



Don Bunn 2001

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I love the SHAG and the people that are involved in shagging. It has been an important part of my life. It is a great honor to me to be elected into the Shaggers Hall Of Fame.

I was born in Goldsboro, NC and lived in Rosewood (just outside Goldsboro) until I left for East Carolina University. Dancing was fun to me! I was a dance partner for a couple of older cousins. Their help and some ballroom instruction comprised my total education in dancing until I was old enough to drive. My high school and college shagging style was very basic. I danced just enough to get by at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base teen club, the Episcopal Church after high school sporting events, Faison NC, Atlantic Beach NC, and other similar places. After finishing ECU, married life and children took me even further from the active shagging life. During that time I lived in Fayetteville NC, Hampton Va., Rocky Mount NC, Wilson NC and New Bern NC. My daughter, Angela, and my son, David, were my main interests.

I left New Bern in 1978 and moved to Greenville, NC. In the condominium complex where I was living I met and became good friends with Charlie Womble. Although he was a very good dancer, this was prior to his real shagging days. But the shagging bug bit Charlie and, once that happened, he was very persistent in getting me involved in the dance. Because of his coaxing and coaching I found myself trying to learn more about the skills involved in shagging and the history of shagging. Judy Bazemore (Eastwood) was also very instrumental in my development as a shagger at this point, giving me pointers and holding my hand while I stumbled around on the dance floor learning to shag.

I entered my first shag contest in 1980 at Gary's in Rocky Mount. The next year I started competing consistently and continued to do so for many years. I owe a special thanks to my wonderful partners for dancing with me. We did well, finishing as high as second place in the National Shag Dance Championship. More importantly, I made many lasting friendships!

In 1981, in Greenville NC, I took Charlie Womble's place as a shag instructor partner with Judy Bazemore (Eastwood). For the most part I have been involved in giving lessons ever since. In 1985, I moved to Fayetteville NC. The next year, Beverly Lewis and I started teaching the shag. I also got involved with the Fayetteville Area Shag Association (FASA) and served as the president of that club in 1988. I was very honored when I was inducted into the Fayetteville Area Shaggers Hall Of Fame in its inaugural year, 1992.

In the early 1990's a company transfer moved me to Raleigh NC. Not long after that I began teaching shag lessons with Madeline May at Reds Beach Music, where we still teach on Monday nights. I also teach at Reds on Tuesday night with Bonnie Rhodes and, from time to time, Debbie Peterson and I do special classes and workshops. I get a great sense of satisfaction seeing someone I have taught get heavily involved in shagging, either through shag club support and participation, shag competition or just social dancing. In Raleigh I also became a member of the Capital Area Shag Club and the Raleigh Shag Club.

Although there are many people to thank, Charlie Womble, Jackie McGee, Judy Bazemore Eastwood, and Mike Pace are certainly the ones that gave me the most encouragement and help during my early shagging days. It would be impossible to mention everyone who has helped me because I was never bashful about asking for help. I do particularly remember help on the basics and the philosophy of the dance from others such as Shag Alberty, John Teel, Norfleet Jones, Charles Gurley, Charles Calcuff, Doug Perry, Bill Young and Eddie Monsour. These people, great dancers with their own unique styles, taught me more than how to do a shag step. They taught me to appreciate the history of the dance and the smooth, fluid look of a dancer who dances with feeling for the music.