



John Teel 1997

JOHN TEEL

I was born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and moved to Raleigh when I was two years old. In my early teen years, I spent most of my summers working in the concession stand at Pullen Park where they had a juke box and a small dance floor. A lot of the girls could dance and they always seemed to be with guys who could dance. While I didn't know exactly what they were doing, I knew I wanted to do whatever it was that they were doing. So with the help of my sister and standing around watching, I finally learned how.

We also went to the "Y" on Friday nights and danced on a TV show called Teenage Frolics on Saturdays. On Sunday afternoons, we would go to Lake Merle to dance. I thought I really knew how until I met Norfleet Jones, Cecil Squires and Johnny Poole; they really knew how to dance well, and I wanted to learn how to dance like that.

In later teen years, I spent most of my time with friends at the Scramble Dog, which was open almost every night, and there were always a lot of great dancers. We also went to Jim Thornton's in Raleigh, Atlantic Beach and Carolina Beach and it seemed like everywhere I went there was someone like Shad Alberty, Doug Perry or Spider Kennedy, and everyone would clear the floor to watch them dance.

Norfleet Jones introduced me to my wife, Delores (Pee Wee), when I was sixteen and two years later we were married. We have been married for thirty-five years and she is the best thing that could have happened to me. She is my best friend and the mother of our two children, Susan and Ashley.

I have always loved the music and the dance, but the places we have been, the people we have met and the true friends we have made, are to me what the shag is really about. It is a real honor to be able to join my wife and friends in the Shaggers Hall of Fame, and a privilege to be a part of this unique group of people.