



Jane McAbee Nivens 2001

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I was born in Spartanburg, SC in December of 1938.

As a little girl, I looked forward to spending several weekends during the summer with my aunt and uncle who lived at Crescent Beach. As a teenager I was introduced to the shag dance. I was part of a group of girls that came to the beach in the mid-fifties, on "well-chaperoned" house parties, weeks at a time. We usually stayed at OD and before going out in the evening, we would "practice fast dancing" on the porch of our beach house. You never knew who might ask you to shag and you had to be ready! We made trips to Pawleys Island at least twice a week during our stay. (That was definitely a road trip, since it was quite a distance back then.) I danced with some fantastic shaggers, so it was worth the drive! And of course, the Pad was THE place to go at Ocean Drive! Thinking back on these times, friends like Nancy & Boukedas, Gail Hamby and Donna Culbertson, spent many hours teaching me to shag. I am indeed grateful to them, as well as Curtis Nivens. Curtis and I dated thru high school and he helped me learn new steps like the belly roll, pivot, and boogie walk. During the winter months, we would meet at each other's homes on the weekends and dance the night away. We also went to the Rec Center, a great place to meet friends and dance, the Village Super Club, where we danced to live band music, slow dancing, shag and the ChaCha.

Curtis and I were married in 1960. While living in Athens, GA, expecting our first child, I revisited OD in 1962 and was saddened to realize that the Shag had faded away. A memorable chapter in my life had just closed.

When the shag resurfaced in the seventies, we started going out to Tramps in Greenville, SC. Shag contests were held at Tramps and greats like Shad and Brenda Alberty, Babs and Sam McIntosh, JOJO Putnam, Bill and Kay Young, Mike and Brenda Pace, were some of the shaggers that entered the contests. What a fun way to spend the weekend with all these wonderful shaggers! Curtis and I would travel to Fanny's Beach Club and Butch's whenever we could to party and shag with some of our friends in Columbia, Wanda and Norman Holliday, Sandra and Bon Bryant, Jean Clark, Freck and Sylvia Greene, Billy and Jeannie Pack. Beach Clubs were opening all over the two Carolinas Beach and we would dance in as many contests as we could. Each visit to a beach club meant meeting great dancers, learning new steps, practicing for the contest, etc. No matter where I traveled to dance, I knew I had made lasting friendships, always to be remembered! When Tramps closed, the Sand Flea Beach Club was born! How fortunate we were to have a beach club like this in our city! And thru the Sand Flea Beach Club, Rick Hubbard and Priscilla Culler became my dear friends. Their friendship and the friendships of many more made in my early years of shagging will always be close to my heart. As the years pass, the friendships have grown, and I consider myself an extremely lucky person to be a part of this extraordinary Shagging society!

It is indeed an honor to be inducted into the Shagger's Hall of Fame. Shagging will forever remind me of my teen years, my beach trips, and my love for the dance and priceless friendships. I have experienced many years of pleasure shagging and hope to continue for years to come!