

Thomas B. Barrineau Jr. 1993



THOMAS B. BARRINEAU, JR. (The Life Story of an old 1950's Beach Bum - still bumming)

I was born in 1939 and first saw the Shag while hanging around the juke box in the old Lafayette Pavilion at Pawley's Island in the late forties when I was seven years old. I watched Johnny Lou (Wingate) Fulmer, Bill Wingate, Bubba Snow, Hop Hopkins, and many others from Georgetown, Andrews, Sumter, and Columbia dance. Bill and Johnny Lou taught me to dance in the mid-fifties when we all lived in Andrews.

In 1958, I worked at the Soda Shop Drugstore at Pawley's Island with Johnny Mishoe and Fred Wilcox. I worked at Myrtle Beach as a Life Guard for Baker's Beach Service in 1959, '60 and '61. I succeeded Harry Driver on Stand 3 in front of the Boardwalk. We lived in the Placid Annex. "The Pad" was big at that time along with "Sonny's" Pavilion. We did a lot of dancing at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion (outside juke box) because we didn't have cars. We would thumb up to O.D. on weekends and rainy days. Others working at the beach '59 - '61 were: Nick Atria, Sleepy Timmerman, Rick Hubbard, Bob Summers, Don Edwards, Bumps Hammond, Arnie Webb, Bill Wingate, Mack Hill, Larry Blake, Jim Dunn, Worry Smith, Sonny Small, E. G. Robinson, Ken Tomlinson, Doug Gray, Roger Burris, Toby Long, Wilbur Miller, and Domer Reeves, to name a few.

Some of the girls who came down on vacation or worked at the beach were: Linda Terry, Linda Mishoe, Sandra Bryant, Lila Skinner, Sherbie Knight, Frances Hyman, Stick Kennedy, Ginny Bryant, and Bet Barrineau.

I pledged Pi Kappa Phi at U.S.C. in 1959 (The Shag Fraternity) with: Don Bryant, Dickie Terry, Rufus Wactor, Nick Atria, Mack Windham, Roger Burris, Buddy Kennedy, etc., (all of whom are still shagging).

I met my wife, Bet, at the new Pawley's Pavilion in 1961. While at U.S.C., Bet and I hung out in Columbia at the Opus and DAV with: Billy and Jeannie Pack, Carolyn Andrews, Frances Hyman, Jack Nichols, Bill Wingate, Miriam Furtick, Linda Carol Flynn, Dickey and Linda Terry, Jean Clark, Don and Sandra Bryant, and Tommy White.

I married Bet Blair from Blair in 1963. We have three children (all grown), Betsy, Tommy, and Ray, and one grandchild, Will. Bet and I have been shagging together since 1961 and attend all the Shag Attack, Hall of Fame, and S.O.S. functions. We formed the Winnsboro Shag Club in 1982, which is one of the five charter members of the Association of Shag Clubs. I was elected Vice-President of the Shag Club Association the first year it was formed. We have also belonged to the Columbia Shag Club since '82. We rediscovered many old friends from the '50's and '60's and met hundreds of new ones, including Freck and Sylvia Green, Connie and Sylvia Baker, Norman and Wanda Holliday, and others from all over the south-east.

I am a Family Court ("Bluecollar Working") Judge in South Carolina and have served the State in that capacity since 1980.

I grew up with the Old Shag, have always loved it and its people, and will continue to do so as long as I live. I believe in the unique brotherhood of those who have danced the Shag; loved and enjoyed it since the very beginning; and, by the grace of God, still enjoy it. I pledge to protect and promote it forever. I consider it the highest compliment to be elected to and to be associated with the people in the "Hall of Fame". It is one of the highlights of my life.