



Bill Young 2000

BILL YOUNG

I started doing the dance we now call the Shag the summer before I entered the ninth grade. My family lived in Greenville, N.C. but my summers were spent at Atlantic Beach, N. C. which was only eighty miles from Greenville. My best buddy and I had started hanging out in the old Atlantic Beach Pavilion. There was this girl from Kinston who liked my friend. She was a really good dancer and set out to teach him how to dance. I picked up the basic step by watching her teach him and soon I was on the dance floor trying to wear out as many pairs of shoes as I could.

I was lucky because I got to be around some good dancers during that summer. I received inspiration from being able to watch Shad Alberty, Fatman Flowers and "Dirty" Bill Boyd. My greatest inspiration was Doug Perry who I met and became friends with the next summer. Doug was very unselfish with his dancing and I think I learned a lot by being around him.

I spent a lot of time dancing during my high school years and a few years after. My summers were spent in the Pavilion at Atlantic Beach and at Hillview in Snow Hill, N. C. During the winter our little gang went to a lot of tobacco warehouses and armories and danced to live bands. I remember dancing to Huey Smith and The Clowns at the old Greenville armory and loving every minute of it.

After the summer of 62, I started dancing less and less. The music was changing and the "old Gang" was starting to go their separate ways. My wife Kay and I got married in 67 and moved to Atlanta, GA. where we started a family. Nobody shagged in Atlanta in those days. Occasionally we danced, on trips home or at parties, but not much.

We moved to Charlotte in 1975. A couple of years later the shag entered our lives again when some friends steered us to Groucho's. I guess it will be a part of our lives from now on. Most of our friends are people we met through dancing. I guess I'm really a lucky guy. I've got this dance I can do to music I love. Plus, we've got the greatest people on the planet Earth to dance and party with.