



# Lorraine Blake 1994

## LORRAINE BLAKE

I just can't believe I have been selected to join the best dancers in the world in the SHAGGERS HALL OF FAME. Although I can't remember not dancing, I really don't recall the year that I started. It was probably before I turned 20 or 21. Dancing is how I met Larry, my husband of 37 years (wheeeew) He and I met at a dance during his army days in Massachusetts in 1958. He said he asked me to dance because "I had some rhythm and could do the "basic", which was what we called the jitterbug at that time.

I even went to the beach back then. Hampton Beach in New Hampshire is nothing like Ocean Drive. There was no Harolds or Ducks to go to and the water temperature was somewhere around 60 degrees in late July and August, but it was the beach. I discovered "the only beach" in 1960 when Larry and I came down to OD for weekends after he got out of the army. Although we took our vacations at OD, we spent the next 20 years raising our 4 children and dancing occasionally. Then Swink brought us all together in 1980 and I met all of Larry's old friends, who are hopefully my friends now. Lila and Doodle, Linda and Lamar, Betty and Wormy, Barbara and Mack, Jean and Sumter, Wanda and Billy, Johnnie Lou and Hank, Margaret and Buck, Brenda and Cliff, Rita and Charles and so many more that I just don't have time to mention, have made this old X-yankee feel like I belong.

I can truthfully say that those first few years of the SOS reunions were some of the most enjoyable and exciting times of my life. I had some catching up to do compared to most of you who were fortunate enough to have been at OD during the "good old days" while I was freezing my butt off in New Hampshire. I have tried to do my part, but LB is fading fast which requires me to be some what forward occasionally. When I hear one of those Sid Pruit "get down specials" I just have to go "find me somebody to dance with", since LB is probably still watching the game or asleep. It also happens sometimes when I get into a "wine drinking contest" with Vera. Hopefully I have not offended anyone in the past and to you Young Dancers, don't forget your elders.

Again, thank you everyone who has supportd me and I really do appreciate this honor that I still can't believe has happened to me.