



Brenda L. Clark 2012

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On April 27, 1944, the small, rural community of Oakhill welcomed a new baby girl, Brenda Kay Ligon. Raised as a young girl in that area positioned between Lancaster and Pageland, SC, I felt so blessed to everyday experience God's beautiful creations by living off the land, seeing all the wonders of His will for my life and being completely and naively happy. However, those days of walking through the woods to the spring to draw buckets of water were soon a thing of the past when our family made the move to Charlotte, NC for dad to pursue his new job as Dock Supervisor at Farmers Dairy. No more chickens, cows, pigs.....no more fresh-laid, warm eggs; no more churned, smooth as silk butter; no more home-made sausage, bacon, cured hams and livermush.....no more trips to the spring.....no more Country GIRL!

Elementary school passed quickly and soon I was a teenager attending Hawthorne Junior High. During those three years I met so many wonderful people and hung out with a group of very special girls and guys who, to this day, are still great friends. Cordellia Swimming Pool was one of our favorite summer hangouts. The dancing that the high school boys did on the mezzanine, next to the juke box, was amazing. One of their favorite dance partners was Maggie Williams, a beautiful high school girl who held a job, as lifeguard. My girl friends and I convinced Maggie to teach us the "basic" step, kick, one-two-three, kick- two- three. Step, kick, one-two-three, kick-two-three; step, kick, one-two-three, kick-two-three with the bed post, door knob and girlfriends almost every day after school. We kept practicing until we got up the nerve to appear on the mezzanine and accept the invitation of the high school boys to "take a spin" on the dance floor. High school days started at the new Garinger High School which was built with a lunchroom that spiraled into "The Pit". Mr. Sanders, the Principal, had a jukebox installed and allowed us to dance during lunch time. The news spread quickly to other schools and soon we had some really good dancing going on there. Other good times were spent dancing at Park Center with Donnie Christenbury, Morris Field' Shad Alberty, and the OD Pavilion and Pad with many of the "beach boys" when "the girls" made our yearly trips to the beach.

During one of those beach trips I met a really cute, blond haired, blue eyed guy at the OD Pavilion. Eddie asked me to dance and, as they say, "the rest is history". We dated, went to his Senior Prom at East Mecklenburg High School and after his graduation, he decided to sign up for four-years in the Air Force instead of attending ECU. When he got home from his tour in Tripoli, Libya, Africa, we started planning our wedding while he was in Hampton, VA and all that paid off when we "tied the knot" on December 28, 1963. We honeymooned in Myrtle Beach during one of the worst snow storms they had had in years. Michael, our first son was born in Hampton, VA in 1965 at Langley Air Base Hospital and our second son, K.C., was born in Charlotte in 1973 at Presbyterian Hospital. We are now blessed with two beautiful daughter-in-laws and five of the most wonderful grandchildren anyone could ever ask for. We purchased our condo in North Myrtle Beach in 1995, and moved in 2000 when Harold Worley hired me as Sales and Marketing Director for the newly formed North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce. We built our home in Tidewater Plantation and Golf Resort to become PERMANENT residents in 2005. Becoming quickly involved in the "shag" community was no problem for us. I served as Secretary of the OD Shag Club for two years, the OD Pavilion Social & Shag Club for two years and am currently a permanent Board member. In 2008 Living Legends and Charlotte Shaggers' Hall of Fame honored me by inducting me into their wonderful organizations. Many of our "shag" friends have died during the past few years and I'm certain that God has prepared a special "Heavenly Pavilion" for them. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there and "taking a spin" on the dance floor.