



Lynda Carole Flynn 1991

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I was born and grew up in Chester, South Carolina. I'm glad I lived in a small town because we were all close and had so much fun.

Part of the fun was at the swimming pool. When I was growing up, there was a wooden pavilion with a juke box in it. I liked to watch the teenagers dance. However, the first time I went dancing was at Folly Beach, South Carolina, when I was twelve years old. My grandparents lived in Charleston, and my mother and I were visiting them. A neighborhood boy kept driving by the house, and when he asked me to go dancing, my mother said I could if she and my Grandmother could go too. So the four of us went to Folly Beach that Saturday night. My mother said I looked "fine" dancing, but I don't know.

That fall I started going to the Teenage Canteen. I was rather mature looking for my age, so Mrs. Land (the chaperone) never asked me how old I was. The Canteen is where I really learned to dance. Almost everyone in Chester shagged. In fact, some of the best shaggers were, and still are, Emily McAbee Morgan and Billy McAbee, Nick Mathis, Gene Brantley, Richard Monteith, and Sherrie and Brenda Bumgarner. Of course there were always the Rock Hill boys to dance with, too: Don Yonce, Freck Greene, Connie Baker and Tommy Taylor.

The first time I went to Ocean Drive Beach to dance, I was fourteen years old. I met Terry Traxler that year, and every year after that he would dance with me so that the other guys could see that I could dance. That was the way you had to do it then. Terry was like my homebase. I haven't seen him since 1960.

Emily McAbee graduated from high school before I did and went off to Limestone College. I couldn't wait for the weekends so I could go to Gaffney and dance. There, at Limestone, I met Hall of Famer Betty "Stick" Kennedy Kane, Jessamine Dubose Griffen, Jean Spotts Matthews and many more great dancers. We would go to the Canteen in Gaffney and dance together. Of course, the scheduled dances when the boys came over were the most fun. I guess.

After I graduated from Chester High school I went to Columbia College. I met many of the friends I still have now, which is so special. Sandra Banks and Don Bryant, Betty Blair and Tommy Barrineau, Jean Kemmerlin Clark, Renie Martin Friday, Hall of Famer Rufus Wactor, and Tommy White, to name a few. Knowing that these people still have the love of shagging that I do, creates a special bond between us. I feel that special bond with all of you, too.

I went through the "Dark Days" of the shag with all shaggers. Perhaps we needed that time to marry and have our children. But hallelujah! It came roaring back and we can enjoy it more than ever.

And that is what I intend to do for the rest of my life.