



# Louise Walden Hunsucker 1996

## LOUISE WALDEN HUNSUCKER

I started going to Carolina Beach as a child with my parents and continued going there into my teenage years when I discovered dancing! In my high school years I spent summers at the beach - I worked at Carolina Beach Drug Store. In the 1940's, there was always someone dancing at the Jump Joints - night or day. We danced at the Ocean Plaza Ballroom and the Roof (later called Bop City), where Jimmy Cavallo's combo played; we also danced at the three Jump Joints and the boardwalk. Some of the female dancers I remember were Clarice Reavis, Marilyn Hodges, Laura Walton, Gloria Hayworth, Nancy Sparks, Joanne Mason, Lois Byrum, Betty Darby and Jean Allen. Some of the male dancers I remember were Bunk Leach, Louis Madden, Bobby and Chicken Hicks, Harry Driver, Tookie Lee, Charlie Boone, Harold Bootie Horn, Snake Holford, Rick Lyman, Lacy Moore, Chick Hedrick, Dube Sapenfield, Zack and Bill Clinard, Turkey Martin, Tinker Kennedy and the Taylor's - Babe Ray, Bum and Bill.

Around 1950, I along with many others, started going to Myrtle Beach. At Myrtle Beach we danced at the Pavillion, Spivey's, the "Rec" and the Marine Room at Ocean Plaza Hotel. When there was a big band playing at the Ocean Forest Hotel open air pavillion, we would show up to dance in our dresses and high heels.

The late 40's and early 50's were a prime time for dancing - beach friends would meet in towns located far and wide - wherever big bands were playing. We would gather to see Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, Gene Krupa, Louis Jordan, Cootie Williams, Erskin Hawkins. We danced anywhere there was a dance floor and music - wish everyone could have been there and have the memories I have!

Billy Ray Hunsucker proposed to me on the beach in front of Spivey's; we were married in 1954 and continued going to Myrtle Beach whenever possible until Billy Ray's death in 1984.

The beach has always been a special part of my life; I now live at Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. I attend as many Shagger's events as possible and hope to continue for a long, long time!