

Big Top Oral History Project

Interview Log

LOC Filename: afc2012003_00240_ms02
Interviewee: Loter Family
Interview Date: June 14, 2011

Minute Mark Topics presented in order of discussion on recording

00:00:00	Introduction
00:01:08	Faye place of birth
00:01:17	Parents and grandparents background, Faye
00:03:53	Going to school in California, Faye
00:04:58	Moira place of birth
00:05:13	Moira background, family and circus career
00:07:11	On learning circus acts as a child, Moira
00:07:47	Making wardrobe
00:08:52	Terry place of birth
00:09:21	Loter family background/show history
00:11:56	Terry work history in circus
00:12:52	William "Billy" Earl Loter place of birth
00:13:17	Jobs performed in circus, Billy
00:15:13	Having children in the winter
00:16:46	Punch and Judy, Faye
00:17:29	Father putting on circus makeup, Terry
00:17:42	Circus kids, experiences on the show/road
00:23:06	Started out in Tex Carson show
00:25:19	Front yard versus back yard
00:25:57	Alfredo place of birth, background
00:27:44	About the cookhouse
00:30:30	Flags up
00:30:55	Pie car
00:31:04	Selling alcohol on the lot
00:31:47	Rules on the lot
00:33:13	Old superstitions
00:35:52	Confusion between carnival and circus workers
00:37:58	Job skills resulting from circus work
00:38:37	More on carnival versus circus, entertainment competition
00:39:41	Working in carnivals, Billy
00:41:14	Learning how to make change
00:41:39	On movies, negative portrayal of circus
00:43:03	Positive portrayal of circus in movies, Trapeze
00:45:30	Elephants on the loose in Hugo, Oklahoma
00:48:04	Living quarters on the road
00:50:23	Circus life routine, typical day
00:51:35	Getting to the next town
00:53:01	Water
00:53:51	Living in a compartment
00:56:17	After circus, everything's easy

00:56:44 Missing being on the road
00:57:00 "Itchy house shoes"
00:57:35 Circus lingo
01:00:19 Layout of the lot
01:01:08 Alfredo growing up in circus in Mexico
01:01:30 Living in tents in Mexico
01:04:13 Going to the United States to work, learning English
01:08:00 Alfredo, trapeze performer
01:08:20 Alfredo's mom died in circus accident
01:09:17 Learning how to answer the telephone coming off the road, Billy
01:09:33 On injuries, insurance
01:10:40 Dreaming of circus days gone by, Alfredo
01:13:06 Hard to accept old age
01:14:46 Making connection to circus after retirement, painting water towers
01:15:13 Finding ways to still be in the circus
01:16:36 On retirement age
01:19:00 Transitioning from performer to other duties, Moira
01:20:27 Circus life as beautiful life
01:22:02 On quitting, Alfredo
01:25:07 How Moira and Alfredo met
01:26:09 Importance of family
01:28:15 Life during the winter months
01:30:00 Homeschooling kids
01:31:37 On continuing to live in Hugo and kids, Alfredo
01:36:15 Favorite cities, Alfredo and Billy
01:37:08 Being around own kind
01:42:33 Learning how to set up tents
01:42:54 Being a man on the circus, worst of it
01:44:55 About Alfredo Beckman and solving problems in Mexico
01:48:15 Feeling of acceptance in Hugo, Oklahoma
01:48:55 About Don E. Kerr Circus
01:50:07 Kay's Grocery tab in Hugo, Oklahoma
01:52:27 Faye Marie on Dory Miller
01:54:03 Elephant accident in Canada, Moira
01:55:51 On elephants, Faye
01:57:27 Elephants with reputations, like people
02:00:03 Stage names
02:01:17 Job aspirations outside of circus
02:02:20 Favorite jobs in circus, Faye
02:02:44 The fixer
02:03:20 Raising exotic animals, Terry
02:04:16 On circus fans
02:05:36 Telling stories when families get together
02:06:42 Family history, genealogy
02:09:51 On living in Hugo, Oklahoma
02:11:28 Favorite cities traveled through
02:13:14 Making the nut
02:14:37 Purchasing goods today on the road

02:15:17	Cookhouse menu
02:15:55	Special person to do this work
02:16:30	On doing it all over again, Faye
02:16:50	Order on the road, living
02:18:11	On doing laundry
02:18:48	On working outside the circus, Faye
02:21:29	Mother, other family buried at Showmen's Rest
02:22:23	Retiring from business, Faye
02:24:08	Future generations in circus
02:25:36	On parents passing away
02:28:10	On future of circus
02:29:30	Mechanic stories from the road
02:31:20	Shows outside of the U.S.
02:34:22	What we should know about circus life
02:36:43	End of interview