



D. B. Evans 1988

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Grew up in Greenville, S.C., graduated from Parker High School in 1946. Married Sara Cash in 1950. Have one daughter, Jan (married to Dr. Terry Willis) and one granddaughter, Julia Lane.

At age 14, I thought I wanted to be a baseball player, but somewhere along the way dancing got the best of me. Bobby Gilstrap and Margaret Ann Ray taught me the basic steps and this opened up a whole new world for me. Dancing at State Park and Teenage Canteen with girls like Betty Dobson, Barbara and Nancy Riddle, Betty Peebles, Stick Trusseel and Nita Guilliard were truly great times.

My heart was broken when my family moved to New Jersey in 1943. Couldn't get my mind off my friends and the good ole' South. I hit the road, came back to Greenville and landed a job at Five Pts. Phcy. Was very fortunate when my good friend, Curt Ward, and his parents became my second family. They gave me a wonderful home and I lived with them until I married Sara.

Myrtle Beach seemed a million miles away until I was in Hartsville playing American League baseball in 1944. Looked up and there it was --- a big sign that read "99 MILES TO MYRTLE BEACH". That did it! Jumped the team bus with Bill Davis, Curt Ward and Thurmond Hudgins. "Thumbed" our way to the beach and the rest is history. Little did I know this would be my home for the next seven summers. Every spring, thereafter, Bud Hunt, Buck Holcombe and I would hit the beach and stay till Labor Day.

Dick Hendley introduced me to "Big George" and he helped get me my first job making change in the Arcade. Many jobs followed including bartending at Club Delmar for Jim Batten; beach patrolling for head lifeguard, Chick Headricks; finally, working my favorite job as lifeguard in front of old Pavilion.

We worked all day and danced all night - one big happy family - we took care of each other; especially Jim Batten and "Rebel" Weeks, who were like big brothers. After work, Dick Webb, Ingram, Greek, Juddy, Bob Black, Calcutt, Lamar and Charlie Johnson, Lacy, Alvin Pearce, Reggie Long, Eddie Brooks, Jack Armstrong, Bill Pittman and all the other beach bums would meet at Tuck & Bill's. From there we went to the "Shack" and danced the night away with the girls; Fiddle, Little Dottie, Betty Kirk, Billie Williams, Colleen, Betty Grier, Lucy Nance and all the other great dancers.

Many tides have come and gone but in my heart I will always cherish that part of my life. Some would give a million for those happy times I had them FREE!