



Buddy Kennedy 1985

BUDDY KENNEDY

I think my first trip to O.D. was in 1946 - I was 16 years old. Until that time, I thought Folly Beach in my home town of Charleston, SC was the only place to be. But that one night at O.D. was so great, that I've been going back ever since - anyway I could get there - by bus, by car, by thumb - on house parties, sleeping in cars, sometimes just staying up all night with good friends.

The best thing was the people - it was so easy to make friends. The beach didn't belong to the locals - it was everybody's beach from all the little towns in SC and NC. At that time, if some sharp cat showed up at Folly that nobody knew, all the locals wanted to jump him - at O.D. everybody wanted to meet him, would introduce him to some good dancers, and before the weekend was over you had another good friend and probably picked up some new steps.

But back to my first trip to O.D. I went with Harry Hitopoulis, and some of the people I remember meeting were Doodle Munn, Leon Williams, and Bobby Rainwater. I danced a few times, but mainly remember just watching and trying to take it all in that first night. There were so many good dancers and sharp dressers - I couldn't wait to get home and try to remember the steps and to dress more like they did.

Each trip to O.D. brought more good times and more good friends - but it was too long between summers, so we would keep in touch and meet in each others home town when there was a good band playing, or any other excuse we could find to get together. Some friends like Burt & B.R. Bennett became almost family - There is no way to describe the good times we have had together - with people like Johnny Baker, Leon & Deloris Williams, Ann & Jo Bleckly, Shirby Knight and so many more.

Then somewhere along the way we discovered Carolina Beach, Jimmy Cavallo's band, Jean Allen, Harry Driver, Clarice (there is only one), Charlie Boone, Nelson Burton, and so on - the crowds and the times just got bigger and better.

I remember when Cavallo's band first came to O.D. and played at Popes Bowling Alley (The Pad) - the place acutally rocked that night - something to do with the floors construction. Also when Paul Williams and Cavallo's bands played at Carolina Beach - what a night! When Pat Davis got Cavallo's band to play in Columbia at the Cotton Club during the winter and everybody came - like O.D. revisited.

So many good memories - and now to make it even better, S.O.S. has made it possible to do it all again.