



Norman Tripp 2007

NORMAN TRIPP

I was born on August 15, 1940 in Kinston, North Carolina; a small town located about 70 miles west of Atlantic Beach, NC. I was blessed with loving parents, two brothers and two sisters, all claimable, no rejects. I grew up in a typical atmosphere that most small towns had in that era. Roy, Gene, Hopalong and the Long Ranger were my early hero's which later evolved into the Duke and Rhett Butler. I attended school in Kinston from the first through twelfth and it only took fifteen years to accomplish that.

As a teenager I had so many different goals I wanted to achieve, too many to mention because they changed depending on the most recent movie I saw. I really got interested in music in the mid-fifties when Rock-N-Roll was just starting to really become popular. Then a friend of my brother's taught me to shag and from then on it was rhythm and blues. The first time I went to the Pavilion at Atlantic Beach was in 1958 during our high school junior senior week-end when all the kids from most of the surrounding towns would meet at the beach. During the summer months, it was nothing to see me on Hwy. 70 thumbing to the beach late every Friday afternoon and I was quite recognizable with my little blue and white Pan Am carry on bag, with two pairs of black denim pants, two madras shirts rolled up tightly (to keep the wrinkles out) placed neatly inside along with a couple of packs of teaberry gum, Aqua Velva after shave and a comb, I was set for the week-end. You know, it did not matter how late I started out, I never failed to get down to the beach in time to have a heck of a good time each time I went dancing at the beach.

I can't remember all the places shagging has taken me in my life but the one I cherish most is the path that lead me to my wife, Frances, we were married in July of 1963 for which I still thank God for everyday. We moved from Kinston to Rocky Mount, NC and I worked with United Parcel Service and retired after 32 years of service. I also retired from the National Guard with 22 years of service. Other than working at our jobs, we practically spent as much time at clubs and parties dancing as we spent at home, except for sleeping. We always had places to go dancing whether it was Atlantic Beach, Raleigh, Faison, Fayetteville, Wilson, Ocean Drive, Virginia Beach, Kinston, Greenville or New Bern.

The people I have met over the last 50 plus years and the lasting friendships I made are some of my most beautiful treasures in my life. I cherish these friends and memories and have often shared them with our daughter Anissa "she can also shag". I also have the prettiest granddaughter Abigail, and a fine son-in-law. My wife and I have been together all this time except for the seven months I spent in the Persian Gulf War in 1991. Our blessings have far exceeded anything we could have imagined and for that I am truly thankful.