



## Elizabeth Blair Bet Barrineau 1999

I am so glad that I was a teenager in the fifties because of the relative innocence of our time and because of our wonderful timeless music- shag, beach, and blues. I always loved to dance and learned the basic shag step in 1961 at Columbia College from Alene Smith, who gave lessons in the hall of our dorm! We also had the advantage of being able to watch Sandra (Banks) Bryant and Don Bryant as they danced in the canteen and also Linda Carole (Lynn) Flynn, and Jean (Kemmerlin) Clarke.

1961 was also the year I met and fell in love "at first sight" with Tom Barrineau, a great dancer and student at U.S.C. After we graduated, we were married in 1963 at my home in Blair, SC, a little community near Winnsboro. I taught second grade for three years in Columbia while Tom went to U.S.C. Law School. After that we started our family with the birth of Betsy in 1966, followed by Tommy in 1968, and Ray in 1972. We lived in Winnsboro and settled in for a wonderful life. Our family expanded to include Betsy's husband Michael Hemlepp and their two children Will and Blair; Tanya Burnside who is married to Tommy, and Beth Ann Sexton, soon to be married to Ray. During all of these years, Tom and I shagged at all of the events, including Judges' conferences, because we never learned to do any of the other popular dances!

When our children were older, we got back into shag, and started going to Columbia either to Fanny's Beach Club, Butch's, Beau's, or St. Nick's on a regular weekly basis. In 1982 Tom and I started the Winnsboro Shag Club, which was one of the five charter clubs of the Shag Association. I have been a member of the Columbia Shag Club for many years. Now that Tom has retired and we have moved to Garden City Beach, SC, I am a member and on the board of the South Strand Shag Club.

I am honored to be in the Shaggers Hall of Fame. It is a wonderful group of men and women, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for including me. I will always try to uphold the ideals, reputation, and memories of our organization.

Elizabeth Blair (Bet) Barrineau