolic and beach music. April '85 release. Watch for it!

Rumor has it Johnny Carson Productions is doing movie (?) titled "SHAG," filmed on the Grand Strand. Supposedly about romance blooming after beach people return for a reunion party. Sound familiar?

Hey, has anyone heard when the Columbia, S.C. ETV group plans to air the TV documentary on beach music and shag they filmed last Sept. at O.D.? Let me know and I'll inform the SOSers.

IT WILL STAND RISES ...

After lying on its back for two years, It Will Stand has stood up and has big plans and new publisher. Dr. Beachly maintains the editorial reins. Bi-monthly for now, but plans to go monthly when subscription base gets larger. Regular \$15 for 12 issues. SOS limited time re-introductory offer: \$12 for 12 issues. IWS was a fine 'zine covering the beach music scene and it's nice to have them back! IWS Communications, Inc. POB 507, Harrisburg, NC 28075.

DON'T TOUCH YOUR RADIO DIAL ...

Powerful WDSC-FM, Dillon, will be doing a special SOS Safari Party beach music oldies show all Friday afternoon on March 29 to help get you to O.D.! Tune in on your way down to the Safari ... 92.9 on your Chevy convertible's dial. Dig it!

FLOTSAM 'N' JETSAM ...

Colorful and lovable JoJo Putnam has moved to O.D. to take over sales management of The Sand Flea, Don Reid's excellent publication. Shag teacher, Jeppie McDowell, has joined Lewis Co. as Rental Manager. Call Jeppie for your rental needs. He promises to look after S.O.S. members! (Ask for my beach front 4BR condo - Island Dunes B1. Available for off season weekend rental to SOSers). Fat Harold's is looking good and is, and will be, THE beach music club for years to come! Got a great late 40's beach photo of Dick Clay... he did have hair back then!

S.O.S. SPRING SAFARI PRIVATE PARTY AT FAT HAROLD'S - SAT. AFTERNOON ...

It will be a biggie! Only '85 S.O.S. card holders will be admitted from 1 'til 5 pm at Fat Harold's and Harold promises to roll out the red carpet for the S.O.S. with free draft beer and hors d'oeuvres! DON'T MISS THE SOS SPRING SAFARI!



BEACH PROFILE



SHIP'S BOUNTY ... MEET THE ELMORES

Small world! Ralph Elmore and I belong to the same club in Richmond. We were, and still are, good friends. He was a lawyer and had a successful practice. Ralph and his wife, Judy, got tired of the rat race, so he took down his shingle, teamed up with an experienced Calabash restaurateur, and moved to O.D. to open a restaurant, the Ship's Bounty! If you like seafood, I mean really good seafood, you must try out the Ship's Bounty. The food is incredible and the price is right. Plus, you'll get the S.O.S. 10% discount!



CONDO RENTALS ... THE WAY TO GO ...

Things have changed at O.D.! Cottages have disappeared on the front row and condos have captured the shoreline. You can now rent a large, deluxe condo at rates competitive with the motels ... with special week end rates during the off season. Check out Island Dunes at 11th Ave. South ... about a mile south of H.A.T.S. On the ocean front, it's a small private complex, with only six units, but the individual units are the largest on the beach. Four bedrooms and three full baths, color cable TVs, micro wave ovens, ice makers, dish washers, full size washers and dryers. Ocean front pool. Sparkling new and very nice! S.O.S.er Tom Lilly and I each own one of these units. Tom's is A-3 (3rd floor) and mine is B-1 (1st floor). Perfect for 3 or 4 couples to share for an off season shag weekend in the Spring, Fall or Winter (Rented only by the week during the peak season). A couple of weeks are available in prime time. They're rented by Lewis Company. Give 'em a call at (803) 249-1409 and request one of the new Island Dunes S.O.S.er Condos!

FIRST CLASS

S.O.S. NEWSLETTER



PHIL & CHICK SAWYER
1709 ORIOLE RD
COLUMBIA SC 29204



P.O. BOX 8343
RICHMOND, VA 23226

SOS

1985 S.O.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
NO MAIL APPLICATIONS AFTER AUGUST 15.
S.O.S. / P.O. BOX 8343 / RICHMOND, VA 23226

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBERSHIP _____

NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIPS @ \$12 PER PERSON _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO S.O.S.) _____

MAILING LIST UPDATE: IF YOU ARE A RENEWAL & ADDRESS HAS CHANGED
SINCE RECEIVING THE LAST S.O.S. MAILING, CHECK HERE _____

NAMES _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

CK _____ CHS _____ DATE RCED _____ CDS MLD _____

_____ CRD NOS. _____ ENTRD ON COMPUTER _____

NO MAIL APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER AUGUST 15. MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE S.O.S. MIGRATION ... \$15 PER PERSON.

5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY ... S.O.S. MIGRATION ... SEPT. 12, 13 & 14

