



Candace "Candy" Brooks 2005

CANDACE "CANDY" BROOKS

I was born in Asheboro, N.C. September 21, 1944. I graduated from Asheboro High School in 1962, attended Guilford College, and East Carolina University. I studied Performing Arts since age 5 and studied extensively in New York and Florida after graduation. I began teaching Performing Arts and Shag at age 16 in a neighbors basement. I now own four dance studios. I am certified with Dance Masters of America, and served as President of Carolina Chapter #15, also certified thru Dance Educators of America and licensed with A.S.C.A.P., B.M.I., and S.E.C.A.P.

My first memories of beach music and the Shag were from watching my older sister dance with her friends in our living room when I was around nine. My sister Carol was a great dancer and one of her favorite partners was a skinny guy named Shad Alberty. I would watch them from the door of the kitchen and try to imitate the moves at the kitchen sink or refrigerator door. My cousin Susie was my partner, we got pretty good at the "basic" or "fast dancing" as it was called back then.

As I entered high school and started going to places like Perry's Danceland, the Castaways in Greensboro and the Polo Grill in Winston-Salem, I was hooked on Shag. I couldn't wait until each beach trip to go to the Pad, Myrtle Beach Pavilion, Sonny's Pavilion and the little outdoor dance floor at the hamburger shack at Little River after all the other places were closed. I would have to resole my weejeens after each trip to the beach because of the sand and beer always on the hardwood floors at the favorite spots. But I didn't care.....I was dancing! And Loving It!

I married my high school sweetheart, Jim Brooks, in 1966. Although he didn't dance he still enjoyed the music and the beer, so that was fine!

We started going out again in the 80's to the Bushes in Greensboro and Fat Jack's at the beach. We became friends again with Shad and Brenda Alberty and I started to dance in competitions with Tony Eldreth. Jim and I went to our first SOS with Shad and Brenda. I knew Shag was never going to die after that. Tony and I competed for many years at contests at the Bushes, Fat Jack's Reds, Bostic's, Fat Harold's and Ducks. We danced for the fun of it, and it was a great excuse to have a party and see our friends we had made over the years. We even won many of the contests!

I helped to form the Burlington Shag Club in the 80's and I'm proud to say it is one of the largest and most active. They inducted me into the Burlington Shag Club Hall of Fame in 1992.

Harold Bessent presented me with the logo from the D.J. booth with the Fat Jack's logo on front when he changed the name to Fat Harold's and it was also my 25th anniversary of teaching dance, so that was very special!. It is on our basement party room wall with other Shag memorabilia. My N.C. license plate says "SHAGLADY".

Some of the Shag honors I have received are introductions into the following: Thirsty's Beach Club Wall of Fame in 1998, National Living Legends of Dance in Virginia Beach in 2004, The Sand Flea and Living Legends Association at Fat Harold's Beach Club in 2005.

I have been so fortunate in my life that dance has been my career and my social life. Teaching children performing arts is my career, but Shagging has been my joy socially. The friends I have made over the years since the 50's are still my wonderful friends now! I am proud of being in the company of such great dancers and friends. Shag is a fraternity and Sorority like no other! I hope we all stay the fun loving adults we were as teens.