



# Ed Tindell 2003

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It all started in the mid 1030's when my mother took me to see Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers at the movies. I decided then that I wanted to be a tap dancer. The next week I started tap dancing lessons at the Eleanor Fry School of Dancing in Richmond, VA. I took lessons and performed at the Mosque Theater until I went to high school in Alexandria, VA. During my high school years I was an instructor in the dance club at George Washington High School.

Shortly after high school in 1944 I was drafted and spent the next five years in the Army ending up at Fort Bragg, N.C. On my first trip to the U.S.O. in Fayetteville, N.C., I met Clarice Reavis and Carolyn (Caledonia) McMillan. They were the only two girls that could half-time. Jimmy Cavallo had a band that played and we danced somewhere seven days a week. In the spring of 1948 Jimmy brought his band to Ocean Drive and Clarice, Carolyn and I came along to dance at the bowling alley. We made a lot of trips that summer and in April 1949 Jimmy started playing at Bop City at Carolina Beach, near Wilmington, N.C. I was discharged and took a job as bartender at Bop City for the summer. During that summer I met Chicken Hicks and Harry Driver.

Then it was off to school and eventually a return to Fayetteville, N.C. where I married Carolyn and lived. Eddie Monsour and Charlie Boone along with Clarice and Marilyn Smith were the closest friends I had in the dance world for many years. We mostly danced to the music of the big bands at Breece's Landing and went to concerts at the Raleigh Auditorium. Life continued for 41 years dancing locally and the Country Club on Saturday nights until Carolyn died.

Al Cain called me one day and asked me to go to the Fayetteville Area Shag Club for their Hall of fame inductions where he knew many of my dancing friends would be. This was the start of a new life. I saw Melissa Aldredge, whom I had known as a child when she lived down the street from us and played with my children. Then it was back to Ocean Drive with Melissa and her sons, Norman and Tripp, a year of courting and a new wife and dance partner. Eventually we moved to North Myrtle Beach. We have danced from New York to California and Atlanta and met many wonderful people. In 1995, I was honored to be inducted into the Fayetteville Areas Shag Club Hall of Fame and in 1997; I was inducted by Berta Lull into the National Living Legends of Dance in Virginia Beach. Now my cup runneth over as I am being inducted into the Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame.