



John "Snookie" Crawford 1988

JOHN "SNOOKIE" CRAWFORD

I was born in Greensboro, N.C. and grew up in Hartsville, S.C. My sister Jean, and a good strong door knob taught me how to dance when I was 12 years old. At age 13 I was enrolled in Carlisle Military School along with my good buddies Craig Blackman, Bud Baldwin, Sumter, S.C. and "White Rat" Melton, Cheraw, S.C.

I first came to Ocean Drive in the summer of 1948. I fell in love with it and stayed most of the summer doing odd jobs at Robert's Pavilion, the bowling alley, the arcade and Harley Joe's Pronto Puppy stand and ever so often I did some work on Merlin Bellamy's city LIMO.

During this time I got to watch some of the greats dance - Leon Williams, (my idol), Jimmy Calcutt, Buddy Kennedy, Lamar Johnson, Doodle Munn, and his sister Vera, Boxcar Thompson, Norma Sweat, Bobby Hodge, Sleepy Timmons, Paulene Parks, and all the girls from Florence, Darlington and Hartsville.

I left the beach in August, 1950 and went into the Air Force where I stayed for four years. I was discharged from the Air Force in August, 1954. I met Deborah Morgan that summer and we dated for the next 2 years while I attended Clemson University. Deborah and I married in June, 1956 and I transferred to USC in Columbia, Deb had a job with Delta Air Lines and the money sure did come in handy. I hung my britches on Deb's bed post and by the time I could get them down we had 4 beautiful children. Jeannie, Bill, John and Julia. Jeannie and Bill are married and have given us three marvelous grandchildren.

Dancing was lost in the raising of a family until September, 1980 ---- SOS. Now it is once again a part of our life, THANKS GUYS!!!!!!

Once we educated our children, Deb and I decided to move to North Myrtle Beach. This is where we make our home now.

I want to thank everyone involved with the Hall of Fame, it is quite an honor to be included with the GREATS OF THE FAST DANCE.