



Dottie Turner Driver 1988

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My love for music and dancing began at quite an early age, since I had two older sisters still living at home. They taught me to sing in three part harmony and all of the greatest dances. As I got older my friends and I started going to the Swing-In Canteen where Jimmy Calcutt taught me how to jitterbug and shoot pool (wish he had taught me how to box). He was everybody's friend and one of the best dancers ever to come out of Florence.

Billy Jeffers was the Recreational Director and when the Florence Rec Center was opened everyone started going there to dance, but the most popular place for dancing that has ever been in Florence was the Airport Drive-In. It was the epitome of the rocking 50's drive-in, complete with curb hops that would spin their trays on one finger like a top. The music never stopped and it was always a favorite place to stop when you were on your way to the beach.

Ocean Drive Beach was only an hour drive and my girlfriends and I would leave home dressed for the movie and stop at one of the service stations on the way and change into our jitterbug clothes in the restroom and head for the beach. Our mothers never could understand how we could get so wet with perspiration just going to the movies. Sonny's Pavilion at Cherry Grove was our favorite hangout and of course, "The Pad".

Some of the best dancers that I recall from my hometown were Leon Williams, Craig Blackmon, Wanda and Billy Jeffers, Vera Munn Calcutt, Ellison Stokes and his sister Margie and from my high school class, Jimmie Baxley, Joel Wall, Sandra Tyner, Marcia McLeod, Ann Vaughn and Glenda "Queenie" Breeden.

It was when I was twelve years old that I saw the best dancer that I had or ever have seen. He was dancing with a girl named Millie Edwards from Winston-Salem, N.C. It was at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion and at that time the last thing I could imagine was that I would end up years later married to him. Harry and I have a wonderful daughter, Terri, who is now a student at East Carolina University and we reside in Dunn, N.C., during the week and at Myrtle Beach every weekend.

Thank you for bestowing this honor upon me, I want to share it with all of my buddies from Florence, S.C.