



Shelia D. McGarity 2008

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My shagging life has been fairly simple. I started dancing when I was about twelve years old with just a cute little kick step. When I met Ham, I was only fifteen; my interest in learning the shag grew fast. I was crazy about him and he loved to dance, so I figured the best way to hold on to him was to get better. That's what I did, never knowing he would be my husband of forty two years and still counting. The dancing paid off. It has been a fun and exciting life.

Living in Charlotte, N.C. was a Shaggers heaven. Ham and I visited all the clubs. The Cellar, The Box, The Poor House, Grouchos, Papa Docks and Johnny Dollars. Some of our best times were at the Park Center dancing and listening to all the great bands. People from everywhere would be there with different styles and new steps. We would go home and practice for weeks on what we had learned.

In the summer we danced all day and night at Sonny's, The Pad, The Barrel and in later years at Duck's, Fat Harold's and O.D. Pavilion. Larry Lupo and Chip Brantley were always with us. I loved dancing with both of them. Ham introduced me to a lot of great dancers, Buzz Sawyer, Cindy Mangum, Judy Tucker, Kim Maynard, Ronnie Joyce, Richard Abney, Debbie Houston and Pam Bennett. Watching them was a great learning experience.

Ham and I entered only one dance contest in our life when we were about twenty years old. It was at Papa Docks owned by Tom Wicker. Low and behold we won! We took \$50.00 prize money and put a down payment on our first refrigerator.

After dancing and partying our first years of marriage, we decided to take a break, raise a family and get serious about the future. When the kids were grown (about fifteen years later) we walked into Ducks one hot Saturday evening and started all over again. It was like we had never left. There was the same great music, the same great people and the same great dance.

In 2004, I was inducted into the O.D Shagging Legends and in 2007 the great people of Charlotte, N.C. inducted me into the Charlotte Area Shagger's Hall of Fame. What a wonderful time I had.

The beauty of the Shag is no matter how old we get; the fabulous fun is still there and I am so lucky to be part of such a special dance and time. All the people associated with the Shaggers Hall of Fame have been so kind and it is deeply appreciated. I am truly honored to be inducted into The Shaggers Hall of Fame.

Life is full of wonderful surprises!!!!!! THANK YOU VERY MUCH.