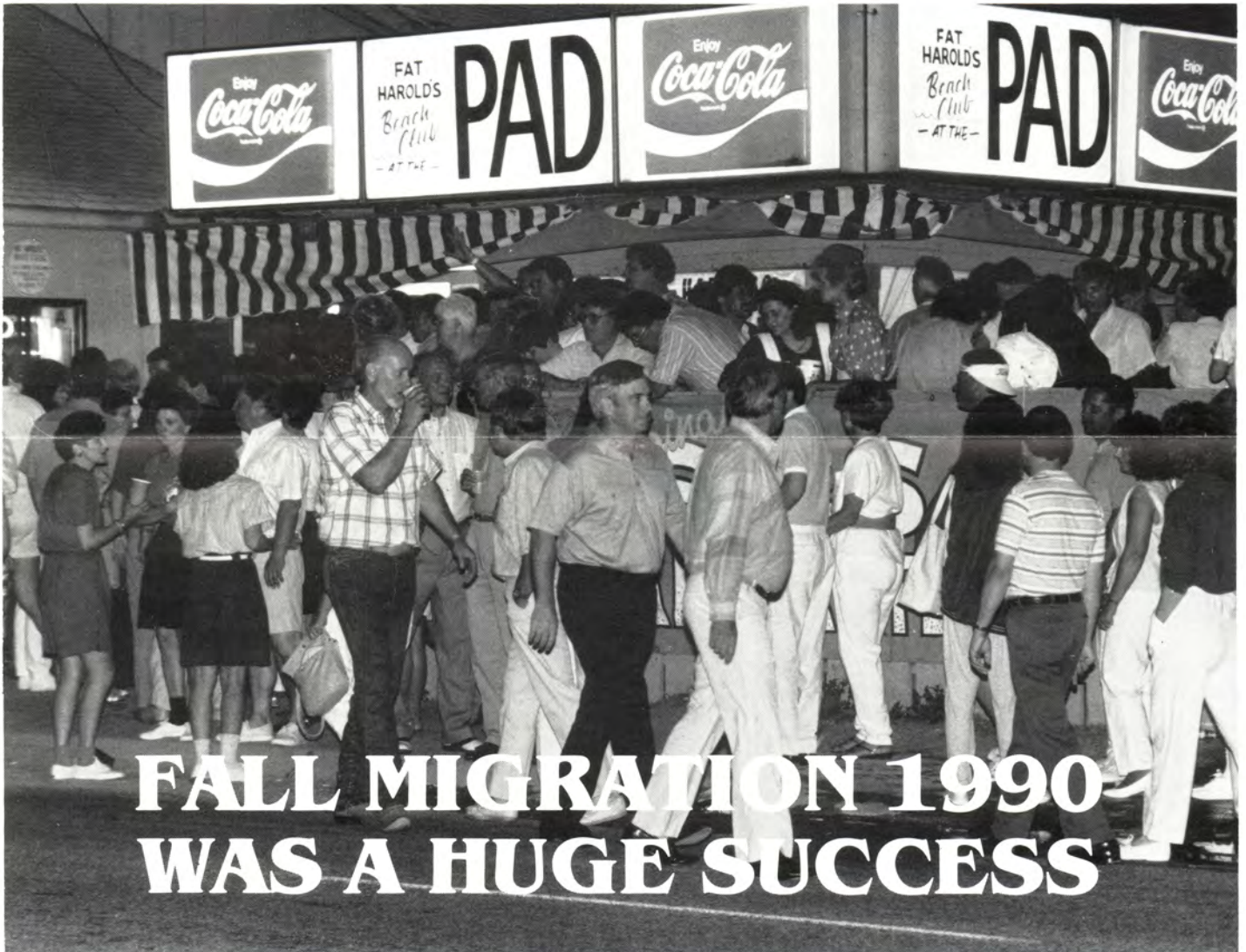


S.O.S.[®] Carefree Times

WINTER ISSUE



**FALL MIGRATION 1990
WAS A HUGE SUCCESS**

**8,437 Shaggers
Can't Be Wrong!**

One Guy's Reflection On A Simpler Time

by Sumner Waite

Before people who lived outside the two Carolinas began to hear about our sea coast—sleepy, rustic hamlets like Ocean Drive were known to a select few. These “few” flocked by the thousands to the beaches every summer to hear forbidden music and create a dance art form called the shag.

Like many of us, I have relatives living all over South Carolina and North Carolina. One of my favorite aunts lived in Florence. She and her husband owned the Ford place in Timmonsville for a time. In 1939, they bought a beachfront lot at Ocean Drive and built a cottage which sleeps more than two families—for \$9,000. The cottage stands today at the same spot. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel slammed the Fran-Ma-Ray hard and she was rebuilt. Thirty-five years later, Hurricane Hugo swatted her some but did only minor damage.



Fran-Ma-Ray cottage at Ocean Drive seen from life-guard stand...full dunes, July 1953.

In the 50s, most of the roads at “O.D.” were unpaved. Car owners endured potholes and “washboards” for many summers. The exception was Main Street from Highway 17 to Roberts Pavilion on the Square. Paved. People never had much trouble finding a paved parking place when going to Hoskins Restaurant on Main Street.

The 50s produced many great dancers. One of them was Jean Allen-Ferguson. She had a unique high-step style and was in great demand. She had imitators but none so diligent as a girl we called “Spook.” Quiet and observant, she loved to dress in pastel colors and wear peddle pushers. “Spook” had Jean’s high-step style down cold—the sincerest form of flattery. And soon two of the best male dancers, Dennis Beam and Larry Blake, took notice. One day they decided to give the tourists an eyeful. We were constantly panhandling the tourists for money to feed the jukebox. That afternoon, Dennis put a colorful kerchief around his head and Larry took the male lead. They gave an eye-popping show featuring Spook’s high-step style and a singular example of the then-called “dirty shag.” The tourists shelled out the cash and went away mumbling at what they had seen. Spook got wind of the incident and fortunately there were no hard feelings.

One of the subtle differences between who was “in” and who was “out” were the clothes people wore. Pants

called “Tailor-Mades” were very much sought after. Lem Harper’s clothing store in Columbia outfitted countless guys throughout the Carolinas. The style variations were many, from tunnel loops, to up-side-down pockets, to welt seams, to whatever. The purchase terms were \$2.00 per week. And my first, and only, pair cost \$35.00. A fortune then. Recently, Frank Williams, a Columbia native now living in Florida, gave away some 30 pairs of his Tailor-Mades!

Seldom would you meet anyone from Charlotte at “O.D.” who was not a good dancer. And Dolo Henson was no exception. Short and cute with a bubbling personality, she quickly caught the eye of many good dancers. She worked at W.B.T. in Charlotte. When you dialed a certain extension you got the cheery phrase, “production, Dolo!”

Among the more notable dancers on the beach during the early 50s was Clayton McManaway. He and Jean Allen-Ferguson danced a lot together. Not much is known about his whereabouts. But not too long ago someone said he had a career in the diplomatic corps.

Some have called the 50s a decade people slept through and nothing much happened. When inflation was a word you looked up in the dictionary; and trade deficits were non-existent. Perhaps President Eisenhower’s leadership made it possible for many of us to help create the basis for what we know today as S.O.S., a tradition from Spring Safari to Fall Migration. Alleluia!

About the Author: A native of South Carolina, Sumner Waite now lives in Atlanta and is an active member of SHAGAtlanta. He has been at S.O.S. since the beginning.



Bathing Beauties, O.D. Style, July 1953. From left Tunky Yarborough and Sarah Ellen Stone from Florence, SC. Tunky later married a Riley named Dick who offered for and was elected to high public office in South Carolina.



At Crescent Beach life-guard stand are Tom Lilly and Frances Hyman, July 1953.

S.O.S. T-Shirts, Golf Shirts Available

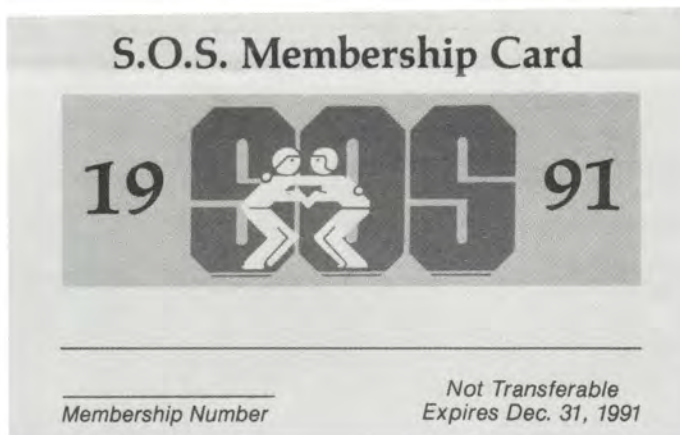
We have great news for collectors and lovers of S.O.S. and Shag T-Shirts and Golf Shirts. Toucan Screen Printing, official shirt supplier for 1990 S.O.S. has a limited number of shirts from the 1990 events. The best thing is how easy it is to get one. Just give Dick Blackburn a call at (803) 272-4066 and he'll have one in the next day's mail. These shirts are of the highest quality and the price is quite reasonable. There are fewer than four dozen left, so as the TV ad says, "don't delay—call today."



Some S.O.S.'ers enjoyed a little sun and suds amid all the fast dancing!

1991 S.O.S. Memberships \$25 When Bought At The Beach

Beginning in 1991, all S.O.S. memberships bought at the beach will be \$25. This will include participating clubs and the S.O.S. headquarters. Membership in advance through the mail will continue to be \$20. This policy was approved by the Board of Directors and is consistent with the usual arrangement for entertain-



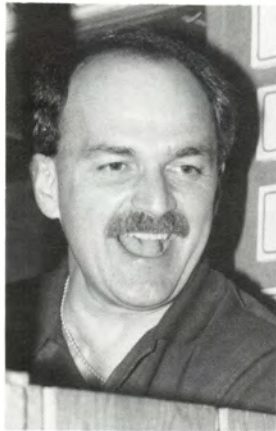
ment events to offer advance ticket sales at a reduced price. It will also offset the additional expenses connected with on the spot sales at the beach. This does not represent an increase in the cost of S.O.S. memberships as the base fee for membership remains at \$20.

S.O.S. Carefree Times

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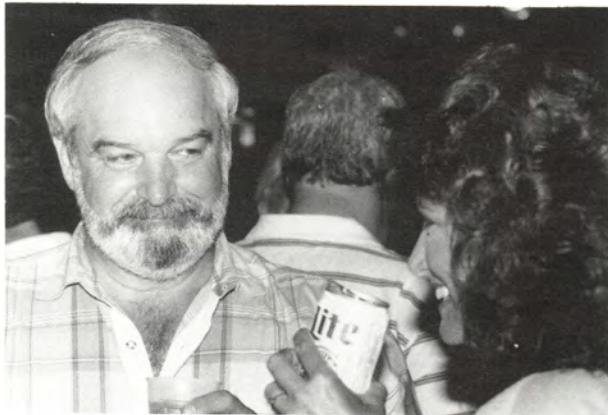
ATTENTION S.O.S. MEMBERS FROM THE 40s AND 50s

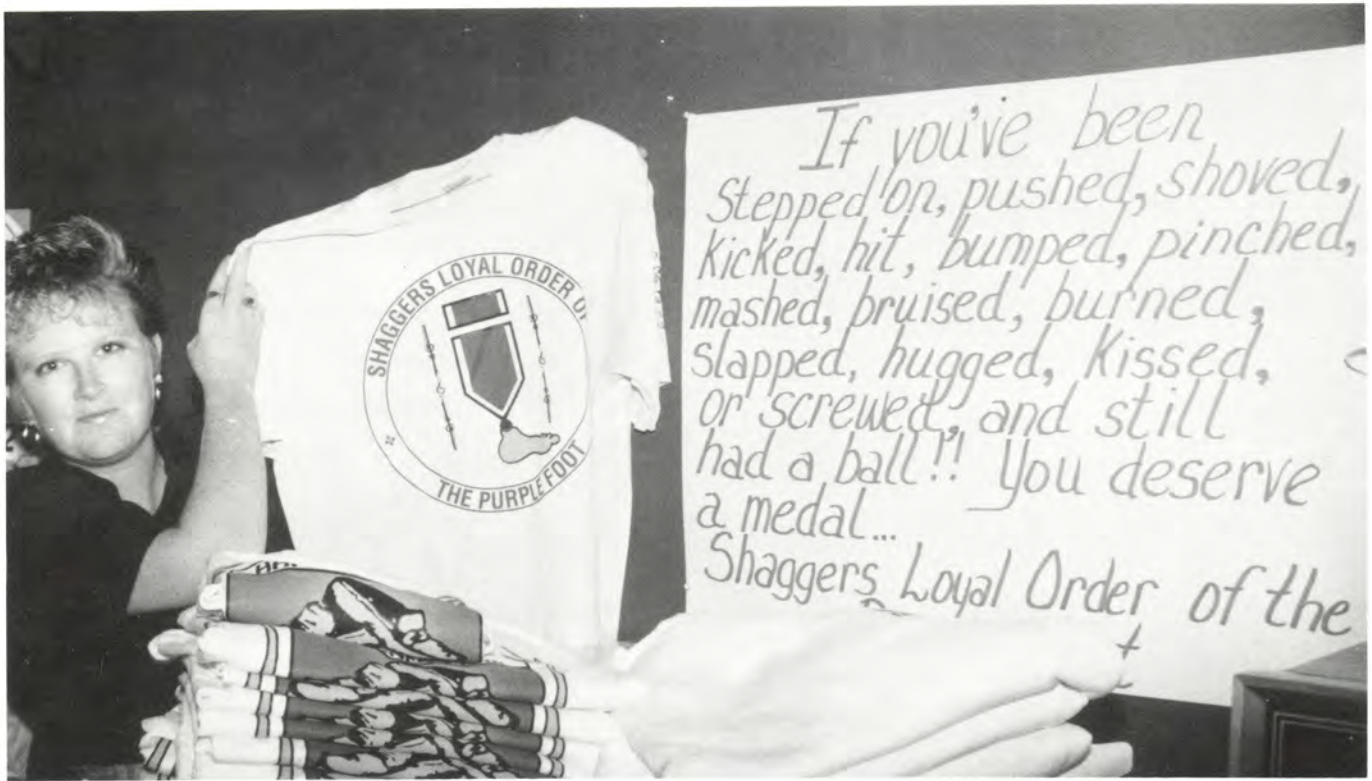
Carefree Times is looking for stories, anecdotes, quips, vignettes, and pictures, especially pictures from the original days of shagging on the beach. Call Phil Sawyer, (803) 782-7582 and tell me what you have.



The Bass Man.

Is this a lusting dirty old man or what? (Naaw! It's Bob Wood, President of the Association of Shag Clubs.)





Shaggers Loyal Order of The Purple Foot.

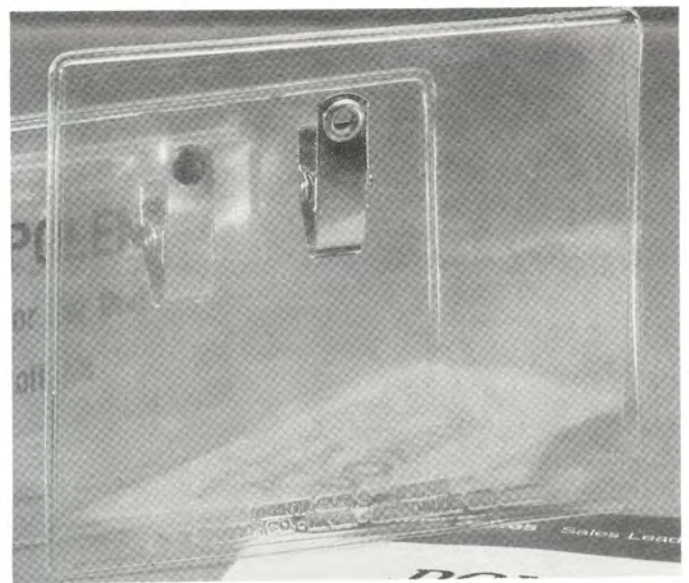
Visible S.O.S. Membership Cards to be required in 1991

No, it is not the Masters. But it may look like it. Just as it is important to the people who manage the most prestigious tournament in the golf world, it is important to your board of directors to assure that people who are admitted to participating S.O.S. clubs are duly processed members. Security, crowd control, safety, and the comfort of our members are our primary goals. Also, there continues to be a small group of shaggers who are out to "beat the system" by loaning membership cards or by bringing them out of clubs so that others can use them without becoming members.

In 1991 all membership renewals as well as new members will be provided, without cost, a high quality vinyl, swivel clip, jumbo membership card holder which may be picked up at S.O.S. headquarters or participating clubs at Spring Safari. All members will be required to wear their card easily visible above the waist while inside participating clubs. The jumbo card holder is the best available on the market today. It is a top loader and the membership card has been especially designed for a snug fit. The swivel clip attaches easily, safely to any garment with a gentle yet secure grip. The tooth bulldog clip swivels to any position and is designed for repeated use.

Visible membership cards will contribute significantly to your personal enjoyment of S.O.S. In addition to the security aspect, it will greatly enhance your opportunity

S.O.S. photos courtesy of Reggie Fraser



to meet new shaggers, and eliminate the embarrassment of not being able to put the name with the face. It is a step forward. However, we want to emphasize that the individual member will be responsible for the badge and the membership card. The policy of not replacing S.O.S. cards at the beach during the events will not be changed.

Members should hold on to their badge holders for future use. After 1991, badge holders will not be provided free for renewals. New members will, of course, receive a free holder.



Shag the Sovereign Of The Seas Annual Association Cruise June 22-29

by Bob Wood

The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs presents the 6th annual shag cruise June 22 to June 29, 1991 on the SS Sovereign of the Seas. This is a full seven-night six-day cruise on one of the most fabulous ships afloat. We will have our own lounge with wooden dance floor day and night. The exciting ports of call are Labande, a private island, San Juan, P.R. and St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

If you have been on any of the other shag trips, you will know that this one is not to be missed. DJs Tom Hamrick from Atlanta and the Carolinas and Murl Augustine of the Central Savannah Area Shag Club from Aiken will be playing only the best in beach and shag music.

As an added bonus, seven time national shag champ-

ions Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee will be aboard to give free shag lessons and to hold workshops for all levels of shaggers from beginners to competition dancers.

Best of all, this cruise is affordable! From \$1033.50 (based on four to a stateroom) to the luxury suites at \$1418.00, this price includes air fare, transfers, baggage handling, port passes, and of course, endless gourmet cuisine served in the finest continental style. For more information and reservations call Linda Lloyd at Mann Travel, 1-800-284-1961.

Please note. To assure your reservations at these prices, you must make your reservations before January 10, 1991. After that date, prices are subject to change.



NOTICE

Several publications have published incorrect dates for 1991 S.O.S. The correct dates are:

Spring Safari
April 24 - 28

Fall Migration
September 11 - 15

S.O.S.

Reflections on the Fall Migration 1990

It was hot, very hot. The oft promised cold front we heard about every night on the weather report just didn't happen. Shaggers and stranders from all over the United States came early and stayed late. By Monday of S.O.S. week, the clubs began to fill. By Wednesday they were packed. By Saturday at least ten thousand revelers had quenched their thirst and moved their feet to music. Sunday afternoon looked as though everyone was just going to take another week off and do it again.

Fat Harold's was easily everyone's "first" destination with Duck's a close second. The Spanish Galleon was the coolest and soon became as popular as the traditional shag clubs. Rock Option provided some of the best music and lots of room to dance.

Fats continued to feed the multitude. Even if you were not hungry, a few minutes out front of Duck's and you were pulled in for a hamburger. It is entirely possible that Fat's sold more hamburgers this weekend than they did the entire summer. Two newcomers were welcome additions to the floor space. The O.D. Arcade brought back memories of dancing at the open air pavilions, and the back room at Georgio's (bet you didn't even know it was there) had a slow start, but by Saturday, it was rocking.

There were more private parties on Friday and Saturday. Tilgman's was non-stop with a pool full of PJ

flowing. There were special lunches, dinners, and late night breakfast. Two special visitors, Lauren Paterno and Nina Prantis from New York City, down to do some free lance photography and writing, became instant converts and I would not be at all surprised to see them at a future shag event.

All along Main Street, Ocean Boulevard, the Horse-shoe there was a Mardi Gras atmosphere. Strangers strolled, stopped on the street to talk, called greetings to friends, and gathered in front of the clubs. There was a positive and happy glow that just sort of stood out all over. Even the young disco dancers in their interesting outfits seemed to be a part of it all as they came and went to their space.

Uniformed security guards, provided by S.O.S. for each of the participating clubs, assured easy access into and out. They also made a significant contribution to our efforts to control open containers in and out of clubs. There was a report of another case of counterfeit S.O.S. cards but they caused little if any trouble.

One of the goals of the Board of Directors of S.O.S. was to make the beach events really class activities. The Board wants to increase the pleasure of all of the people who attend and make these events stand out in the memory of everyone. This one surely will.



1991 S.O.S. Membership Application

Names _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Ages _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Memberships @ \$20.00 per person _____

Amt. Enclosed \$ _____

Were you a member in 1990? Yes No

S.O.S. / Box 4688 / Columbia, SC 29204

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Names _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Ages _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Memberships @ \$20.00 per person _____

Amt. Enclosed \$ _____

Were you a member in 1990? Yes No

S.O.S. / Box 4688 / Columbia, SC 29204

Some just never grow up!



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Carefree Times

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Renewal Issue**

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