



Emily McAbee Morgan 2002

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Dancing has been a part of my life for all my wonderful years! It started with the jitterbug when I was ten years old and Helen and Bobby Dias taught me, with great patience, how to go about it. Later, when I was about twelve years old I begged my brother, Billy, to please teach me the basic step to the "Shag". (By the way, he was one of the best dancers around) One afternoon, when I had just about dogged him to death we were in the back yard on the patio and he said okay, here it is, "Step kick, step kick, back step" and that was the beginning of a wonderful shagging career.

At the ripe old age of 13, I went to Myrtle Beach with the Chester Girl's Club because my Mother was one of the chaperones. The "big girls" took me with them everywhere they went including "Spivey's" and the Myrtle Beach Pavilion and that's when the "big boys" like David Smith, Don Edwards, and of course the one and only One-Lung asked me to dance.

In high school I became a member of the same Chester Girl's Club and we continued the tradition of going to the beach. The rocking spots at that time were at O.D. at the "Pad" and "Sonny's" at Cherry Grove. Again I was lucky enough to be asked to dance by Bill Wingate, the Michaels brothers, and Harry Driver, just to name a few. Linda Carol was in the mix at this time and we were practically joined at the hip. She taught me everything she learned and I did the same. She's still one of my favorite-dancing partners! It was in this era that I watched the three musketeers dancing, Frances Hyman, Glenda Johnson, and Footsy (I still don't know her real name). What a treat! They were the best I'd ever seen, and I watched them constantly just to pick up one new step. Frances is still my hero, and would be proud of my induction.

When I got to Limestone College, (an all girl's school at the time), I was lucky enough to rub shoulders with great dancers like Jean Spotts, Stick Kennedy, and Jessamine Dubose. We had a canteen where we went at night for a break from "study hour" and since I'd learned to dance on the boy's foot and lead, I got to dance with all of them. That's also where we traded dance steps and made up new ones.

I've continued dancing these many years after college and shagging is still my favorite pastime! All the wonderful years previous hold such dear and wonderful memories, not only of the dance itself, but also of all the wonderful people I've met and friends I've made along the way!