



# Norman Gressette Holliday Jr 1994

## NORMAN GRESSETTE HOLLIDAY, JR.

My first kiss was an indirect result of shagging. I was 12, she 11, and were sitting on the railing of Sonny's, in Cherry Grove Beach, S.C. one afternoon during the summer of 1949. I knew then that I was hooked on this dance forever.

My family and I would spend summers at our house at Cherry Grove and I would make spending money setting pins at the Bowling Alley in the Arcade. After closing, I would walk over to Sonny's and watch them dance, picking it up by mimickery and practicing it when I went home to Marion, S.C. When finally I felt confident enough to venture onto the dance floors a few years later, it would be those of Sonny's Roberts, The Pad, Myrtle Beach Pavilion and Pawley's Pavilion.

After High School, I found that shagging was not really "in" at the Citadel. However, weekends at Art's Oldside on the Isle of Palms and the Folly Beach Pier made life bearable. The U.S. Army took priority for the next few years (1960-1967). Eventually I ended up in Myrtle Beach. Once again shagging jumped into my life. My cousin was learning the dance and he invited me over to meet his instructor.

She was Wanda.

The people that we have met through contests, The Columbia Shag Club, and our teaching play an important role in our lives. The resulting bonds that have been established can neither be counted nor broken.

And for this we are grateful.