



Nelson Burton 1983

NELSON BURTON

My dancing career began at age 6, when my Mother enrolled me in a ballroom dancing class. At age 12, I was teaching at Mrs. Belcher's School of Dance in Wilmington, NC. During this time I attended many of the "Big Band" concerts at the Lumnia at Wrightsville Beach. In 1947 I met the late, Roy Rudd who took me to Carolina Beach to hear Jimmy Cavallo at Bop City. From then on, for me, it was "Fast Dancing" at the USO in Wilmington with a lot of help from Carolyn Cagle, Big Winnie, and Helen Croom. In this same time frame Boogie Horn, Eddie Riffkin and Mike Plumidies had a big influence on my dancing at the Fabled Shuney's at Wrightsville Beach, NC.

I then moved on the Carolina Beach where I met and emulated such greats as Harry Driver, Sleepy Timmerman, Chicken Hicks, the terrific Bunk Leach, Charlie Boone, Jean Allen Ferguson, Marilyn Hodge, and the incomparable Clarice Reavis.

I later attended Campbell College with Harry Driver and Bo McEachern, or maybe I should say we were in attendance at Grey's the in spot to dance in Dunn, NC. In 1951 made the move to Myrtle Beach and became part of the FAMOUS or IMFAMOUS "Blue Berry Hill Gang", Craig Blackmon, Clayton McManaway, Eddie Monseur, Irvin "Creep" Montgomery, Jimmy Dingler, Jean Allen, Lacy Moore and many more. Then it was on to the University of North Carolina with Eddie Monseur and Dennis Beam where I met a great young dancer "Little" Larry Blake. Summers and weekends during this time were spent at Myrtle Beach and Sprivey's.

In 1955 I met and married the light of my life Bobbi. Through her help and inspiration received a BA from UNC, Masters in Business from University of Kansas, and a Juris Doctor from Georgia. Entered the Army as a private and retired in 1976 as a Colonel. Bobbi and I have 6 children and 6 Grandchildren and presently reside at Wrightsville Beach, NC. I am presently in Financial Services with 6 offices in NC and Maryland with our main office at 5605 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC.

I am greatly honored to have been inducted into the Hall Of Fame and wish to thank Rick Hubbard for starting this great tradition, and the influence it has had on the revival of "THE SHAG".