



# JERRY KING - 2014

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The summer of '66 I got my first taste of shag dancing and the music everyone danced to at White Lake, NC. I thought this was the greatest thing ever. I wanted to join in but didn't know how to get started. I tried and tried but just couldn't get it. A couple of girls showed me the basic, of course on the girl's foot, but it just didn't work for me. I wouldn't dance much even though I went to every bar just to stand back and watch everyone else having a great time.

Then about '75 or '76, I ran up on a fellow I remembered seeing at White Lake and asked him to help me. That was Ronnie Stone. He got me on the boy's foot and - as they say - the rest is history. I started dancing almost every night at beer joints all over eastern North Carolina. Just like all other dancers from the area I hit all the clubs in Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Wrightsville, Fayetteville, Clinton, Williams Lake, Faison and the list goes on. Finally, made my way back to OD determined to dance with every lady that was down there. Thank you Ronnie for helping me get it right.

Later on I would meet Percy Thornton, another great dancer. I would help Percy teach some of his classes in the Dunn/Lillington area. I thought I was having a good time dancing but Percy reminded me to have fun dancing. Thank you Percy.

As time moved on I met Betty down at OD. Didn't get serious for a couple of years. I saw her again in Rocky Mount and then it struck me that she was the one. We danced together and our styles just seemed to come together. We developed something every dancer wants - to be able to step on the dance floor and leave memories. Thank you Betty.

Now Betty and I are going into the Shagger's Hall of Fame together. That's the only way it should have happened. Thanks to the Hall of Fame board, selection committee and anyone else for giving us the great honor.