



## MEMBER STORY

*Benjamin A. Schroeder, FRC*

I became a Rosicrucian member because of my dad, who became a member before I was born.

He had his own area of study, in the most odd of places. He took an old Model T Ford frame, mounted an observatory with a telescope to view the stars on this frame with room to study his monographs. Since it had wheels, he could move it around the farm his parents rented.



*At left, the author's father's sanctum vehicle, and at right, his mobile observatory.*

Later after he got married in 1940, he built a home on some land he purchased in Illinois. I think that's when he introduced AMORC to my mother and moved his studies indoors. As a young child, I remember the observatory at home.



*The author's father.*

Ever since I could remember, he would share some of his knowledge with me about AMORC. He and mother joined Nefertiti Lodge in Chicago. Many a time, my brothers and sisters and I would wait in the car during the summer months while they attended the lodge. In later years when I became old enough, my uncle and his wife (members too) and I would drive to the lodge. Then, I was drafted in the Navy in early 1964.

AMORC was good enough to hold and send my monographs to wherever I was assigned. The studies helped me get through being out at sea for three years. It was a lonely period for me, being away from home, being cut off from family and friends for such a long period in Vietnam. I must have read my monographs more than once during this time. My sanctum was my bottom bunk with a drape on the edge to keep out the world around me while I served on the Navy aircraft carrier USS Enterprise.



*The USS Enterprise, shown in 2004.*

After I got married in 1967, I moved to Alameda, California. My wife and I would attend convocations at San Jose Park. This is where I met Ralph Lewis, former Imperator. Today, I am a member of AMORC and started the 12th Degree after a short time of not being a member.

The teachings of AMORC have been a guide all these years.