

## Big Top Oral History Project

### Interview Log

LOC Filename:           afc2012003\_00273\_ms02  
Interviewee:            Donna Moos  
Interview Date:         August 8, 2011

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

00:00:00	Introduction
00:00:31	Place of birth
00:00:34	Family moving around
00:00:51	Father's employment
00:01:00	Mother's employment
00:01:05	Family ended up joining circus
00:01:32	Started in 1975
00:02:30	Last season on circus, 1980
00:03:20	Graduated from high school in North Carolina
00:03:58	Careers in hairdressing and banking
00:04:50	Father's interest in circus
00:05:46	Father saw ads for cook on Carson & Barnes
00:06:30	Dad hired as cook and also ran pie car, 1975-1980
00:08:00	Playing/learning as kids on circus lot
00:08:12	At ten, started working on the show
00:08:34	Costumes and costume making on Carson & Barnes
00:10:12	Learning how to sew own costumes
00:11:14	Getting paid as a child on the show
00:12:00	Mother's work on the circus, shopping and pie car
00:12:16	Father's schedule working
00:14:23	Living quarters on the road
00:15:51	Running out of water
00:16:33	Living in a sleeper
00:17:53	Working as a showgirl
00:18:00	First solo act on Great American Circus, 1990
00:18:16	Learning acts
00:18:40	Cloud swing
00:20:36	Choosing music
00:21:29	Going back and forth between town life and circus life
00:21:36	Transition from road life to circus office work
00:22:36	Sewing on the tent
00:23:24	Typical day with current job
00:23:49	Importance of local sponsors
00:25:35	Favorite part of performing
00:27:06	Making eye contact with audience
00:27:52	Smells on the circus
00:28:26	Doing laundry
00:29:45	Having fun
00:30:00	Rules on the lot
00:30:55	Seating arrangements in cookhouse

00:31:56	Fines
00:32:38	Sister became a police officer
00:33:27	Work environment on the circus
00:36:20	On D.R. Miller
00:37:48	Learning about other show jobs
00:40:00	Single women on the lot
00:41:01	Circus mentors
00:42:59	On attending shows
00:44:22	First circus memory
00:45:19	On living in Hugo, Oklahoma
00:47:51	Favorite thing about the circus today
00:49:50	Favorite venue/cities
00:51:10	Making friends
00:52:11	Being shy versus performing
00:53:24	Coming up with performance name
00:54:35	Friends in Hugo, Oklahoma
00:56:02	Circus lingo
00:57:32	Falling in love, boyfriends on the circus
00:59:35	Single women staying single
01:00:15	Performing while sick
01:01:14	Getting lost on the road
01:02:38	Driving in New York
01:03:52	On show routes
01:05:27	About Culpepper & Merriweather show performers today
01:06:41	Optimal Culpepper & Merriweather lot size
01:07:32	Town targets on Culpepper & Merriweather
01:08:33	Coming back to work for the in 2008
01:10:34	Differences between circus and carnival workers
01:13:56	Regrets
01:14:27	Food in cookhouse
01:16:10	Getting into trouble on lot
01:18:10	Future of circus in next ten to twenty years
01:18:38	Permits
01:21:15	Sleeping in the sweat box
01:21:45	Making use of space
01:22:01	On water and electricity
01:23:06	Camaraderie on circus
01:24:21	End of interview