



Kate Griffin 2007

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I remember vividly the day I learned my first basic. It was on a summer Sunday afternoon when my cousin, Addie Sue Horne, taught me the bop on her grandmother's front porch. Thought I loved the dance and the music instantly, I didn't realize how much that first introduction to dance would play a major part in my life.

Even though Beulaville is a small town, it was a great place to grow up. We always had a grill or hangout with a jukebox where the teenagers danced. One grill, the Coffee Cup, was where I first danced with my future husband and life-long dance partner, Bobby Griffin. There, also, were many good dancers in our small town and we looked forward to the dances after each Friday night ballgame.

In the summer we traveled to Atlantic Beach to dance at the Pavilion, Jolly Knave, and Embers Club. We, also, went to The Rec and Ocean Plaza at Carolina Beach, as well as, White Lake and Williams Lake. One popular dancing spot in Faison was the Produce Market where I was inspired by the good looks and dancing of Inez Johnson, Dawn Faircloth, and Jean Goodrich.

After college, Bobby and I married, moved to Raleigh, and continued to dance. We frequented the Embers Club, Jolly Knave, Cat's Eye, and Red's along with many other places in eastern North Carolina. During this time, we competed in several shag contests at Atlantic Beach, Greenville, Raleigh, and Wilmington, North Carolina and made many good friends along the way.

We moved back to Beulaville after the birth of our daughter, Holly, but continued to dance at the N.C. beaches. In the '80's, our first SOS was a wonderful event as we reunited with all of our old dancing friends and met many new friends. I still look forward to these trips and seeing how the dance has evolved and influences a new generation.

I have always loved the dance, the music, and the total atmosphere. Shag dancing has been a wonderful part of my life and I'm very thankful for that first Sunday afternoon lesson.