



Betty Lou Hickey Parrott 1987

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My love for dancing began as a little girl. My older sister, Edna, would dance at the Pavilion at Myrtle Beach. I would sit for hours, hoping my future brother-in-law would ask me to dance. The dance was called "Shagging" but was more like the "Lindy."

My love for dancing grew the first time I did the Big Apple, which included "shining" and "trucking." After the Big Apple came the "Little Apple" and the "Jitterbug" which was different in that the boy would throw the girl over his shoulder (Leon Williams specially), hold her over his head with her feet straight up, and then bring her parallel to the floor between his legs, without missing a beat. During this time a live band (usually college students) would have free concerts during the day and a dance a night. These were held at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion. Dot Bradford and Bum Taylor could do it all --- they were the best!

The summer I graduated from Florence High School, Margaret Lunn and I worked at the Yacht Club at the beach. We had lots of time for dancing with Buck Holcombe, Bud Hunt, Spider Webb, Dick Henley, Paul Turner, Billy Jeffers, and all the other good dancers. We would dance at the Pavilion and then move on down to Spiveys.

During my college years at Limestone, all my extra time was spent dancing at the canteen with Johnny Cureton, Neil Hamrick, Billy Jolley, Ed Ford Byers, Dick Williams, Mack Ward, and Rut Jackson.

Florence had an Air Base which enabled me to meet boys from all over the country and I learned the Lindy and also danced the "Jitterbug" with them.

I fell in love and married Gene Parrott and for the next twenty years did not dance. Our time was spent with our two children Connie and Chip; these years were very special.

After the children were grown, I heard Charles and Ann Calcutt, who had taken lessons from Shad Alberty, were giving shag lessons. Gene learned to shag and the good times began again. It has meant so much to us seeing old friends and meeting so many new ones but the biggest highlight of all was being voted into the Shaggers Hall of Fame.