



Danny Bean 2005

DANNY BEAN

After seeing this dance for the first time around the age of thirteen, it fascinated me. The smoothness and different steps couples were doing made me know I wanted to learn and perfect it.

A good friend and neighbor, Shirley Mitchell, who spent her summer vacations at Carolina Beach, North Carolina, would spend hours in her hallway by my side walking me through the steps (not counting). After finally getting the steps down, it came time to put them to music- "Sixty Minute Man".

Thank God I had nieces (Robin Burton, Tanya and Sandy Summers) whom I would bribe so they would stand and hold my hand while I danced. I began going to different community centers around Greensboro and dancing.

As I entered high school, I had the dance down pat, but there was only one problem, no one except for one person, Linda Scott at Page High School, could do the basic step. We danced at all the school dances and parties. After graduating in the spring of 1964, I made it to Ocean Drive Beach. Boy, what a place, all these people dancing my favorite dance. One in particular comes to mind, Spider Kirkman. Another problem was I could not pivot! Fortunately, we had the Castaways in Greensboro, N.C. There I met a dancer named Bonnie Lashley, who took me under her wing and taught me to pivot. After that, I hit the floor meeting four of my favorite partners, Jo Fran Adkins, Shirley Peeden, Susie Blackwell and Linda Cook.

Linda and I began dancing together, entering contests at Morehead City, Raleigh, Kinston, Charlotte and various other places where they were being held. We won a few and lost a few. Linda and I were lucky because we had two big fans that would watch us and help us work out the kinks. They were Sarah Coleman and Barry Cook.

The "big hurt" came when the Castaways closed and we had nowhere to dance. Eventually, Bill Griffin opened the Hilton Underground (not one of my favorite places), then he opened The Bushes: not only was it a place to dance, but all the good dancers were there from everywhere. I began dancing my favorite dance again and finding out about places to go: SOS and various dance contests migrating back to Ocean Drive.