



John E. Barringer 2005

JOHN E. BARRINGER

My parents moved to Myrtle Beach in 1940 because my Dad was assigned to help build Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. I became the fourth member of our family on July 13th, 1942. Three years later my Dad opened a nightclub called "Barringer's". It was the late night spot to drink and dance. Many years later it was renamed "The Continental Lounge".

My attention to "fast dancing", now known as The Shag, really got started when I would go to Spivey's and watch the dancers. Finally in the summer of 1954 I decided to give it a try. I'm so glad I did because I haven't stopped since. After Hurricane Hazel wiped out Spivey's that fall, the Pavilion was the only place I could go dance for the next two years.

After getting my drivers license on my 14th birthday I was ready to go where everyone else was going. My mother would let me borrow her car so I could go to the Pavilion to dance. I didn't tell her which one because sometimes it would be the OD Pavilion, the Pad or Sonny's.

The years 1954 thru 1961 were my growing up years and dancing was my forte. Each summer I looked forward to seeing Shad Alberty, Spider Kirkman, Domer Reeves, Eddie Page, Tommy White, Buzz Sawyer and Cadillac Jack. I wish there was enough room to list everyone that I met during those years.

My best friend, Bruce Harrison, and I joined the Army in September 1961. I returned to Myrtle Beach after my discharge in September 1964. Several months later I decided to move to High Point, N.C. and remained in the Triad Area for the next 33 years. I am the proud father of two wonderful daughters Adriane of Winston-Salem, N.C. and Ashley of Kernersville, N.C.

In 1997 I moved back to the old home place in Myrtle Beach. The following year I moved to Little River, S.C. to be closer to my friends and all the places to dance. I am looking forward to my children and grandchildren visiting.

Over the years the Shag has been named the State Dance of South Carolina, had a book written about it, a movie and a Hall of Fame for Shaggers. I am truly honored that my peers have selected me to be inducted into the Shaggers Hall of Fame. My sincere thanks to the Board and voting members for this.