



James Samuel McIntosh 2001

JAMES SAMUEL McINTOSH, JR.

I was born James Samuel McIntosh, Jr., in Rockingham, North Carolina on March 27, 1944, the eldest of three sons of Ellen and "Red" McIntosh. I first saw "fast dancing" when I was 7 or 8 at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion while on a family vacation. By the time I was 12, I picked up the 'basic' and was allowed to hang around the older guys, simply because "Wormy" Dabbs took me under his wing. By age 16, I spent a lot of time at Sonny' S Pavilion, the O.D. Pavilion, The Pad, The Forks and the 'roof' of the James Rogers' Drive-In. I watched the great dancers, dancing only when they were not around... During college, at Pembroke University, I was exposed to many of the entertainers of that period while working at The Coachman and Four. Soon thereafter, Vietnam and a family took me away from the dance for a number of years. Fortunately, those years brought me two beautiful daughters, Heather and Allison.

I began competing in contests during the late 70's and much of the 80's. As Joe Putnam can attest to, I was not exactly the most confident, cool or collected dancer to step in front of a crowd. Fat Jack's, Harold's, Fat Boy's, The Bushes, Sand Flea, Groucho's, Red's, Mint Julep's, St. Nick's, O.D. North, Elliott's Nest, Fanny's, Bogie's, Bostic's, Cecil Corbitt's Beach Club were the clubs where we kept the dance alive. As a result of this traveling caravan of dancers... the friendships I made were priceless and everlasting.

The couple that had the most influence on me as a dancer was Brenda and Shad Alberty. Others that contributed to my love and appreciation for the dance were.. Chicken Hicks, Buzz Sawyer, Jo Jo Putnam, 'Cadillac' Jack, Doug Perry, Spider Kirkman, Newell Harley, Billy Wingate, Jimmy Dingler; the ladies... Sandra Schwartz, Glenda Johnson, Linda McCaskill, Babs, Pee Wee, Judy McDougal, Judy Duke... just to name a precious few. Charles "Sleepy" Gurley has instilled in me the HEARTBEAT of the music. Milton and the boys at the 'nest', along with Cathy Jane (our angel) have given me laughter and precious moments that keep me "true" to the dance and our music. But most of all, my dance partner, Moncille was my encouragement to return to where and what I love the most.

Shagging has been a blessing to me. It has made my life richer and fuller. Being inducted into the Beach Shagger's Hall of Fame is both an honor and source of tremendous pride.