



Edna Warden Sessoms

SHAGGERS HALL OF FAME
(Posthumous)

EDNA WARDEN SESSOMS

Edna Warden Sessoms, known as “Big Edna,” is of special interest to anyone who wants to know when the Jitterbug became the Shag.

In the late forties, over the beach resorts of North and South Carolina, the “beach-bums” injected into the whirling steps of the Jitterbug a “pause.” This pause was created by the male partner drawing the female toward him, and they would do a couple of belly to belly steps. Later there was a gap between the two people, and now “innovation” became the name of the game. The frenetic Jitterbug was slowed down to something that everyone could do.

“Big Edna’s” role in this occurred at Myrtle Beach where she was one of the most popular girls. She had a big smile and a ready laugh. She was every boy’s favorite dance partner, taking the risqué aspect away from the belly dance and dancing a style that everyone was soon dancing.

“Big Edna,” in addition to being a “dancing fool,” was a beach lover. It was ironic that she died in a car wreck on her way to the beach.