



# Jean Kemmerlin Clarke 1994

## JEAN KEMMERLIN CLARKE

Being a Methodist Minister's daughter, I lived all over South Carolina, but most of my middle and high school years were spent in Walterboro.

My first encounter with the shag was at 9 years of age when I went to Spivey's Pavilion with my brother who was a student at Wofford. By the end of the evening, I had a pretty good understanding of the basic. I tried to teach it to my brother but, having no rhythm, he could never get it down!

When we moved to Walterboro in the fifties,, most of our summers were spent at Edisto Beach. There we shagged every night at the Pavilion, having a shag contest every Thursday.

During my college years at Columbia College, vacations were spent at Ocean Drive at the Pad and at Sonny's at Cherry Grove. There I saw many of the legends and danced with a few.

Since the revival of the shag, many of my happiest times were spent at the Sand Flea in Greenville, Fanny's and Butch's in Columbia, and at the beach. My brother once told me, "You can't dance your way through life." I guess I showed him!

I am both honored and humbled to be a part of this great group of people. There is something about shagging and being around shaggers that "lights up my life."