



# Clayton McManaway 1994

## CLAYTON MCMANAWAY

Memories of Myrtle Beach! Where to start; more importantly, how to stop? One page? Impossible! My memories about Myrtle Beach are about people. Friendship, unquestioned acceptance, love, affection, loyalty; and the most carefree and happiest time of my life. And dancing, of course. I doubt that I, or anyone who really understands, can do justice to our memories of Myrtle Beach on one page. Someone should write a book.

Earliest memory of Myrtle Beach: trying to see between the legs of adults who were watching people dancing on a floor covered with sawdust; under ten years old, but feeling a strong desire to be a part of "it".

Beginning to find out what "it" was all about the summer of 1948, my first of six full summers on Myrtle Beach; working as a life guard (!), short order cook, soda jerk, carnny (with "Creeper" Montgomery), co-manager of a drive-in restaurant, furniture salesman, and anything that would allow me to stay on the beach.

Another early memory: Harry Driver dancing with Lacy Moore (Harry was leading); realizing how much work lay ahead to come close to such grace in motion; winters of practice, practice, practice, dancing with door knobs, practicing at Patsy Ebener's home in Greenville. From that point the memories flow non-stop:

- Hitch-hiking, among many other things, with Hewer Richardson, Bill Pittman, Ralph Kelly and many others; the 8th Avenue Grill, Janet Lawrence keeping us all alive; Nat King Cole, Red Sails in The Sunset, They Say We're Too Young to be in Love; Earl Bostic; Stan Kenton at Birdland, my last ten \$ for a shirt;
- Spivey's and "taking the floor"; mellow Sundays, smooth dancing;
- Making unsuccessful moves on Betty Lou, Joan Mabry, "Wheezie" Rogers, Millie and her Thunderbird; "Weasal" Hill;
- Jean Allen, Betty Kirk and her red car to Charlotte/the Ingrams;
- The ease of Buck Holcombe and Hewer Richardson getting dates just walking the beach; D.B. Evans, Kirk Ward; Harry Driver and Bill Davis in a 6AM losing battle with a giant sunflower; Ma Baggett's watermelon with gin, cold outside showers; setting up umbrellas and chairs at 6AM; land breezes and flies; walking the beach collecting floats; sun burn; praying for rain;
- Bud Hunt's jokes; parties at Leon William's home; White Lake' dances in Charlotte; visits to Raleigh; dances at Carolina, Martha the "thoroughbred"; dances at Clemson; Jean and Joan;
- On the floor listening to Charlie Parker with Harry Driver while Eddie Monsour moaned and contemplated suicide over Kathryn;
- Buddy Kennedy considering turning pro; Jo McEachern's smile;
- Blueberry Hill, Richard Smart, Pitt, Boney Moore, Shorty Crook, Sam Schoenly, Bo McEachern, innocent coed group sleeping, sharing;
- Introducing an incredulous Leaky Thornton to everyone;
- BR organizing, amusing Burt.; Ronnie Treadway; David Michaels;
- Bobby Lattimore's suntan; Big Burt and his '39 Packard/Miami;
- Sunrise with a lover from the top of the Pavilion; Heaven on Earth . . . .