



Jean Bryland - 2017

JEAN LAND HALL UTLEY BRYLAND

From the beginning, dancing and my love of music have been in my genes. My mother, Margaret, loved listening to radio music and dancing, so it was only natural that dancing became a big part of my life. Mother was a good dancer, and my father was a fabulous dancer. My younger brother, Robert Land, and I caught the dance fever – even if it was at home in front of a full length mirror. Lucky for us we grew up in Chadbourn, North Carolina, 47 miles from Sonny's in Cherry Grove. My best friend, Harriet Koonce, and I got smart (so our parents would let us go to the beach) and got Robert to drive us to Sonny's so we could dance with him and Harriet's younger brother.

One of the most memorable nights was the night Robert was introduced to a public place. The Pad. He and I were the only couple on the floor and he did this marvelous spin, kicked over the trash can and beer cans flew all over the floor. So that was Robert's public debut.

My love for beach music and dance has continued as my personal and professional life has taken me to Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Chapel Hill, Greenville, Durham and Raleigh. Along the coast and all across the state, I have collected many wonderful friends through dancing. I have often been accused of persuading, encouraging and literally dragging anyone and everyone to the dance floor. For me, music and dancing have always been a great way to relax, meet new friends, and be invigorated (while at the same time getting great exercise). Music and dancing are uplifting and bring people together. I have talked dance, taught dance and lived it every day. For me, dance has always been a form of self-expression, whether it be shagging, two-stepping, waltzing, or any other dance. I always love to put on my favorite blouse, slacks, dancing shoes and going to my favorite place to hear great music, dance and socialize with my friends.