



Jimmy Dingler 1984

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I was born, reared and went to school in Lenoir, N.C. In 1948 I was the only guy in Lenoir who wore draped pants and had a duck-tail haircut. Consequently, I was pretty much of an outcast. I spent a lot of time in other towns such as Hickory, Statesville, etc. However, in 1950 my lifelong friend, Bradley Pennell, came along and I had someone to share my interests. We spent a lot of time "on the road" going to dances in other towns and up to Brown Mountain Beach; a kind of haven for dance enthusiasts from a four county area.

I started going to Myrtle Beach in 1949. I had several jobs, including Spivey's, Peach's Corner and my longest and favorite duty, Baker's Beach Service. A lot of guys worked for E. O. Baker during these years, including Harry Driver, Bill Davis, David Michael and Irvin Montgomery. Irvin and I also roomed together most of my summers at the beach. Among the places we stayed were Ma Reagen's, "Slick Willies", Blueberry Hill and the third floor of the Tarrymore.

As most other people who worked on the beach, I made \$40.00 per week and we all got paid on Mondays instead of Fridays to ensure we would not quit during the weekend. Forty dollars sure doesn't sound like much now, but with rent \$5.00 a week, and beer .25¢ a can, and friends working in the various sandwich shops, we lived pretty good.

Of course, dancing was our main interest (well, maybe not main). The favorite spots were Spivey's, the rec center, Barringer's, B&L and an occasional trip up to O.D., especially on Sunday nights.

There were so many great dancers, it would be difficult to say who was the best, but certainly at the top were Harry Driver, Eddie Monseur, Nelson Burton, Buddy Kennedy and Charlie Boone. The girls I remember most vividly were Joan Mabry, Betty Mauldin and Weesie Rogers from Charlotte; Jean Allen, Martha Tiebolt, Peggy McCurdy, and Maxine Cannon from Raleigh; Elaine Johnson from Southern Pines; and my all-time favorite lady, Betty Kirkpatrick.

In 1956 I married Dougie Allen from my hometown and even though I kept in touch with a few friends, I pretty much dropped out of the beach scene. But, thanks to Swink Laughter and S.O.S., we are all back together again reliving those wonderful days of Dancin' and Romancin'.