

## Don Blackburn

Feb. 5, 1932, Clyde, Texas.-.April 24, 2009, Perkins, Oklahoma.

Whilst Don had no schooling beyond high school, nor any war service (he was too young for Korea and too old for Viet Nam! LOL) he was self-taught (and brilliant!)



Model airplanes and bass fishing were his two main passions. he was involved with all areas of model aviation (which often bled over into his career choices) - he designed and drafted model airplane kits for DeBoldt Manufacturing in Buffalo, New York during the late 1950's early 1960's (not sure of the dates), and then later when he retired from his insurance agency.

He continued his own side-line business of restoration of antique model engines. He won countless trophies and awards in national and local competitions, but probably was prouder of helping fellow flyers improve their running times by tweaking their engines.

Dad had NEVER flown in a commercial or private airplane - he said it was because of WHAT he knew about flying that kept him on the ground ("it ought not to work"! isn't that a hoot?)

As a fisherman, he followed the competitive circuit for several years and won countless trophies and awards. He even fished professionally one season with Bill Dance, then decided it wasn't for him. He was pure catch-and-release (unless it was big enough to justify mounting and it had to be really really big).

Dad was an avid reader, loved war and mobster movies, and treasured his friends. I don't think he ever met a stranger, and would do anything for anyone if possible. He could fix or build anything, and he loved animals and had a tender heart for them.

I still miss him. very much Mo Wassell (nee Blackburn)