



Walter Henry Graves

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I was born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1943 and moved to Hickory, North Carolina in 1956. My family brought their first beach house in 1958 in the Cherry Grove section of North Myrtle Beach. We came to the beach the first of June that year for one week and ended up staying all summer. That is when I learned to “fast dance”. I met the fat brothers from Bennettsville, South Carolina that summer and they let me “hang” with them and they taught me how to dance.

They had two philosophies which they taught me. Be smooth and dance with the music. This has stayed with me ever since. They told me if I wanted to learn any steps other than the basic to watch the good dancers like Harry Driver, Charlie Boone, Newell Harley and so many others. From then on, it was fairly easy and I spent the next three years going from The Pad to Sonny’s and sometime The Forks, if I knew I could get a ride home.

Dancing has always been a big part of my life and because of the shag; I have met many people and made many good friends.