



Faye Bradley Altman 1997

FAYE BRADLEY ALTMAN

I was born in Forest City, North Carolina and moved to Gastonia, North Carolina, at age seven, attended the Gastonia city schools, and graduated from high school in 1952.

In the fall of 1953, I met Berkeley B. Altman (a Living Legend and Hall of Famer) at a football game and later married him in 1957. We moved to Charlotte, N.C. in 1960, where we still live. We have two fine sons, Berkeley, Jr. and Scott Bradley.

Music and dancing have been a big part of my life. I learned to jitterbug by watching my older brothers and sisters in the early 40's and learned to shag in 1949 at the Youth Center in Gastonia, I danced with people like Tommy Higgins (an old beach cat) and Don Leonhardt, another good dancer.

We also danced at Robinwood Lake where you might find Stanton Davis, Floyd Rhyne, and others from Gastonia, and maybe "One Lung" and Ed Petty from York, South Carolina.

Joyce Lyons, Jerry Queen and I would go to Myrtle Beach in the early 1950's and I would dance with Little Red Holmes Graham, Sleepy Timmerman and others at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion, Spivey's and the Rec center.

After 1953 when I met my soul mate and lifetime partner, Berkeley, we danced mainly at Cherry Grove Beach at Sonny's Pavilion with Sonny Nixon and Walter Windley.

When the Shag became popular again (after the disco dances, about 20 years ago) Berk and I frequented the clubs such as the Steak and Ale, Groucho's, Boopers and The Legend in Charlotte.

We were always anxious (and still are) to attend all the shag events like S.O.S., Our Time, Golden Oldies, Shag Attack, and events given by the various shag clubs around the Southeast.

In 1993, I was honored to be elected to the Living Legends, and we have enjoyed associating with all our many wonderful friends in the shagging scene. No other group of people are as congenial or as much fun as Shaggers. They are the best!

Rhythm and timing are everything in the shag, and no one loves to shag better than I do. Let's keep the fun in Shagging and keep it alive.