60 Years With Dussich Dance Studio

1958 – 1959

In 1958, during her senior year of high school, **Elizabeth Dussich** taught dance classes in her family’s garage and baton twirling in their yard. She also was an assist to her dance teacher Jim Treleven with his classes after school and took over his school while he went to a dance convention in Chicago. In the summer of 1958, she made a trip to New York City with the intention of auditioning for *The Rockettes* at Radio City Music Hall. Before she had a chance to audition, she received a telegram from her father stating, “I have put a deposit on your dance studio, plan to spend the winter in Florida.” She returned home from studying dance in New York City and with the help of her parents and brothers, John & George, she opened the dance studio and began teaching her first dance classes as a studio owner. The studio opened with 25 students and was located in Cocoa Beach near Taco City, where the Fit Snook is now located. The studio was originally called the Liz Dussich School of Dancing and Baton Twirling. Ms. Liz remembers it was next to a Laundromat, where soldiers from the base did their laundry and since there was no A/C, she taught with the door open. One time some of the soldiers got together and made a bet with some or the other soldiers that they wouldn’t jump in a class. All of a sudden, there were a bunch of men joining the dance class doing jazz warm ups. The first official recital in 1958, was at Christmas time and held in the Community Church in downtown Cocoa Beach.