



## Raymond Theodore Shafer Jr.

May 11, 1925 - August 7, 2019

Raymond “Ted” Theodore Shafer Jr.

May 11, 1925 – August 7, 2019

Raymond Theodore Shafer Jr., age 94, passed away on August 7, 2019, in Suisun City, California. “Ted” was born on May 11, 1925, in Rochester, New York, to Raymond and Alice (Mandery) Shafer. Ted grew up in Honeoye, New York, and graduated from the University of Rochester, and served in the US Army.

Ted was a self-published author of “The Great Silver Air Fleet” as well as a collection of short stories. Ted was a self-taught banjo player and the leader of TED SHAFER’S JELLY ROLL JAZZ BAND. He was the owner of Merry Makers Record Company, and was an established producer of an extensive catalog of traditional Dixieland Jazz music. He was a driving force in keeping this music alive and relative in the Northern California scene. He was an avid classic car enthusiast, model airplane builder, and overall great guy.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Bob Shafer; nephew, Francis Xavier Shafer; and brother-in-law, Richard (Dick) Evans.

Ted is survived by his sister, Jane Evans; nieces, Lisa Evans Gray (Bill), Cathy Evans Frailey (Jamie), Mary Frances Shafer Bernard (Tom); great nephews, Eric and Chris Neves, Morgan and Jackson Frailey, Calvin Shafer; great nieces, Kira Shafer Harris (Lance), Sarah Frances Bernard; and great-great nieces and nephews, Rylee, Ella, Tanner, Dylan, Desmond, and Ethan.

Services will be on Friday, August 16, 2019 at 9:00 am at St. Mary’s Church, 8961 Main St, Honeoye, NY 14471. Immediately following the service the burial will take place at St. Mary’s Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date in California.

Arrangements are under the care of Bryan-Braker Funeral Home, 707-425-4697. You may

sign the guestbook at [www.bryanbraker.com](http://www.bryanbraker.com).

# Cemetery

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**St. Marys Cemetery**

# Events

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**AUG** **Mass of Christian Burial** 09:00AM

**16**

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St Mary's Catholic Church

8961 Main St, Honeoye, NY, US, 14471

# Comments

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“ I remember first meeting Ted when I was 8 or so. My parents bought a house in Suisun, and not long after I met their next door neighbor, a kind man with a twinkle in his eye and a spring in his step, with interesting model planes around his home, fun art on his walls, good music to listen to. He didn't talk to me like I was a kid, he asked interesting questions and really listened to my response. Last year I got to introduce Ted to my husband, and I saw the same twinkle, the same curiosity at meeting new people and making new friends. I still have my signed copy of The Great Silver Airfleet all these years later and I treasure the memories new and old of interesting discussions and music and models, all fueled by an almost childlike enthusiasm. Ted was a wonderful soul and I thank God for the gift of knowing him.

**Andy Caron Pickens** - August 18, 2019 at 10:02 PM

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“ Ted and I were recording Traditional Jazz bands at the same time. I was recording the bands appearing monthly at the Northern California Traditional Jazz Club. Over the years I collected over 300 original jazz tapes that needed a University setting. As I am just 2 years younger than Ted you can understand my concern with what I regarded as the precious tape's future. I worked out an understanding with the Music Department of Sonoma State University to take the analogue tapes and convert them to digital for use of the student body. Without my knowing it they called it the Marshall Kent Traditional Jazz Library. I thought at the time that even though Ted's wonderful output of CDs was commercially available it would be nice if SSU had his recordings included in the library. Talking with Ted I agreed to buy one of all his production for half price and at my death have them given to The SSU music Department Library. Ted liked that. Marshall Kent

**marshall Kent** - August 16, 2019 at 04:00 PM

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“ Our deepest condolences to Jane, Mary Francis, and the family. We have many wonderful memories of Ted. He was our friend for 32 years, and we were so lucky to have him in our lives.

We shared all the holidays together, often going to a special movie after dinner and dessert at our house. Both he and Tom loved vintage cars and planes, and spent many great times going to auto and air shows. Especially at Travis AFB, with World War 2a

Aircraft, they were in their glory. We had a fabulous time going to the Titanic Exhibit in San Francisco. Ted bought a book there which he loved and proudly displayed.

I often went to his house, where he would ask me to help him select the cover for a CD he was doing. That was great fun.

One of Ted's favorite shows was Boardwalk Empire which featured Dixieland Jazz. Every Sunday we had a date with Ted. He would come over, we would sit in the loft, Ted with a kitty on his lap and a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. He knew every song!!

We will forever cherish each moment spent with him.

There are no goodbyes, just intermissions. Memories of a lifetime keep us till then. When once again the play resumes. And all those we have loved, and have loved us, are forever united.

Mary and Tom Caron

**Mary Reiter** - August 15, 2019 at 03:47 PM

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“ I remember many years ago, at least 25, I really didn't know Ted as a friend then, Jelly Roll was playing at a festival.

Gerri and I were dancing on a noisy wooden platform in front of the band. They were playing a fast tune and we were really hoofing it. Our feet were making a lot of noise and Ted was a bit upset because he was having trouble keeping the rhythm in time.

**Phil Eggers** - August 11, 2019 at 11:40 AM

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“ I want to add to the obituary that Ted was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity at the University of Rochester.

He was my very dear friend and I'm going to miss him.

Rest in peace dear Ted.

**Sharon Swenson** - August 10, 2019 at 04:43 PM

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“ Ted and I shared many good times together as we played with the Jelly Roll Jazz Band over the years. He was a good friend to me and to traditional jazz, and he will be missed. Condolences to the family.  
Bert Thompson

**Bert Thompson** - August 10, 2019 at 02:23 PM

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“ Ted and I first met each other in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1954 when we both traveled to Dayton to hear The Dixieland Rhythm Kings, which was our favorite band. He said I taught him how to play banjo. We remained good friends for 65. years! Carl Lunsford

**carlton lunsford** - August 10, 2019 at 12:38 PM

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“ Mary and Tom purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond Theodore Shafer Jr..



**Mary and Tom** - August 09, 2019 at 11:38 PM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Lou Bowen - August 09, 2019 at 10:44 PM



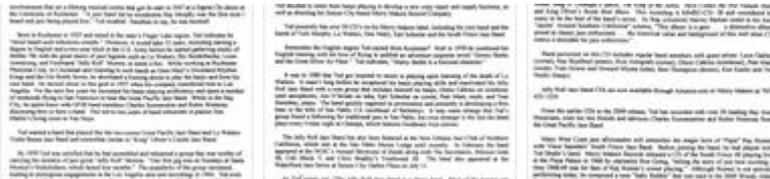
“ Sometime in the early 90's, Emorium Clothing store sold to Macy's and they hired Ted's band to play for their closing. We sat in the Men's clothing section playing to passer-bys. Charlie Sonnestein, Earl Scheelar and I think Red on string bass. One couple came by and said "We used to live in New Orleans, can you play Basin Street"? I said sure and went into the tune. Afterwards Ted was a tad urked, he did not have Basin Street in his book. Charlie and Earl razzed Ted a little about the tune. Basin Street is probably the first tune Trad players ever learn. Well the front line had a chuckle.

Dick Williams

Dick Williams - August 16, 2019 at 03:49 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Ted Shafer and the Jelly Roll Jazz Band



Bryan-Braker Funeral Home - August 09, 2019 at 06:10 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Ted Shafer and the Jelly Roll Jazz Band Keep Rolling Along



Bryan-Braker Funeral Home - August 09, 2019 at 06:07 PM