



Peggy Riddle Burris 1995

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During my teenage years, I first began to imitate the "fast dance" that I saw so many of my friends doing in Greenville, SC. We all lived for the weekends back then, spending Friday and Saturday nights and all day Sunday dancing at Pine Grove and Woods Lake to our "five tunes for a quarter" that the juke box offered.

My friend Helen McMahan Anderson taught me the basic fast dance moves that would eventually be called the shag. Being a platform diver, I was already pretty athletic and could dance for hours without tiring with such buddies as Dennis Sides, Johnny Edwards, Mike "Puppy" Perry and "Beaver" Greenway.

It was during the year 1960 that my parents allowed me to go stay with family friends in Columbia and accompany a young man they knew named Rufus Wactor to a Greek Week party at the University of South Carolina. Little did I know that weekend would change my life.

Rufus and I went to a dance at the Township Auditorium in Columbia. I can't remember the name of the band that was playing or any special songs I heard that night, but I do remember meeting Rufus's college pal Roger Burris. As a matter of fact, when Rufus drove me back to Greenville after that weekend, Roger went with us, and a young romance was born!

Roger and I eventually married and lived in Greenville. We spent much of our free time hanging out with other couples and dancing at the AmVets. My brother owned the Four Winds Club in Greenville, which was the "fast dance place to be" back then. Occasionally we would return to the clubs in North Myrtle Beach where we could dance to those great beach tunes all night long.

Before long, we moved to Charleston, our present home, and our social life gave way to raising Roger, Jr., Robert and Brandi, our three children. It was not until the 1980's that we had the time or the energy to begin dancing again on a regular basis. We taught shag lessons at R.H. Bentleys where our crowd hung out, and we took trips back to Ocean Drive to dance at Fat Harold's and Ducks.

To be inducted into the Shag Hall of Fame is an honor I never dreamed I would achieve. I have always enjoyed dancing and I have grown to love the many, many people who have become my friends through the years.