

# Tramps, Hobos and Bag Ladies

My kids asked me what is the difference between a tramp and a hobo. I knew the answer in terms of clown tramps and hobos, but as it turns out, there is a difference between real tramps and hobos as well.

A tramp is a wanderer, but one who rarely works. A hobo is also an intentional wanderer, but he's not afraid of work. The most common explanation given for the origin of the word 'hobo' is the term 'hoe boy', describing the many migrant workers who took to the roads doing farm labor after the American Civil War. Many Southern soldiers returned home after the war to find their homes and land in ruins, and having few prospects, set out with their hoes over their shoulders, and all their worldly goods tied in a cloth bundle at the end. Hence the typical image of the hobo with a stick over his shoulder with his "bindle" tied at the end. "Bindle" is just one of many words in the hobo's private language. Hobos still gather every year in Britt, Iowa as they have every year since 1900, for the annual hobo convention, where they crown a new hobo king and queen, tell travel stories and share memories of hobos who have "taken the westbound" (died) over the previous year. Interesting to note, a hobo can be either male or female.

As for clown tramps, hobos and bag ladies, the difference is largely defined by demeanor, and in the case of the bag lady, gender. While a bag lady could be either a happy or sad character, a hobo is typically a happy wanderer, often portrayed as a down-on-his-luck man-about-town character. But a tramp is almost always a sad character. When I was auditioning for Ringling's Clown College many years ago, I was informed by the boss clown that management didn't encourage younger clowns to be tramps. I wondered why at the time, but I think I've come to understand it. A happy hobo or bag lady can be portrayed almost the same as an auguste character. Funny, the butt of jokes, basically an energetic comic foil for the whiteface or an auguste. But a true tramp is mostly a solo performer, and while their stock in trade is pathos, they use it to create laughter, just as their counterparts use broader comedy. At first glance, one would think Otto Griebing was out to get pity or perhaps a sad smile from the audience. But no, he was aiming for laughs like any clown would. And he was remarkably funny. He could use his sad state, his completely pitiful clothing and demeanor to get some of the biggest laughs I've ever seen a clown get in a circus. Being a good tramp clown is a complicated kind of comic art. It is played subtle and small, in contrast to everything in the circus around it. Maybe that's why it's so effective and so difficult to do well.

# The JOEY JOURNAL

The Texas Clown Association - July-August 2011



# THE JOEY JOURNAL

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**Advertisements:** Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Full page-\$50; half page-\$30; 1/3 page size \$20

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	Family (each add'l):	15.00
	Junior Membership:	12.50

**Central membership mailing location:** Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P. O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053

## ***Purpose of the Texas Clown Association***

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.

**SUMMER ISSUE**  
**JULY—AUGUST 2011**

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## A Word from the Prez.....

Hello Clown Friends,

Well, we have been home less than two days and I'm thinking back on the wonderful time we had at the TCA Convention. If you were not able to attend, let me tell you what you missed. There were almost forty first time attendees, fourteen Jr. Joeys, some vendors, lecturers and even an Entertainer that has never been to a TCA Convention before. I'm proud to say six of the Jr. Joeys came from my home Alley. Next year we will be continuing the second of three years in the summer and at the same Hotel. Mid Cities laid the foundation and your TCA Board is going to build on it.

Speaking of next year, we will have Face Painting Competitions for the first time at TCA. The TCA Board asked a committee of Mary Morris, Phyllis Sheffield and Missy Dunbar to develop guidelines for this competition. They brought ideas to the Board and we presented them to the membership. At the General Membership Meeting our members approved the motion to have Face Painting Competition and it will start at the 2012 Convention.

Your TCA Education Committee raised additional funds for Scholarships. Watch your Joey Journal for more information and guidelines on **who can and how to** apply for a Registration Scholarship to the 2012 TCA Convention. There are some great things happening in TCA and you don't want to miss it.

**Bump A Nose**

Andy A.

# CLOWNING FROM THE HEART WITH ROBERT "BOPPO" & LOU "HONEY" STODDARD

By Jeanette "Dusti" Sanders

Listening to Lou "Honey" Stoddard talking about her clowning experience was like living it through her thoughts. Honey is so descriptive and remembers every detail of her rich history in clowning.

Lou and Robert Stoddard became interested in clowns, not clowning, during 1974-75 while the couple was passionately involved in art clubs, art lessons and painting. Lou and Robert painted still life, landscapes and profiles, but Lou wanted to paint clowns. At that time Robert started 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. Then Lou found a clown portrait in one of her art books. From that moment Lou was hooked on painting clown portraits. All of her clown portraits, with the exception of the one from the art book, are performing clowns and most of them from the circus.

At the mall near their home in Duncanville, Texas in 1976, G. Elmar Jones (Jo Jo Jingles) was entertaining the children for parents for their special Mother's day out program. Lou asked Jo Jo if she could take a snap shot with her "Big Shot" instamatic camera for the purpose of using him as a model. Jo Jo approved and posed for the shot. Jo Jo asked why Lou and Robert didn't join Clowns of America. Lou told him that she hadn't heard of COA and asked Jo Jo for more information. He mailed her a

copy of the Calliope and she became quickly hooked on clowning. When he retired, Jo Jo chose Honey to carry on his stand up shows with patter and balloon animals.

In 1976-77 several people in the Metroplex who were interested in clowning got together to form a clown alley. In 1977 they applied to COA and received their alley charter in 1978 - Texas Mid Cities Clown Alley 85.

Mid Cities volunteered to entertain at nursing homes, orphanages, hospitals, Love for Kids Picnic at Lee Park, Christmas parties at a dude ranch, and a senior dance held at Dewy Grooms Night club in Dallas. Mid Cities also teamed with Circus Fans of America and Ed Milette Tent #5 (the oldest Circus tent active at that time) to entertain people at Traders Village and other charities. In 1983 Traders Village placed a picture of Honey in their seasonal brochure. Honey had a policy that if anyone at an event was paid, then the clowns were paid - and she made sure that happened.

Boppo helped to organize circus and clown days at the Texas State Fair. Mid Cities invited clowns from all over Texas for this event. The State Fair furnished a free pass to everyone who requested one and Boppo and Honey mailed them out. Boppo also got a number of the 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 which 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 competition trophies for the State Fair. 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.

The manager of the Forum 303 Mall was a big clown fan. She was so 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 theatre style (open theater). Honey particularly remembers one such event. The teachers, moms and troupe leaders had the toughest time keeping their groups organized. However, there was one preK teacher who had a rope and each child was holding that rope since they were told 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. If she was there with them, they left a remarkable impression. 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. Honey wonders where many of these friends are today.

Honey still continued to paint portraits and entered her work in the State Fair competition. 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. One Saturday Boppo was outside the Women's building organizing Circus and Clown day at the Fair - just to make sure everyone had a good time. That year her 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. He was also a regular writer for *Carnival News* and *The Calliope*. In 1979 Boppo created the picture for the Mid Cities logo and stationary, 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 a half years Boppo also served as the 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 Convention was held in October 1983. The convention competition being held at the Forum 303 Mall. Nancy Noice with the cable company in Duncanville, videotaped the convention activities, competitions and banquet. The entertainment for the banquet was a young mime, David Hira. Everyone was amazed how David made it look like those invisible walls were really there.

In 1990 the ending of a movie "The Problem Child" was being filmed at the State Fair. 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 at the midway. 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 remembers what fun they had during that long week.

Honey and Boppo were awarded the TCA Ambassador award in 1991 and 1992. For a number of years Honey was known as the "The Duncanville 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 recalls the time when after being invited to ride the circus train from Baraboo to Milwaukee but Boppo's invitation came late (but he got to ride anyway). Boppo remarked that he wasn't invited (but he went anyway). A musical group and friends wrote a song to surprise him calling it "I wasn't invited but I went anyway!" What a surprise it was.

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. She is proud of the hard work, fun, energy and heart that the alley members contributed over the years. Honey 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 greater 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 and grandchildren and encourage your friends to involve their children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews. We must keep the interest in clowning alive."

## **2011 DATES to NOTE**

Circus Magic West—October 16-17, 2011.  
[www.CircusMagicWest.com](http://www.CircusMagicWest.com). Presenters include:  
Duane Laflin, Jim Howle, DJ Ehlert and Steve Kissell.

October 1, 2011. Rescheduled: Steve Kissell  
Workshop—University Methodist Church in San  
Antonio. Contact: Diana McCurtain-Talbert: 210-391-  
6087

World Balloon Convention—March 21-25, 2012—  
Dallas, Texas. Go to [www.rainbowballoons.com](http://www.rainbowballoons.com) for  
more information

TCA Annual Convention—August 1-5, 2012  
Send in you application now for the best rate!!

## ASK Minnie

Dear Minnie,

My favorite nose is still in good condition except that it has some scuff marks and glue spots that I have no recollection of how they got there. I've had friends warn me not to use the nose cleaner on the outside. Do you have any ideas. — Scuffy

Dear Scuffy,

I have had good luck with a product that Andy sells at Kudos. It is called, "Cactus Juice". I tried it on a nose that had a lot of glue and powder combined. I still had to pick some of the stuff off but the glitter was not damaged. — Minnie

Dear Minnie,

I'm new to clowning and I want to start face painting. I see several brands and wonder where to invest my money in supplies. — Colorless in Denver

Dear Colorless,

I myself faced a great deal of confusion when I started to face paint. I was terrified of the whole prospect. Like you, I wanted to be wise in my decisions, but had to attend several classes before I would pick up a brush myself. First, one instructor mentioned children that have been permanently scared by the use of less reputable products. That lead me to make a personal promise to seek out safe products and to read labels. Those labels will reveal

important information. One brand is very widely used and is great for cheek art, but left me a little frightened. The green and blue cannot be used on lips and the red does should not be used near eyes. I paint full-face art often, so I left that brand on the shelf. The question of full-face or cheek art seems to be where personal comfort lies. I prefer full-face because for me it is easier, and I'm more confident of a good outcome. But whatever the little face chooses, I'm going to do my best. A use for those cheap paints at Halloween might be to give you a feel for whether you like liquid paints, ones that you add water to, or the colored face powders. I'd be painting on paper to see which I liked, but I would put them back in the closet before I start painting on a live child. It might be an opportunity to paint your samples of choices that you want to offer your clients. I suggest your first purchase might be a smaller kit, until you verify that your first choice was the right one. The great thing to remember is, face paint can be corrected so get started, keep the wet wipes handy, and remember, experience is a great teacher. — Minnie

Dear Minnie,

I'm on a tight budget and convention is always slated as important. Why should I go to convention? Will I get anything I can use from it? — Frugal

Dear Frugal,

Convention is a great place to expand your knowledge. Often we see specific training for a specific price.

The price seems more budget wise, but at convention you get to choose in which areas you want to expand your clown. There are several trainers in different classes to let a person advance from where they are today. Often you have an area of weakness that you want to learn more in or one area that you specialize in and want to know everything there is out there. When you decide you want to compete, that preparation is an education. After reading the rules for competition and the judging criteria, you are ready to start. As you prepare, you practice building props, planning the skit or performance to meet required criteria, and practicing it to guarantee the time limits are not exceeded and that the stage limits of space meet what you are planning. The points lost in exceeding time limits, will soon cancel a great presentation. For my dollar, convention makes the most sense, because the quality of the teachers and the variety to choose from in one location, not to mention access to a vendor room geared to our specific needs cannot be beat. My largest issue is either trying to be in two classes at once or worrying that my notes will not fully remind me of all the stuff I heard, I'm not sure which. If you have no other reason, coming to share experiences and talk to other people doing the same stuff that you do and hang out with a bunch of fun-loving people, provides all the incentive that I need. The convention for 2011 met all these and more.  
**GOOD JOB MID-CITIES ALLEY!!!**

Come and Join us, Frugal

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Email: [bebopclown@hotmail.com](mailto:bebopclown@hotmail.com)

## NEW WEBSITE PASSWORD

Please note that the password for the member's only section of the website has now been changed.

The new password is: **traintrack**

## **TCA Convention Registration Scholarship Guidelines**

1. The number of scholarships awarded for each TCA Convention registration each year will be determined by the Board and/or the Education Committee and based on funds available.

Scholarship fund must maintain a minimum \$500.00 balance.

2. All applications must be received by April 1, 2012 to the Education committee.
3. All applicants must be TCA members who have maintained membership for the last two years or more.
4. Education Committee, Board Members, and their immediate families are not eligible to apply. Recipient's must wait two years before reapplying.
5. Applicants must agree to write an article for The Joey Journal regarding their experiences at the TCA Convention they attended within thirty days of the convention.
6. It is strongly suggested that the recipient participate in one or more competitions at the convention.

7. Attach with the application form: A letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities & a picture of you in costume & make-up. (Photo will not be returned.)
8. Questions for the application form.
  - a. How long have you been clowning?
  - b. What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
  - c. What clown skills are you interested in developing?
  - d. What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
  - e. Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?
  - f. How will you apply the education you receive as a result of receiving this scholarship?
    1. In your community?
    2. In your alley?
    3. In the Art of Clowning?
  - g. Have you attended a TCA Convention in the past & when?

## **TCA 2011 Convention Recap**

The 2011 TCA Convention is behind us, but oh what a fun time we had! We had a lot of clowns racing to have a good time - in fact, 161 REGISTERED clowns at the convention! Now I don't know the stats from the last several years in total, but I believe this convention turns around the downward spiral on convention attendance that we've been experiencing since 9-11! The Mid Cities Clowns were so happy and excited about these attendance numbers!

If you went, these were some of the things you saw:

### **At registration:**

A beautiful 14-foot long balloon racecar that two people could actually sit in for photos! Quite a few of our clowns took advantage of this, as well as a number of the other hotel guests! We gathered email addresses at registration so we can pass these on to future convention planners as a way to easily and inexpensively contact clowns for future conventions.

**Classes:** Over 40 classes to choose from - some rather innovative like how to do Social Media Marketing to get business and also an innovative lecture revolving around selecting age appropriate material to suit your audience. Of course we had all the normal balloon, face paint, performance, and make up classes - but even many of them had a new or unusual twist to them!

### **Jr. Joeys:**

I remember many, MANY conventions where we didn't have any children in attendance. Occasionally we would get the home-schooled child, but by and large we were childless during our convention. NOT THIS YEAR! We had 14 - yes 14 Jr. Joeys at the convention! To see their

enthusiasm and experience their wit and humor was a breadth of fresh air for all of the older clowns there. I witnessed a bonding between many of the Jr.'s and I think some friendships were forged at TCA that will last a long time. One of the exciting things that came about at this convention is that TCA has started a special education fund for scholarships to future conventions. Jr. Joeys (or their parents) can apply for these scholarships!

**Hotel:** This hotel was superb. The staff bent over backwards to accommodate us. We had 138 registered attendees (not counting dealers and lecturers) when the convention started, but also had 23 walk ins at the door! The hotel let us move some of our rooms around to facilitate larger than expected crowds, and even let us move our theme party to another ball room to give us more room! They even supplied extra boxed lunches for our membership to buy so no one had to ever leave the hotel for lunch. The lunches were big enough to share between two people so they were quite economical too! The hotel rooms were beautiful, spotless, and comfortable. Not to mention, the price for the rooms was quite a bargain at \$89/night up to 4 people.

**Banquet:** We promised some surprise banquet entertainment and only a select few knew who our performer was. When the REAL Ronald McDonald walked onto our stage as our banquet entertainment, the 14 Jr. Joeys in the audience, and all the other children that came were all around smiles! He wasn't just there to pose for photos, which he happily did after the banquet was over. He performed a wonderful 30-minute magic show with parts from the Ronald School show for us! Ronald McDonald Children's Charities was our charity of choice this year, which helped us to pull off getting Ronald to

perform for the first time ever at any clown convention.  
What a treat that was.

**Future Plans:** We have a survey we would like for those attendees to fill out so we can turn this in to TCA for future conventions. The TCA board will be putting the convention together for 2012 at the SAME hotel, the DFW Westin. The dates for 2012 will be Aug. 1-5, a little earlier than this year's convention so perhaps a few more of the teachers on our roster can attend! It's not too early to mail in your registration for 2012 and get the lowest registration rate you can get. Also, if you are on Face book, please visit the TCA Face book page for information, as we get closer to convention time. Please click "Like" on your Face book wall to help us get the word out to more and more clowns about TCA.

Your convention chair clown,  
Margaret Clauder  
aka Maggie the Magical Clown

## **SURVEY**

**For all who attended convention, please  
take the survey:**

**<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZPWJHV2>**

Your input is important. To better serve our members TCA needs to know what we do well, and how we can improve.

Thanx.

## **TCA 2011 Competition Winners**

ALL AROUND CLOWN: ANDY ESPINOSA

SINGLE BALLOON:

1st John Clauder

2nd Kynisha Jarreau

3rd Peggy Barton

MULTIPLE BALLOON:

1st Kynisha Jarreau

2nd John Clauder

3rd David McCullough

BALLOON ARRANGEMENT:

1st John Clauder

2nd David McCullough

3rd Bill Fritsch

MAKEUP CHARACTER:

1st Sally Papasan

2nd Claudette Hayes

3rd Kynisha Jarreau

MAKEUP OTHER (Tramp, Auguste, Senior):

1st Aurora Krause

2nd Diana McCurtain-Talbert

3rd Dale Flashberg

SINGLE PARADEABILITY:

- 1st Alberto Espinosa
- 2nd Linda Greene
- 3rd Kathy Keaton

GROUP PARADEABILITY:

- 1st Alberto Espinosa, Andy Espinosa
- 2nd Jennifer Howard, Pam Wegenka, June Hinkle,  
Josh Curry, Beverly Cowen
- 3rd Linda Greene, Sally Papasan, Kathy Keaton, Susan Butler,  
Lupe Vasquez, Claudette Hays, Sandy Finley

SINGLE SKIT:

- 1st Carolyn Kerr
- 2nd Kynisha Jarreau
- 3rd Michelle Lewis

GROUP SKIT:

- 1st Alberto Espinosa, Andy Espinosa
- 2nd Diana McCurtain-Talbert, Auroa Krause
- 2nd LanaSue Fridge, Carolyn Kerr, Wanda Carter
- 3rd Claudette Hays, Sally Papasan, Linda Greene,  
Susan Butler, Lupe Vasquez, Kathy Keaton

PERFORMANCE:

- 1st Andy Espinosa, Alberto Espinosa
- 2nd Aurora Krause

**TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Clown Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities.

Please include a picture of you in make-up & costume. (Photo will not be returned)

Please answer the following questions either typed or written in ink.

1. How long have you been clowning?
2. What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
3. What clown skills are you interested in developing?
4. What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
5. Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?
6. How will you apply the education you receive as a result of receiving this scholarship?
  - a. In your community?
  - b. In your alley?
  - c. In the Art of Clowning?
7. Have you attended a TCA Convention in the past & when?

**Application must be postmarked by April 1, 2012**

**If you e-mail all info must be received by midnight April 1, 2012. Please send completed form and accompanying documents to: Texas Clown Association, Attn. Education Committee, P.O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053 or e-mail to Rhea Anderson at [kudosra@yahoo.com](mailto:kudosra@yahoo.com)**

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## PLEASE SHARE YOUR TALENTS

We still need some articles for the Joey Journal. Please help us make this a better newsletter. It is another way to share your talents. Send those articles to [Joeyjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:Joeyjournal@yahoo.com).



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