



Marilyn Haithcock 2002

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I was born and grew up in the small town of Bennettsville, South Carolina where we were fortunate to have a little club called "The Coachman and Four". It was here that I was introduced to the Shag and it was here that I first saw Donnie Christenbury. Donnie didn't teach me how to dance but he gave me the inspiration to learn. An older good-looking guy who drove a corvette, "seemed" to have money, and he could dance. I watched his footwork intently and would go home and practice with anything I could hold on to. Thank goodness I was on the right foot. It wasn't until 30 years later that I finally got the chance to dance with him and he is still one of my favorites. The Coachman was great, however, some of my fondest memories are our trips to the beach and dancing at Fat Jack's to tunes played on the jukebox.

After graduation from high school, I moved to Columbia, SC in 1966, where I still live. The first person I met was David Adams, who now manages "Loafers" Beach Club. We bonded instantly because he had a record player in his car, which played "45s", and his collection consisted of all my favorites heard at the beach. We've had many great clubs in Columbia such as Wits End, Fanny Teague's, St. Nick's, Butch's Beach Club to name a few. These clubs kept the dance alive. Columbia Shag Club was formed in the kitchen of Fanny's Beach Club in the early '80s. I am proud to say I served as secretary for two years. I also served as secretary of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs and of SOS.

There have been many people who have influenced me over the years but there is one special person who has had a major impact on my life. Through my love of the music and the dance, I met Wanda Holliday who taught me to have fun and the value of friendship. I thank her for all the people she introduced me to and through her I met so many of the friends I have today. She is my sister.

This has been a great year for me. Being inducted into Living Legends and the Hall of Fame in the same year has been such an Honor. I can honestly say it has changed my life. My life and what I am today is because of the Shag. The wonderful times spent at the beach and the great friendships. The realization that I am a part of such a Unique Group of People makes me very proud.