



John Breeden 2011

JOHN BREEDEN

I was born and raised in Columbia, S.C. I graduated from Dreher High School and received a BA degree and a JD degree from the University of South Carolina. I married the love of my life, Sylvia Floyd, from Loris, S.C. in 1968. We have two wonderful children, Jessica Breeden Palmer and John L. Breeden III, and four beautiful grandchildren, Sarah Elizabeth Palmer, Will Palmer, Scarlet Finley Breeden and Luke Breeden.

I can remember watching people "Fast Dance" at James Rogers place and Jr. Ray's place in McColl, S.C. at about 14 years old and being mesmerized by that dance. It was about this age that I fell in love with R&B music, by listening to Bobby Blue Bland, Jimmy Reed, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Ruth Brown, LaVern Baker and others on WLAC in Nashville and their DJ's Hoss Man and John R. My love of this music has been constant since then.

After spending parts of every summer of my life at Pawley's Island, I went to college and discovered Ocean Drive in 1961....I was hooked! I worked on the beach as a short order cook, life guarded for Vernen Pinner in Myrtle Beach, rented rods and reels and sold bait on 2nd Avenue pier.

During the early 60's to 1966, I spent every summer at the beach and that's when I met Sylvia, my future wife, who was working at Hoskins Restaurant. I spent every night in O.D. at Sonny's, the Pad, the Forks and Jimmy Hardwick's place on Hwy 17.

At that time my "heroes" of Fast Dancing were Mike Osborne, Roger "Spider" Kirkman, Tommy White, Jimmy Mills, Doug Perry, Donnie Christenbury and Ronnie Joyce, to name a few. This was during the "transition" period from draped "tailor-mades" to Ivy League, preppy look, with Gant shirts, Corbin slacks, scotch grain tassel loafers, cardigan sweaters (the uniform). I made hundreds of friends during this time that are still my closest friends. All of us were drawn together by a love of the beach, but the common denominator was "the dance".

I never was much for contest dancing, and my first and last dance contest was with Sandra Schwartz about 1975 or so at a club in Myrtle Beach we all know as 2001. We finished 4th and won a Hi-Fi stereo! This was just before the weekly contest days at Fat Jacks where I was always a Judge. I saw many young dancers begin their own legacies in these early contests and truthfully, most of what I learned was through "osmosis" by watching the truly great dancers.

I have been privileged to have judged many dance contests since 1975 and the true friends I have made as a result have been too many to count. I don't need to tell you that there is a special bond among the dance crowd. I am proud to be a part of this group, and particularly honored and privileged to be included in the "Shaggers Hall of Fame". Shagging is not my life!...but I'm proud to say it has been and still is an important part of it!