



Tommy White 2000

TOMMY WHITE

As with most of us, I began dancing with doors when I was about fourteen years old. I discovered that all girls didn't like dancing, but thank God most of them did. Being from Conway, it only took fifteen or twenty minutes to get to the beach, and of course, I kept the roads hot during 1956 and 1958. We would watch the likes of Bill Wingate and Frances Hyman dance night after night. Some of us would gather at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion until eight or nine at night, then we'd get to Ocean Drive. The Pad or Sonny's any way we could.

Around 1959 or 1960, Mike Asbourne and I became good friends. We spent the next couple of summers making our styles and working up new steps. One of these was the Drop Spin. One night at the Continental Club, I was dancing to close the edge of the floor, when I started a spin and slipped off the floor. I continued the spin and popped back on the dance floor. Mike said how did you do that? The drop spin was born.

During my college years at U.S.C, some of my dancing buddies were Rufus Wactor, Don Bryant, Wanda Holliday, Roger Burris and Mack Windham. Our fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, had some fine dancers who loved it like I did. The mid sixties introduced me to other dancers, including Shad Alberty, Buzz Sawyer, Ronnie Joyce and Carl Smith.

As with many of us family and work took over my life. I lost touch with the beach and the shag.

In the spring of 2000, Buzz Sawyer insisted that I visit him during Shagattack weekend, I discovered many of my friends still remembered me and I met Judy (McDougall) Tucker. She has encouraged me to continue dancing and renewing old friendships I've made over a lifetime.

Thank you Hall of Fame for honoring me for something I love and bringing me back. It's good to be back.