



Bobby Sumersett 1996

BOBBY SUMERSETT

Music and Dancing. It all started back in the mid-forties. It was then that I realized that the beach and dancing was such an important part of my life.

I have been so fortunate to have grown up at the time and experienced the music that was being played by the Big Bands and the beginning of Beach Music. Also to have been so lucky to have been associated (through dancing) with the finest people as my friends.

In the 40's (High School) Joe Thomas, Fred (Boxcar) Thompson, George Griffin and I would hitch hike to Ocean Drive to meet up with Leon Williams, Bobby Rainwater, Ellison Stokes, "Doodle" Munn, Vera Munn, Bert Bennett, Franz Johnson, Pat Davis; All the great dancers that have meant so much to me.

Having been brought up in Charleston, SC, naturally there was Folly Beach -- Those wonderful days and nights on the Pier and Rainbow Corner, the Bowling Alley - oh what girls and the dancers - Harry Hitopoulos, Buddy Kennedy, Charlie Cook, Joyce King, Carolyn Snell, Bob Donehue and Frances Lee - there were so many.

Now the years have turned - Retired and back to the Beach - (Ocean Drive). Here among the greatest people in the world and realizing how lucky we all are to still be able to listen and dance to the Music.

Then, there was the turn in our lives for all of us. Marriage - raising a family - so letting dancing take second place to them. But still always in my life there was still the music.

Now, to be honored to be inducted in the Shaggers Hall of Fame is one of the greatest things that has happened to me. There are no words that I can say as to how much it means to me, and I hope that the Hall of Fame can continue to keep the "Shag" where it should always be and that we can all still hear the Music and dance.

To be invited to dance at the 1996 Olympics was certainly a "Once in a Lifetime" experience which came to me through the Shaggers Hall of Fame.

So thanks to all of you and live the best listening to the Music and Dancing.