

**Big Top Oral History Project**  
**Interview Log**

LOC Filename:           afc2012003\_00272\_ms02  
Interviewee:            Popcorn the Circus Comic  
Interview Date:         July 2, 2011

**Minute Mark   Topics presented in order of discussion on recording**

00:00:00	Introduction
00:00:39	Place of birth
00:01:01	Spook shows
00:02:31	Coming up with the name Popcorn
00:03:36	Meeting Harry Rawls, Bob Rawls father
00:04:39	Clown alleys
00:05:02	Retirement
00:05:54	Developing costume
00:06:39	Meeting circus owner D.R. Miller
00:07:10	Typical act on Carson and Barnes Circus
00:07:35	Props
00:08:46	Entertaining children and adults
00:09:09	Different acts
00:10:34	Living in campers, trailers
00:11:30	Crowd awareness
00:12:39	Clown role models
00:13:19	Developing new material
00:14:10	Getting standing ovations
00:14:50	Sole job was clowning
00:17:16	Ringling Clown College
00:17:21	Makeup application
00:18:01	Wardrobe
00:19:22	Favorite costume
00:20:03	Gainesville, TX community circus
00:20:27	Mentoring new clowns
00:21:08	Hard to teach clowning
00:21:28	Different clown jobs performed
00:22:00	Working with announcers
00:23:45	Signature props in acts
00:24:25	Lining up performances
00:24:44	Clowning is easy
00:25:03	Getting a laugh
00:25:25	Meet and greets
00:26:18	Traveling coast-to-coast
00:26:52	Towner turned performer, acceptance
00:27:30	Last show
00:28:01	Settling in Oklahoma
00:28:27	Showmen's Club member
00:28:50	Missing performing
00:29:00	Smell of the circus

00:29:57	Chimps, hassles of animals
00:30:35	Injuries
00:30:53	Sliding down a cannon and trying other acts
00:31:51	Risking lives, performing and traveling
00:32:30	Importance of lights and water on the road
00:32:57	Clowning is a lost art
00:33:27	Getting stuck in mud, mud shows
00:34:11	Saving money, change
00:34:54	Off-season employment
00:35:21	Thoughts on Hugo, OK
00:35:49	Trailer parks versus state parks
00:36:28	Getting old
00:36:46	Traveling on the road, following arrows
00:37:51	Getting lost
00:39:02	Music during act
00:39:58	Payday
00:40:29	Fineable offenses
00:41:40	Last time wearing makeup, D.R. Miller's funeral
00:44:16	Popcorn remembered
00:45:52	Clowns getting bad rap
00:47:25	Meeting people on the road, circus fans
00:47:59	Getting mail
00:48:21	Using payphones
00:49:11	State of clowning today
00:50:02	Lot stratification among circus performers
00:51:02	Sleepers
00:51:59	Feeling free
00:52:35	Being "just Corn"
00:52:56	Making it as a performer
00:53:39	End of interview