

DANCING

By Josephine Easterling

It happened for me a long, long time ago. I was a little girl just 8 or 9 years of age. We lived in a house across the street from a little restaurant that had a jukebox. I would listen to the music, and jump to the music. I loved singing and dancing to the music. My mother's friend said she should put me in the movies. My father died of a heart attack, and my mother got married again. We moved from our little white house to Amarillo Texas, where my cousin lived with Uncle Robert and his wife. They had a little baby girl. She looked like an angel. She was so, so pretty. My mom worked for the Lewis's in a big house. We lived in a house out back in the rear, called "The Quarters". Dr. Lewis loved my mother's homemade pies. We stayed there about a year and a half. My stepfather then wanted to move back to Colorado.

In Colorado there were more cousins and my stepfather's brothers. I didn't like my stepfather, but I would listen to the radio and sing my heart out. By the time I was a teenager I really started dancing and singing. At about 14 I was singing in the bathtub, and by the time I was 16 I was singing in the choir. I really enjoyed that! By the time I was 18 I had sung in the talent show. I sang my favorite song, "My Foolish Heart".

I got married at 19, and had a baby girl. I would sing to her when she was in my belly and I would sing to her when she was born. My marriage lasted for 12 years. My husband was an alcoholic. It was a hardship to stay with a person like that after having four children. This is a large family to raise. However, life has to go on.

I met the love of my life, my second husband, at age 29. We were married for 40 years. What a life! Before we were married dancing was a big part of our lives. I remember the song by the Bee Gees called "Stayin' Alive!" John Travolta was the leading star in the movie.

Some of my favorite places to go dancing were the "Rainbow Ball Room" and "The Casino" on Welton Street. On Saturdays, we were dancing through the night. After all these years, they have opened up "The Casino" for dancing again. However, I am a Christian now, and don't want to be a dancing fool for trouble.