

A Publication of the Texas Clown Association

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Photo by Heather Morrison/Scarlet Photography

A Word from Our New TCA President

Patsy McMillan

Texas Clown Ambassador 2021

Cinde Sanders

Scholarship Winner Convention Report

William Beaty

Remembering the Stoddards

Jeanette Sanders





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Purpose of TCA

1. To promote, preserve, and improve the profession of clowning.
- 2 To provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning.
3. To educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning.
4. To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

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TCA Clown Alleys



Panhandle/West Region

Oops Alley - TCA #2

North Central Region

Cowtown Clowns - TCA #9
Happi Tymes Clown Alley - TCA #12
The Clown Arounds - TCA #16

North East Region

Tejas Klown Club - TCA #1*
Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley - TCA #13
Payasos Latinos de America - TCA #23*
Cedar Creek Clowns - TCA #24*
Rosey Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25

South East Region

Space City Clown Alley - TCA #6*
Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11*
Cheeful Clown Alley - TCA #14
Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18*

South/Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA #19
The Clown Alley - TCA #15

*Inactive Alleys



a word from the
PRESIDENT

by Patsy “Glitterbug” McMillan

My goodness gracious – everyone must have been delirious from the pandemic lockdowns because you chose to vote me in as your new President of TCA. Well, I hope I can live up to your expectations, but don’t think you are getting off that easy because I may be shouting for help from time to time. I want to thank the outgoing Board for an outstanding job over the past years and will be totally relying on them for assistance and guidance.

At this time, I am excited to have a fantastic Board for 2021/2022 – Past President Judy Cornett, Vice President Cinde Sanders, Treasurer Debbie Davis, Secretary Linda Cooper, Sgt. at Arms Pam Blacklock - - Area Directors, North Central Greg Stanford, North East Shannon Greene, Panhandle/West Suzy Wall, South Central Diana McCurtain-Talbert, and South East Roberta Hawes. Just want to note that we have several first timers to the board along with one returning from past years. Woo hoo! – excited for the new blood input.

I hope you enjoyed the convention as much as I did with some changes to what we have done in years past. Seeing is believing and I think Paradeability and Open Mic was a great success. Totally disappointed more of us could not make it to Fort Hood but am glad some of us were able. It was an eventful time rolling with the punches for Covid twists and turns but everything worked out in the end. The convention committee was made up of some fantastic people to work with, Andy Anderson, Cinde Sanders, Cindy Rice, Darris Cross, Diana McCurtain-Talbert, Greg Stanford, Jackie Garner, John Luce, Judy Cornett, L J Lomenick, Mauri Norris (with Christie McNeil as her trusted sidekick), Pam Blacklock, Susan Butler, Susan Keys, Suzy Wall, Voncille Cox and Heather Morrison (who stepped up to take our pictures). Oh, I cannot leave out the fantastic balloon work of Teri Stokes. If I forgot anybody, please forgive me because I am totally imperfect.

I am curious what your thoughts are – did you like the new changes or would you like to go back to the old way of doing convention. Please drop me a line to let me know what you would like (email or snail mail – you know where to find me in the book).

Just a quick little note – Cheerful Clown Alley voted at their membership meeting that they would like to host the 2022 Convention. Be on the lookout for further information as soon as things get finalized and they will be doing a presentation at the January 8th Board meeting.

Thank you again for honoring me with your vote of confidence.



A Word from the Past-President

by Judy "Peep" Cornett

I really enjoyed the relaxed format of the TCA Convention this year and I heard a lot of people say they enjoyed it as well, look for pictures on TCA Facebook. I know it was a one-time format, but I think it was the right format for this year and I hope that we use some of the things we did this year again in the future. It felt so good to get to see some of my clown family. I know we have all been affected by the Pandemic one way or the other and to see everyone that could attend was so comforting. There were a few bumps such as our effort to perform Paradability at Fort Hood. They didn't know how to accomplish getting guest passes for 45 clowns at the same time so only 7 of our clowns were able to get passes due to time but, we had fun entertaining the kids at the Fort's mall. The Paradability and Open Mics (2) were performed at the hotel and fun and laughter were had by all. No, it wasn't official competition but, if it had been either we would not have had enough people to judge or some people would not have been able to perform because we would have needed them to judge. I believe that some of the new clowns that entered the different options would not have entered if it had been officially judged. The ones that did enter did a great job. No there wasn't a Vendor Room but, there were sales of the Lecturer's wares directly after their lecture and we had a great Swap Shop on two nights. The program was a mix of live lectures supplemented with a few lectures being virtual shown at the hotel that only people registered for the convention were able to see. Tanida Mullen from The Killeen Civic & Conference Center/Convention & Visitors Bureau was able to provide name badges, goodie bags, and a stage and What a Great Stage it was. I think it was the biggest stage that I have ever performed on.

This comes to you with bittersweet memories. I was President of TCA for 5 years and was proud to be it. I thank you, the membership, for supporting me during my tenure. I can look back on that time and feel good about most of the things we accomplished and not so good about others but, none of those were big things, except COVID which we had no control over. The Board continued to function even during the lock down using ZOOM which was frustrating sometimes. Several of our ZOOM meetings took longer to get up and running than the meeting itself would last but, we hung in there and made it happen. The Boards that were in place during my 5 years were great! I appreciate all of the work we accomplished. You deserved all of the "Paydays" and more. To the past Board members that served with me and supported me; Andy Anderson, Patsy McMillan, Susan Butler, Susan Keys, Lana Sue Fridge, L J Lomenick-Luce, John Luce, Pam Blacklock, Linda Greene, Voncille Cox, Cindy Rice, Diana McCurtain-Talbert, Abi Membrez, Shirley Hamilton, and Viviano Pena, I wish I had the right words to tell you how I appreciated your support during my tenure. Not only the support but, the friendship. I also want to thank the membership for your friendship and support. TCA is a great organization and I love it.

TCA Members, please plan on attending the 2022 convention. I hope you are excited as well and are making plans to attend.



AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING AWARD WINNER:

What an Honor!!!

by Cinde "Boopsie the Clown" Sanders



I have been a clown and family performer since 1989. I was named Boopsie the Clown by my husband who loved the comic strip Doonesbury. The teenage starlet was named Boopsie and that is who I reminded him of when I was in costume. Boopsie has performed for thousands of families all around the world with magic,

puppets, balloon art, face painting, and more. My husband, Dal Sanders and I now have an internationally syndicated TV show called Kartoon Circus where we host old cartoons and entertain and educate children around the world with fun and laughter.

I am a member of MidCities Clown Alley 85 (where I have held the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Sgt at Arms), Happi Tymes Clowns, Clowns of America International and Texas Clown Association (where I was recently elected Vice President). I am also a member of Texas Association Of Magicians, Dallas Magic Clubs (where I am currently the Vice President), Fort Worth Magic Club and the Society of American Magicians (where I am on the board). I have been honored to have received several awards from many of these organizations.

I have been a member of TCA since 2001. My first convention was about a week after the terrorist attack on our nation (9/11). It was a very solemn convention, but we are clowns and clowns make the best of everything...so we gathered and performed and cried and entertained and learned and shared.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the honor of being named the newest Ambassador for TCA. I know what an honor this is and I am so appreciative that my work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. The criteria is high to receive this award and I promise to keep promoting and advancing the art of clowning and family entertainment to the best of my abilities.

I also want to thank you for electing me and trusting me to be the Vice President of the TCA. I will be contacting your alleys soon to get alley reports. Please don't hesitate to call me anytime with questions or concerns or just to talk. I am here for you.

Cinde Sanders
Boopsie the Clown
<https://youtu.be/XfM2VJ0iOOY>
<https://youtu.be/aOdHCDjC30c>





My First TCA Convention: Killeen, Texas

By Elaine Hampshire

This was my first convention. Everyone said it was not typical Texas Clown convention — but for me it was perfect. Being my first year as a clown, I loved the attention I got from being new. It gave me such an accepted feeling plus the courage to be a part. I want to thank my alley, Cheerful Clown Alley, for all the support and caring I felt from them. It was also great to be in a crowded room with people who laughed at my weird sense of humor. I felt HOME!

The rooms were great and my roommate, ‘Squiggles’ was perfect. I feel very fortunate that we meshed so well.

I missed Thursday, as I had commitments at home. I arrived at the convention around noon on Friday. I was able to attend the “balloon designs workshop,” but it was a little too advanced for me. The jam was great as was the open mic. I will do this next year!

On Saturday, I did parade-ability with an idea I had developed from my “Three Little Pigs (texas style) story and then I paraded with the “kitchen band” — oh my- fun, fun, fun! I attended the “storytelling” workshop, which left me in awe. Then I went to the “Pricilla Mooseburger make-up and costumes” workshop. This was my favorite.

Sunday worship service was great and left me wanting to see more.

I enjoyed the food, but most of all I loved the people. I am so very glad I did this - a risk for me, but sooooo worth it.



Be sure to check out the TCA website at

www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is: iluvclowns

**The password will change to clowns22 on
October 1, 2021.**

Be sure to connect to our official TCA facebook page - you can find the link on our website. Follow us and stay current with what is going on with TCA.



The Rest of the Story

by Cinde “Boopsie the Clown” Sanders

PICTURE THIS! It is September of 2019 and the TCA board asked me to help put together the 2020 convention. We thought of a catchy idea for the theme (Vision 2020”) chose a venue that is basically in the center of the state (Killeen, Texas) and a date at the close of summer so we could get some Jr. Joeyes to attend (the first week of August). My job along with my partner Susan Keys was to put together the lectures, vendors, entertainment, and schedule.

Piece of Cake.

Susan and I were so excited to help the TCA board plan this fun and epic event.

By March 2020 we had it all planned and were ready to begin promotion. We had four solid days of events and lectures and workshops and parties and competitions and hospitality rooms and banquets and breakfasts and vendors and parades and surprises that would blow your socks off. We had people coming in from New York, Minnesota, Louisiana, Florida and all over Texas.

And Then...it happened...the world shut down. We thought it would blow over by August and we could still stick with our plans. But then, August came, and we had to cancel the “Vision 2020” Convention.

Well, by the time April 2021 rolled around, things began to open up a little more and the TCA board felt it might be ok to try to have our 2021 convention in August. So we opened registration again, rebranded the logo to “Vision 2021” and began to revamp our plans.

We made a few changes including cutting out a day, revising our competitions and Paradeability to a “People’s Choice”, scaling back our lecturers to only Texas professionals (except our amazing headliner, Matthew Lish from New York), scheduled ZOOM lectures from those far away, and using each other as Vendors (our amazing Swap Shop).

Let me take a break here and talk about the Swap Shop. If there was one silver lining in all of this, I think it was the Swap Shop. We had such a good time at the Swap Shop. People traded, sold, bought, and donated and I think everyone benefitted in a special way from this event.

Ok, back to the story. We had around 60 people register and join us for the amazing TCA convention in 2021. Although every event we had planned for the past two years did NOT work out (and I mean every single event we planned did NOT work out) we had such a BLAST! We got to hang out, visit, catch up, share, learn, swap, play SPOONS, cry, laugh, celebrate, dance, sing and so much more.

As each plan fell apart, and the calendar changed and the events evolved to another plan, we all joined together and came up with a solution. I am so proud to be a part of this amazing group. Thank you all so much for all you do. For the smiles you bring to children of all ages and for the love that you spread. I am honored to be a member of TCA.





Convention Scholarship Winner by William "Wee-Bo" Beaty!



To start off, I wanted to thank the board and everyone that worked on making the convention a complete success! It was a much smaller convention, but it was very much needed! We all needed the time to see our clown family again! Especially since it was over a year! Most of us have been stuck in our bunkers all year, and getting out seeing all our friends and their happy faces made it the best convention ever!!!

I'm going off on a tangent, but something I wanted to say about clowning from the heart! The world needs clowns now more than ever! It has been a tough year, some had to retire early, get jobs they really didn't want, or weren't able to do all the fun things they could safely do! Some of them were hit hard financially, or had deaths in their family and circles of friends, etc. So the world needs us! Most of the kiddos have been stuck at home in timeout, and they are ready to see us! Families want to get out, and see live entertainment again! This is our time to shine! The world needs more people that care, and

that have a clown heart! Who knows, maybe we will inspire one of those kiddos to be a future clown! As you are volunteering, entertaining, ministering, etc. print out some fliers of your alley with meeting time, location, contact info, etc. and promote! You could even have someone show you how to post videos of yourself on YouTube, social media, etc. Just show the world that clowning is an option, and something they can do! Who knows, you may change their life for the better! My biggest fear is losing all this experience, knowledge, values, and passion our elder clowns have to offer! Trust me, clowning may be changing and adapting, but more and more young people are embracing clowning! Like me five years ago, I had no idea what a clown was or that alleys even existed! They need us to lead the way! Dust off those clown shoes, take that costume to a tailor, put on a mask, and tell people what it's like to clown!

Furthermore, as more and more people are choosing to get vaccinated and/or staying very careful, the



virus will slowly stop spreading and mutating. This is what we need right now to get back to work, and back to doing what we all love! Just like God gave the first man the knowledge to build a fire to stay warm and cook, he also gave us the knowledge and ability to make a vaccine to keep us from getting deathly ill! Sorry about mentioning religion, I just strongly believe God has a purpose for everything that happens! I have complete faith in him, and we will come out of this stronger than ever!

I wanted to thank TCA so much for awarding me the scholarship! When things started opening back up, our E-Bay sales plummeted; which is a great thing because people aren't at home buying stuff they don't need...lol! So, the scholarship literally got us to the convention! I hope things do stay open, and life for all of us gets back to normal very soon! It would mean we could all go back to doing what we love!

So, we had a bumpy start coming out! I sadly missed the general meeting, and Matthew Lush's performance! We had a late night Wednesday. Heather stayed up till 4am doing her last minute e-bay sales; we got in bed at 5am. I took a nap and I jumped out of bed at 9am, loaded the car with cooler and all! Then I checked the time, and thought I could take a 20 minute nap, and still get there by 1ish or after, for sure in plenty of time for the general meeting at 3:30! Well, I set my alarm and didn't realize I forgot to hit start! I woke up in full blown panic mode, put fresh ice in the cooler, and got us to Kileen at around 6pm! I am so glad Greg has everything on video! Can't wait to see what I missed that first day!

Anyways, on to the convention!!! As soon as Heather and I walked in we saw several of our friends in the lobby. I was still in panic mode because I missed the whole day, so I stopped and chatted with them for a while, and caught up on what all we missed. Then I ran down to find Judy to touch base, and to let her know we were there! We made it just in time for the ice cream social! It was supper yummy with vanilla and chocolate, and all the fixin's. Then I got to walk around the room, see what all there was for auction and raffle. Lots of neat stuff this year! I also caught up with all our

friends, and asked how their alleys were doing during the pandemic. Some were from Cheerful Clown Alley in Houston, and these guys blew me away! They had a clown school this year and actually gained members! Someday I would love to do that in our alley, and maybe even have a Junior Joey Camp! I was told by one of my college profs, the best way to learn a subject is to teach it, so I asked my newer alley members to start thinking of one clown skill they love, and maybe one day will be able to do teach at our very own Happi Tymes Clown School! Thank you Cheerful Alley for the awesome idea!!! Then, we went to watch everyone perform at open mic. There were some great performances that night, dueling banjos, a sick patient, Cindie did an amazing performance with a huge balloon dog, and pups! And Bebop and Buttons did an awesome performance with a broken music box—I won't give it away, (you'll have to buy the DVD) but it had a wonderful and touching ending!

Next, off to the Swap shop! I am so glad they had this idea; it is a convention must have! It's a great way to unload clowny items you don't use anymore, costumes that shrunk- post pandemic...lol, stuff you thought you could use in your shows, but it didn't quite work—impulse buys, etc. It's also a great idea for next year, when we have new clowns just starting out, and/or if there was something you have been looking for and can't find anymore! So, I only had \$15 I budgeted, so I was very selective! I bought 2 cds I could use for my clown shows, only \$1 each! 4 neat buttons, to sew on my cuffs, and a bow tie that matched my vest, and pants perfectly! Then I bought \$7 worth of raffle tickets, which really worked out after our banquet!!!

The first day of classes was awesome! My first lecture was with Dal Sanders, this was the highlight of the convention! I really want to learn the ins and outs of daycare/school shows, how to develop them and make them successful! Some of his words of wisdom! #1 it's a sin to bore a kid, and #2 it's an even bigger sin to bore the adults, they pay you!... lol! It's so true! You are there to entertain, and make lasting memories! He showed us ways to talk and interact with kids, and the audience. It amazed me how he took control of the entire stage, where each



audience member stood, and even watched out for their safety! Also, he said to have a lesson for the students and the teacher! He gave us four responses on how to write a show, and how to structure a show where you can put it in pieces and move it around. I took a lot of notes, but this is some of the biggest things I got from the class; more than enough to give me a head start on developing my own shows!

Next, I went to a juggling workshop with Matthew Lush! It was so cool working with a Ringling Brothers clown! In the past, I went to juggling classes, but I always put it down afterward, and forgot about it. It's hard to master! I'm still trying to make my non-dominant hand cooperate... lol! But I have been practicing, and with the skills and tricks he and Aldo Iglehart showed me, hopefully I will be up and going by next year!

Balloon Twisting for line work was next. Terri Stokes was the lecturer, she told us to write down at least 3 things or 3 designs at every class or jam you go to. And I did! I learned how to make a cool hippo with a geo, some cool tips and tricks, and to make a few pre-filled balloons for the event for eyes, antennas, etc. Also types of markers to use, a place to put balloon scraps, and many other cool ideas!

Last for the day, I went to a Zoom class with Steve Axtell. He has some amazing stuff! He showed us some of the puppets he was making, some electronic ones, and some really cool ones that were more budget friendly. If you missed the convention, and in the market for a new puppet, look him up! All his puppets are custom made, and made to order, but worth the wait!

Right after his meeting, we ran up to the room to practice more for our alleys open mic skit. Open mic I thought was a lot of fun, and a great idea! You are pretty much free to do what you want, no constraints, then up to the audience to pick who wins! I love the competitions we have done in the past. It offers you constructive criticism, critiquing your character, and gives him/or her opportunities to grow. But open mic was perfect for this convention, and so much fun!!!! I would absolutely love to see this again

at future conventions! Who knows, maybe clown talents show??? So, this was my first time on stage at convention, our skit was "When's The Store Gonna Open" I was super nervous, and most of it is a blur... lol! I stood in the back, because I had this huge key hidden in my vest! We were next to the last to go on, and I was sweating bullets the whole time! I mainly do walk around, balloon twisting, and one on one type entertainment. I have never done a show, or a skit in front of a large audience, other than in clown school! At the end, it was actually a lot of fun, and something I absolutely want to do in the future! I have to be in more shows and skits! I am so hooked! Open mic was a lot of fun, there were many cool acts, but one stuck out! It was done by "Cricket" one of our clown elders, and "Nannah Banana" one of our Junior Joeys. I won't say what the skit was, but it brought tears to our eyes, and really touched us! Thank you so much for that! It was also cool watching the younger junior joeys perform! It's so good seeing our future clowns! They all did wonderful! Keep them coming to your alley meetings! It's a great outlet for them, and it builds clowning for future generations!

The second day the first workshop I went to was marketing & branding with Brittany Allen. I did want to learn more about prop making with Matthew Lush but luckily my clown family took notes for me! I want to learn more ways to market and brand myself and the alley, and going was very much worth it! She told us many tools we could use to promote, and how to present ourselves professionally! She taught us how to polish our marketing materials, said don't put too much on business cards, showed us several examples, and to leave white space for people to take notes, and to pass them out like confetti! She told us to choose a logo, and put it on everything! She also reminded us to always send out a thank you card, ways you can market yourself when volunteering, how to set up your station, how to advertise thru social media, to connect with mommy groups, etc. She also mentioned rack cards were a good cheap but professional way to advertise. I took a lot from her class!

My last class was Margret Clauders storytelling workshop. Now I never thought I would be a good



story teller, but she gave us great advice on how she remembers her stories, and to always limit each story 1 minute per year old the kiddo is. If he or she is 6, only make it 6 minutes and never read from the book! She told us to make the stories relatable to the audience, and always teach a lesson! Choose your stories that entertain, and educate! She taught us ways to find good stories, how to tell a good story with props, etc. and how to get

better at storytelling. I have always admired Margaret, it was so good hearing her tell her stories, and she is amazing at what she does!

On to group photo and paradeability! We got dressed up for the group photo, and then got ready for our skits. It was the 2nd time I got to perform at a convention! I wasn't quite as nervous this time which was great! Our alleys paradeability was "Covid Toilet Paper Hoarder" It was a lot of fun doing it, and seeing everyone do their skits! There were some really great ones! "Junk in the Trunk" was hilarious! After that, some of the ladies went to Fort Hood, but unfortunately I had to run to the local thrift store, because I forgot to bring dress pants for the banquet! I did find two really cool puppets there. I will debut them on Facebook soon, and I found a balloon dog doggie toy! Then, I dropped Heather off at the Air B&B, and left for the hotel to see Pricilla Mooseburgers make-up and costumes Zoom class. I left our good charger there, my phone died, and I ended up driving around Killeen for over an hour! We were staying literally right around the corner! I am way too reliant on GPS! What did we do without it???

Next, I scooped Heather up; we changed, and ran to the banquet! It was a lot of fun, had some really yummy food, and the staff was amazing! We had our awards ceremony, TCA officer announcements for next year, etc. Then Margaret Clauder told us some of her story telling's! She had some really great stories, and it was so much fun! Later, "Cricket" and "Nannah Banana" re-did their touching skit, and I know it brought tears to my eyes! It was wonderful! We also had a live auction. First Kathy Keaton donated a beautiful handmade jewelry box that she designed. Then we auctioned the quilt! They had me go hold up a quilt from past conventions and the bidding was nuts! I had no idea what was going on, most of the time! I just sat back and watched the madness...lol! It was a lot of fun too! Lots of stories were shared from past conventions, and I got to meet a few new members! I got lots of contact numbers, and I hope maybe our alley can get together with other alleys, have some fun, and see what type of trouble we can get into!

Lastly, after the banquet I found out I won 5 ceramic clowns, 2 wind-up music clowns, and this awesome clown that loves his coffee, named Jitters! When I was younger I had lots of these. My Grandmother would take me to circuses when they came to town, like Ringling Brothers Circus, and many Shriners circuses-(there we went to see my Grandpa, he was one of the "big wigs" at the time) and many other circuses! Anytime she went out shopping and saw a clown, she would get it for me. I had a huge collection then. When I hit high school, I went through a phase, and decided to get rid of all my clowns! I'm slowly building up my collection. So who ever donated them, thank you so much, I will cherish them!

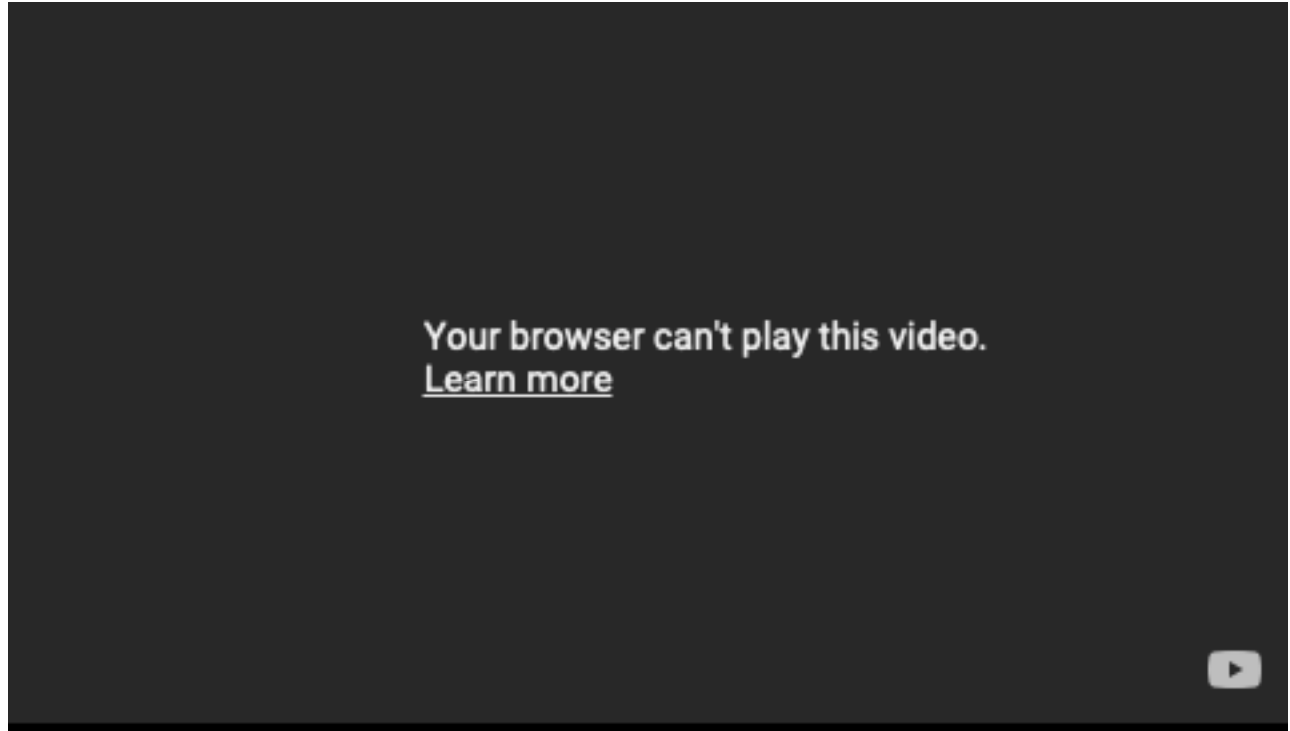
When we were leaving, I did give our host the coffee clown "Jitters". She loved coffee, and I wanted her to remember a clown convention was in Killeen! She and her husband loved it! I also gave the balloon doggy toy to her pup!

The hardest part was breakfast, and saying our final goodbyes. I love my clown family so much! Thank you all for all you do, and for helping to keep clowning alive and well! See you all next year, if not sooner!

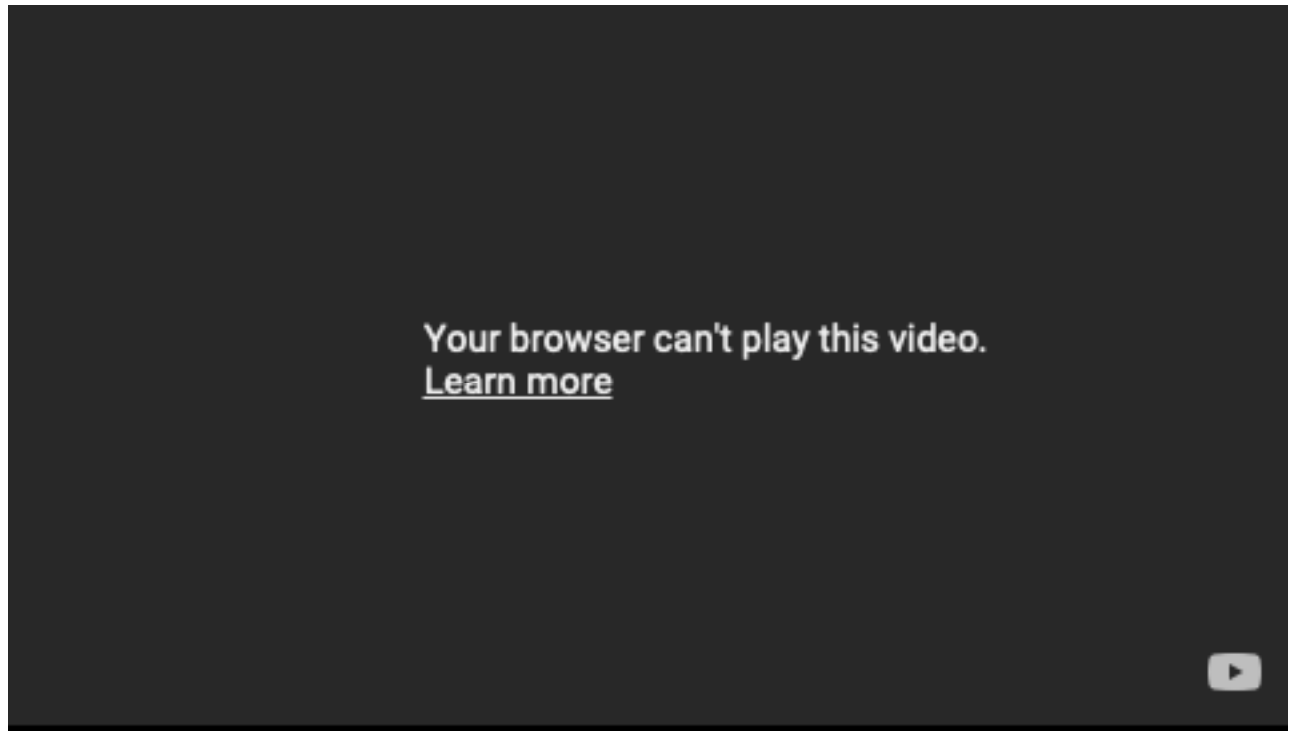


What's on the **TUBE?**

Here's a fun warm up from David Ginn to try before your next kids show.



Here's something a little different, but I think it fits the times. Andy Griffith and Donny Osmond's Clown Skit.





Interview with First of May, Hardy Sims, age 9

By Voncille "Dimples" Cox

Question: "Did you enjoy your first Texas Clown Association Convention?"

Hardy: "Yes!"

Question: "What did you like about the convention the most?"

Hardy: "It was cool when "Phineas" (Matthew Lish) juggled the knives. They must be really sharp. Brittany (Allen) taught me so much stuff to use."

Question: "What else did you like?"

Hardy: "I like Andy (Anderson). He's really nice. A lady (Mary "Charmin" Whipple) gave me \$5.00 and told me I won it. It was fun winning even if I spent it 10 seconds later (in the "Swap Shop"). I'm really glad I came. I wasn't sure if I really wanted to. I love the magic and I can do some balloons now. I can make a mouse."

Question: "Was it hard to learn your tricks in class with Brittany?"

Hardy: "No. I had two classes and learned everything in just 2 hours! She's a good teacher."

Question: "What was your most favorite thing you learned?"

Hardy: "Learning magic tricks. Brittany gave me a trick with strings. Watch! (he had to show me the trick right then)."

Question: Was there anything else you like about being here?

Hardy: "I like the "Swap Shop". Everyone kept giving me a lot of free things. I only had to spend my money twice. A lady (Christie "Louella" McNeill) gave me a fish that squirts water. It was pretty fun."

Question: "What did you think about participating in the open mic competition?"

Hardy: "It was really fun because I got to do all my magic tricks I learned in class. I really liked the Squeakee Dog. It was funny. It was my favorite."

Question: "What did you think about Brittany?"

Hardy: "She was really fun. She made everything fun. I thought the class would be boring but it wasn't. We had to wear hats in class and act like what the hat was. I was a shark. She always spots me wherever I am. Coming to Clown Convention these 4 days was more fun than going to your house for a month!"

Hardy's best statement: "Gamo, I've enjoyed spending more time with you."





Remembering Lou “Honey” and Robert “Boppo” Stoddard

by Janette “Dusti the clown” Sanders

Lou and Robert Stoddard moved to Duncanville, Texas in the late 1950’s, Lou a typical housewife caring for three children and heading a Girls Scout troop, she was also actively involved in friends of the library in Duncanville. Robert was working at Texas Instruments. After the Children were older, the couple became obsessed with painting and performing. During the years of 1974-1975 the couple became passionately involved in art clubs, art lessons and painting. Lou and Robert loved painting together. Lou and Robert began painting still life, landscapes and profiles, but Lou wanted to paint Clowns while Robert was interested in painting Native Americans. The couple would attend Native American Pow-Wows and Lou got permission to take their pictures and Robert would paint their portraits on canvas. Then Lou found a clown portrait in one of her art books. All of Lou’s clown portraits, with the exception of one from the art books, were performing clowns and most of them from the circus. Lou was at first drawn to painting clowns because of their costumes and vibrant colors. The couple also attended clown shows regularly to take pictures so Lou could paint them on canvas.

In 1976, Lou heard that G. Elmer Jones aka JO JO JINGLES was entertaining the children at a local mall for their special Mother’s Day out program. After Jo Jo’s performance Lou asked JoJo if she could take a snap shot with her “Big Shot” instamatic camera for the purpose of using him as a model for her painting. Jo Jo approved and posed for the shot. Afterwards, Jo Jo asked why Lou and Robert didn’t join Clowns of America. Lou told JoJo that she hadn’t heard of “COA” (Clowns of America) and asked for more information. Jo Jo mailed Lou a copy of the Calliope and she became quickly hooked on clowning. From painting clown faces, Lou began applying grease paint to her own face and soon Honey the clown became a reality. Robert followed suit and transformed himself into Boppo the clown.

With their newfound characters and colorful flamboyant outfits, the couple found themselves in demand headlining seasonal events at the State Fair of Texas, Traders Village and Six Flags Over Texas.



When Jo Jo retired, he chose Honey to carry on his traveling shows with patter and balloon animals. In 1976-1977 several people in the Dallas Ft. Worth Metroplex who were interested in clowning got together to form a clown alley. In 1977 they applied to COA (Clowns of America) and received their alley charter. In 1978, TEXAS MID CITIES CLOWN ALLEY 85 was formed. It was the only clown ally in the Dallas Fort Worth area at the time. The group worked with the Dr. Pepper Circus and partnered with the famous clown, Emmitt Kelly Jr. with whom Lou and Robert became close friends.

Mid Cities clown Alley members volunteered to entertain at nursing homes, orphanages, hospitals, Love for Kids Picnic at Lee Park, Christmas parties, Children’s hospitals, a Dude ranch and senior dance held at Dewy Grooms night club in Dallas, Texas. Mid cities also teamed up with Circus Fans of American and Ed Mellette Tent #5 (the oldest Circus tent active at that time) to entertain people at Traders Village (a local activities center) and other charities. In 1983 Traders Village placed a picture of Honey in their seasonal brochure. Honey had a policy that whenever Mid cities members volunteered at an event that if anyone at an event were paid, then the clowns were paid—and she made sure that happened. Boppo helped to organize circus and clown day at the State Fair of Texas. Mid Cities invited clowns from all over Texas for this event. The State Fair furnished a free pass to everyone who requested one. Boppo also got a number of clowns performing at the State Fair to perform in the Doctor Pepper

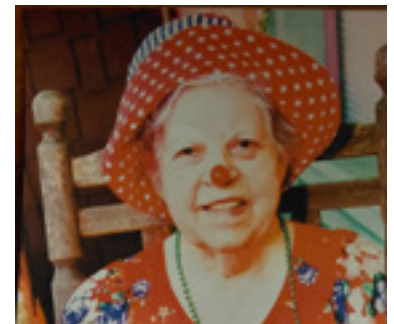


Circus, using different clowns in each show in order to have more clowns share the honor. Boppo was a very good PR person and made sure the event was publicized in all the local newspapers as well as the Circus Report, a Circus News Magazine, that had news about circus and clown events. Boppo was constantly keeping Mid Cities in the news. For several years Rosalie “Superstar” Perryman and Boppo made all of the trophies presented in the competitions for the State Fair of Texas. They purchased porcelain clown figurines and glued them to marble bases. Any clown that attended was very proud to take one of those trophies home.

Robert (Boppo) also lined up other television features like P.M. Magazine, Peppermint Place, 4 Country Reporter and several cable TV shows. Robert “Boppo” wrote the Mid Cities and TCA press releases, and dozens of articles for magazines and newspapers, including Circus Report, Calliope, White Tops, and 3 Ring News. He was also active in the Circus Fans Association of America and the Millette Amateur Circus. Boppo was a behind the scenes “fix it” guy, in short it was the promotional aspect that interested Robert “Boppo” Stoddard, but on occasions Honey would get him into costume. Boppo would admit afterward that it was a lot of fun. Forum 303 was a popular bustling mall at the time and the manager there was a big clown fan. She was very excited when the clowns came to the mall to volunteer for events such as Mother’s Day and National Clown Week. The Alley members would face paint, twist balloons, and walk around the mall entertaining the children. Nursing homes and Day cares were bussed in for events. Sometimes there would be a show in the amp theater style (open theater). Honey particularly remembered one such event. The teachers, moms and troupe leaders had the toughest time keeping their groups organized. However, there was one pre-K teacher who had a rope and each child was told to hold the rope and not to let go – for any reason. The class walked to the theater and sat down in an organized manner – and not one child let go of the rope. Honey said everybody touched her memory in some form. Honey and Boppo helped other clowns any way they could. Honey remembers being impressed with James “Jimbo” Decker who was living at the YMCA. Honey, Boppo and Jimbo became good friends.

During all of the changes Honey still continued to paint portraits and entered her work in the State Fair competitions. In 1978 the manager of the Women’s building invited Honey to set up a booth for the entire 17 days the Fair was open. Honey painted as the public strolled by admiring her techniques. It was a great honor to be invited to display her art at the Women’s building. Honey’s clown portraits were featured in the Calliope and Boppo did the first color cover for the Calliope. Boppo wrote many articles about clowns and the circus for The Circus Report, created by Don Marks Publication in California. In 1979 Boppo created the picture for the Mid Cities logo and stationery, the same logo is still used today. Honey held every position on the Mid Cities Board. Honey, Boppo and Superstar are among the original Charter members of TCA. Kay Veale Henry’s husband- “Winky” – became the first TCA president. Boppo was the first “area 214” director. For six and half years Boppo also served as editor for the Joey Journal with Honey serving as the assistant editor. Honey was also an area 214 director and served as the TCA treasurer. Because they kept such good scrapbooks of all the Mid cities volunteer activities, the Alley received the Charlie Award two years in a row. The first TCA (Texas clown Association) convention was held in October 1983. The convention competition being held at the Forum 303 Mall. Nancy Noice with the Cable company in Duncanville, Texas videotaped the convention activities, competition and banquet.

In 1990 the ending of a then popular movie “The Problem Child” (starring John Ritter, Michael Oliver and Gilbert Gottfried) was being filmed



at the state Fair of Texas. The ending called for a circus and Boppo arranged for ten clowns to be present when needed on the midway. The clowns had to be available all 8 days of filming. The fictitious circus in the movie was called the Diablo Circus with three elephants, a ten-piece band whose



members couldn't play instruments, two horses, a pony and a flying act that never got off the ground. They used local scout groups for extras on the merry go round. Boppo remembered what fun they had during that long week. Honey and Boppo were awarded the TCA (Texas Clown Association) Ambassador award in 1991 and in 1992. For a number of years Honey was known as the "Duncanville (Texas) town clown". Her portraits and clown memorabilia were displayed at the Duncanville library during national clown week. Honey also received recognition from the Duncanville Mayor for the community service hours that she donated to the community (which also included eight years on the library board). Honey stated that the time she spent with her clown friends and the events they shared will always be a bright spot in her life. Honey was proud of the hard work, fun, energy and heart that the alley members contributed over the years. She commented that

she's not sure why there's not as many clowns as there once was or more clown alleys, but she leaves these important words for us to think about: "I do feel there is a great need to bring more younger clowns in the program. They are the future and are an absolute must in order to keep the interest of clowning alive. Please include your children, your grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Encourage your friends to involve their children and grandchildren. Honey and Boppo was passionate about the art of clowning and stands firm to encourage everyone that "We must keep the interest in clowning alive". *

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Respectfully submitted by:
Jeanette Sanders
Lou is my Aunt on my Dad's Side of my family and Robert is my Uncle by marriage.
I loved Both of them dearly.
August 2, 2021





The Magic of ZOOM

by Cinde "Boopsie the Clown" Sanders

This Pandemic has taken a lot from us. It has taken some of our friends and family members and it has taken our ability to perform for live audiences. It has affected our bank accounts and our socialization and our education. These things are only the beginning of what it has taken. We could fill a whole page with losses from this 100-year disaster. But one thing it has not taken is our love and passion to make people smile and bring joy to others...even if for just a little while.

We have learned so much in this past year and a half. We have all found ways to still communicate with others and stay connected. ZOOM is one of those ways of communication. We learned that through ZOOM, social media and other online sites, that we can not only keep in touch, but we can also reach even farther than before. We can communicate for free with people from other countries. We can be involved with events and conversations with people that we ordinarily would not be able to connect with because of distance or transportation or time.

At the 2020/2021 TCA Convention earlier this month we took advantage of some of these opportunities. We connected with three amazing performers who we ordinarily could not have connected with because of geography and budget.



Annie Banannie

On the first day of the convention, we had an amazing conversation with Annie Banannie. She is a professional balloon storyteller, performer, author, and health coach. She presented a riveting 60-minute lecture on how to pick and treat your volunteers. Here are some links you can visit to get to know Annie Banannie a little better:

- Balloon Storytelling Course: <https://balloonartistcollege.com/balloon-storytelling-course-sales-page/>
- Balloon Storyteller website: www.BalloonStoryteller.com
- Health coaching website: www.HealthCoachAnnie.com
- Facebook profile: www.Facebook.com/coach.annie.caldwell
- Dr. Electric Takes Over the World (sort of): https://smile.amazon.com/Dr-Electric-Takes-Over-World/dp/0578156385/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1626725440&sr=8-2



Steve Axtell

On the second day of the convention, we had a fun visit from Steve Axtell. He owns Axtell Expressions which is a creative design studio specializing in characters, animatronics & puppets, Artificial Intelligence, and interactive displays. They are committed to making the world a happier place, through partnerships with entertainers and educators. He took us on a tour through his amazing workshop and showed us some unique puppets, animatronics and artificial intelligence figures that he has developed. He has such a beautiful and exciting personality and shares some outrageous stories.



Here are some video you can check out:

- This link is a Fun personal tour to the production workshop <https://1drv.ms/v/s!ApDO83BrpLXbhsA-jsCtAWM7g0b0MA?e=ecG4eF>
- This link is Frizzle Chickens singing YMCA - animatronics https://1drv.ms/v/s!ApDO83BrpLXbhsA_VMiNe4RKF7UBA?e=7K8I4r
- This link is Artificial Intelligence demonstration with Old Man & Christopher Weed <https://1drv.ms/v/s!ApDO83BrpLXbhsBAuW9KCedcwr3lOw?e=mwayZn>



Pricilla Mooseburger (Tricia Manuel)

On day Three of the Convention Tricia Manuel aka Pricilla Mooseburger joined us with a full hour and a half of amazing information on costuming and makeup. Tricia owns Mooseburger Originals. It is a one stop clown shop for attire & educational resources!

From makeup to custom clown costumes, they have you covered from head to toe. They carry everything you need to be the very best clown. Tricia started her clowning career with Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus and parlayed it

into her dream business of designing clown costumes. In addition to honing clowning skills, she learned from the masters on what it takes to create a fantastic looking, yet durable, clown costume. She opened her doors in 1989 and has been serving clowns around the world ever since! Step by step the business has expanded beyond costumes and now includes the wonderful world of teaching others to learn to be clowns or grow as existing clowns. Check out www.mooseburger.com. Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp 2022 will be held in July.



Area Report: North Central Region

by L.J. "Wiggles-d-Clown" Lomenick-Luce, Area Director

08-04-2021

Cowtown is back to in person Alley meetings, although their meeting place has changed. Its a slow start but its a start. Their plans are to slowly reschedule the annual Alley events that were postponed and rebuild the Alley attendance to pre-Covid numbers. They had their first in person meeting in July complete with "a show us what you know and what we don't" program. The rally cry of Cowtown seems to be We are back.

Happi Tymes also is having in person and Facebook meetings and has been for four months now. They also will be meeting at a new location.

They were well received participants in the annual Arlington 4th of July parade. They continue to have educational programs at all Alley meetings, such as, the art of Walk around ,Paradeability, and Child Entertainment through games. They are pleased that their numbers are starting to climb back towards normal and are happy to be reunited as a group.

The Clown Arounds have not been able to meet because of the Pandemic but have already seen some light at the end of the tunnel. They have already booked a couple of Alley gigs for later this year and are hoping that activities will fill in accordingly. Their numbers are small but the enthusiasm is big. They like all of us are starting their Clown year a little later than they would like.

Area Report: South/Central Region

by Diana "Buttons" MCurtain-Talbert, Area Director

Since the last meeting the Jolly Joeys Clown Alley has begun meeting again. We had one general membership meeting, and a balloon jam. We've re-visited getting background checks for all members and getting. We are also visiting getting liability insurance for the alley so that all members and the alley are covered when doing alley sponsored gigs.

We did the Castle Hills parade in June (they along with other organizations in San Antonio had pushed some Fiesta events from April to June)

We've also done 3 other gigs, 2 with shows and balloon twisting, and one back to school back pack event with balloon twisting only.

Future events include a balloon twisting seminar with Jody Robbins, a class on how to face paint in a COVID world, Our Alley swap meet, and Goodwill Hunting pageant, members find items at Goodwill to make and original clown costume with a brief schtick. Office elections in November, and our Christmas/holiday party in December.



Area Report: North East Region

by Susan "Double Buble" Keys, Area Director

August 2021

Report from Rosy Nose from Jane Wilson

We met the third Monday of June and fixed our calendar for the remainder of the year. We discussed skits, new members, projects (which we can't seem to get off the ground in our area).

Nothing for prison ministry still and still unable to go into nursing homes. We were able to do a Day at Camp Tyler with balloons and face painting.

Our July meeting guest was the Lone Ranger...dressed in full "uniform". He gave us the entire history of how the Lone Ranger came into being. It was a great meeting. Part of the Memory Makers from Suflur Springs attended as well and several community members who had heard about it were in attendance. For our August meeting...will be overview of the convention. Hope to see you there.

From Matthew Spraggins President of Mid-Cities Clown Alley 85

There is a discussion of the DFW alleys uniting. We had 4 visitors and 2 joined the alley. We learned how each of our attendees got interested in Clowning at our last meeting. Debbie Davis has officially taken over the Treasurer position.

From Darris Cross Memory Makers Clown Alley

We are working on skits and plays. Terry Cunningham, vice president, has brought a few movies that have the history of clowns and things like that to watch and share. Our treasurer and secretary, Kim Cunningham, is doing an awesome job of keeping things straight.

We have ordered shirts for our alley. They are yellow shirts with our logo on it. We decided we would each buy one and the alley would buy the other so we'd all have two shirts each. That's for the active members. The non-active coming once in a while members had a choice to buy a shirt for themselves but the alley did not buy the extra shirt. We should be receiving our shirts by our next meeting.

Jim Carrarr has missed a few times due to his illness but he is better now. We will both be at convention. Nancy has been coming to meetings regularly as well. We are working on skits and props. Nancy, myself, and Eli Miller (Nancy's 10 year old nephew) helped make balloon dogs as we made balloons for over 300 families at a backpack give away in Hopkins county this last Friday. Eli is practicing a unicycle and balances things like feathers on his nose. Its good to see the young man participate.

We are rolling with the flow. We meet every second Monday night at the Roc which is in Sulfur Springs.

MEMORIES



2021 CONVENTION - KILEEN, TEXAS