



Robert R. ("Chick") Hedrick 1989

ROBERT R. ("CHICK") HEDRICK

The good times began in 1942. the years of meeting so many fine people and great dancers along the long, long dance road. Dancing at High Point Greensboro lake in 1942 and 1943 then starting on to Carolina Beach in 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947. There I met a "young" Chicken Hicks, Chicken's brother Bobby and room mate Jack "Tubby" Gordon. Other greats; Roy Rudd, Helen Gorman, Shorty Michaels, Harry Oliver, Jack Armstrong, Ruth Alspaugh, Clarice Reavis, Cecil Napier and Lois (Big Red) Byrum.

In 1946 I put up a young 15/16 year old just learning to dance. This young man shows up with no bags, no money and no where to sleep. He stayed 5 to 6 weeks before his mother retrieved him and took him back to Dunn, N.C. In 1947 he was back for good and was on his way to the King of Our Road as we know it to this day and so the legend of H.D. of O.D., Harry Driver lives on and on.

1948 took me to Myrtle Beach as head lifeguard where I worked with Kirk, The Webb, Buck Holcomb, Bud Hunt, D.B. Evans and dozens of other young men. I roomed with Big George Linebery and another legend Bum Taylor. I danced with all time greats Nancy Cook, Louise (Fiddle) Fadel, Betty Kirkpatrick, Dotty Grant and Ruth Alspaugh. Jean Allen Ferguson was too young back then and would sit and watch. Other great times and friends include Dewey Pane, Tuck Taylor, Leon Williams, Lacy Moore, Snooky Crawford, Billy Jeffers, Ira Schmidt, Johnny Raker and Tommy Babbett.

Between 1948, 1949, and 1950 Dick Webb myself and a few boys from the beach would spend the winters in Miami Beach. We roomed in the basement of the Anchor Hotel and that is at least another 100 or so stories.

1951 I moved to Atlanta and opened a club called the Domino Lounge which later became would famous and known as "Chick Hedrick's Domino". After 30 years of running clubs I opened a small shag club in 1983 for the Atlanta Shag Club.

1984 love and lust pulled me from Atlanta to Charleston after meeting Carolyn at SOS - Fall Migration. We are all aware of the SOS influence and yes SOS struck again with Carolyn and myself. But enough of the 80's -----

Thanks to Swink, Beam and friends that stumbled onto this wonderful way of getting old friends, memories, dancers and new friends all back together. I'll speak no more of the 80's as it is history in the making. Some of you will have the honor of writing these years as I have of the old days. Thanks to many of my friends for "Making My Day".