



Lacy Moore 1985

LACY MOORE

I am originally from Greensboro, NC and a resident of Charlotte since 1946, and started dancing in 1942. I danced in Greensboro at the YWCA on Friday and Saturday nights, High Point Lake, the bowling alley in Burlington, Battleground Lake, Battleground Inn, Twin Oakes, Ritter's Lake and Pop Marshburn's Cafe in MacAdoo Heights.

I was discharged from the Air Force in 1946, and headed straight for the beach. Big George Lineberry got me a job working for David Pope at the old Pavilion. Later I worked for Ocean Beach Service, Ladd's Beach Service as a Life Guard renting umbrellas, rafts and chairs. I told everyone I couldn't swim but Chick Hedrick from High Point and myself would dive from the Casino pier at Ocean Plaza and swim three miles to Ocean Forest Hotel using the old steady overhand stroke. My days consisted of renting a few things, (sleeping when possible) and talking trash with the customers. I also worked at th Ocean Forest Hotel the largest one on the beach at the time. At night we danced at the old pavilion until 11:00, then Spivey's, then Ocean Drive, Barringers in the Pines and finally Whispering Pines Pavilion.

Attire for us was tailor made drapes (trousers), weejuns (no socks), duck tails and hair bleached blond.

I remember a cop named "Sundown" who patrolled the beach with his german shepard. "Sundown" was bad on jitterbugs; he locked them up and shipped them out. They would go home get clean clothes and be back at the beach the next week.

I jitterbugged from the Carolinas to California to New Jersey. I believe that the jitterbug went out when they started the shuffle to rhythm and blues and half timing steps to the fast music. This was approximately 1947. I recall a black dude named Emmezie Caldwell who taught me how to shuffle and boogie walk and other steps. They were slowed down, smoothed out and from that came the "Shag".

Some of the older dancers I remember were the Slayton twins from Greensboro, Tommy Bobbitt, Fargo Wells, J. Van Strickland, Chicken Hicks, Bunk Leach, Paul Bridges, Commie Cain and Eddie Moore. Girl dancers were Louise Smith, Nancy Mangum, Lucy Nance, Fiddle Fadel, Wezzie Rogers, and Betty Kirkpatrick. I used to have to drive to Burlington or High Point to find someone to dance with. Now they are everywhere!! THAT'S GREAT!!!!

I have been a lot of places in North Carolina and South Carolina and noticed a lot of young shaggers and some are really terrific. When I get a chance I like to talk to them about the shag and give them some encouragement. I dance with the young and old. I still enjoy it very much.