

**CWM Audio 74-1**  
**Antoinette Concello Interview, September 1978**  
**Part 1**

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Tom Parkinson:       00:00           ... have a chance to visit with you, because over the years I've visited with a lot of people and have been trying to get some of their recollections and their voice and their personality on, uh, a tape, which is a real handy way to do it.

Antoinette C.:       00:13           Yes.

Tom Parkinson:       00:13           And uh, it's a lot easier than taking notes.

Antoinette C.:       00:15           And you can erase some of it, too. (laughs)

Tom Parkinson:       00:16           Yeah, you can erase. Yeah, that's true too.

Antoinette C.:       00:20           Excuse me.

Tom Parkinson:       00:21           But, uh, I thought maybe ... Well, I've been aware that you, uh, were here with the unit, red unit, in other years, but often you'd go to Bloomington and I'd miss you and- and ...

Antoinette C.:       00:30           Well, up until the last couple of years, you see, I'd spend one year on the blue-

Tom Parkinson:       00:35           Mm-hmm.

Antoinette C.:       00:35           ... and the next year on the red.

Tom Parkinson:       00:37           Mm-hmm.

Antoinette C.:       00:37           I'd visit ... when I'm on the red, I'd visit the blue and when I'm on the blue, I'd visit the red.

Tom Parkinson:       00:41           Yeah, well you didn't know it, but I was watching you when you were around there, and wondering when you were gonna be here. And uh ...

Antoinette C.:       00:46           It's been quite a while since I've been in this town.

Tom Parkinson: 00:47 Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah.

Antoinette C.: 00:48 And it's been quite a while since I've stopped in Bloomington. As a rule, we're right at the point where, uh, in Chicago where they issue a new contract for a new season-

Tom Parkinson: 00:59 Yeah, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 00:59 ... and it's so hard to get away.

Tom Parkinson: 01:01 Right.

Antoinette C.: 01:01 And then if you t- if you, too, if you don't have transportation to drive down whenever, you know.

Tom Parkinson: 01:05 Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Antoinette C.: 01:06 Because it takes as long to get to the airport and back in Chicago than it does, you know, it ruins your whole day.

Tom Parkinson: 01:11 Well I was going to tell you that if you ever want to go to Bloomington, uh, the airport here is- is ... has better service than Bloomington.

Antoinette C.: 01:19 It does?

Tom Parkinson: 01:19 And I'd always be happy to drive you over there and back.

Antoinette C.: 01:21 That would be nice.

Tom Parkinson: 01:21 My daughter lives over there and- and we get to Bloomington a lot.

Antoinette C.: 01:24 Well, Tim's wife was going to ... uh, and then drive up. But it, I t- it would take me more than a day to go through it.

Tom Parkinson: 01:31 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 01:31 ... so, I had a lot of stuff stored-

Tom Parkinson: 01:33 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 01:34 ... and they tore the barn down. Uh, [Ed Rencraft 00:01:36] put a lot of our s- stuff in, uh, storage with, uh, [Sam Stern 00:01:39]-

Tom Parkinson: 01:39 Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 01:39 ... in his warehouse. And I'd love to go through ... I know there's a lot of stuff that's no good, that he'd like to burn up ...

Tom Parkinson: 01:39 [crosstalk 00:01:46]

Antoinette C.: 01:45 ... but I hate to do it without going through it-

Tom Parkinson: 01:48 Oh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 01:48 ... because I figured there's- there might be some things that I'd like to sell [crosstalk 00:01:51]

Tom Parkinson: 01:51 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 01:51 And keep. And uh ...

Tom Parkinson: 01:55 Well, there are things that-

Antoinette C.: 01:55 So I'd really like to stay there, so ...

Tom Parkinson: 01:57 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 01:57 When I, when I do that.

Tom Parkinson: 01:58 Well, I'm serious, if- if I can help you get there-

Antoinette C.: 02:00 Well, thanks. That's nice to know.

Tom Parkinson: 02:02 Remember the Champaign Airport has got direct flights from Washington for that matter. So you could come here and I could run you over to Bloomington and [crosstalk 00:02:10]

Antoinette C.: 02:09 It's just the idea of having the [inaudible 00:02:11] out here.

Tom Parkinson: 02:11 Yeah, sure, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 02:13 I'm getting ready, soon I'll have to go to Denver.

Tom Parkinson: 02:16 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 02:17 To the blue show. And then I'll have to go to Chicago, I'll be in Chicago, uh, the 31st of October and the 1st of November.

Tom Parkinson: 02:26 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 02:27 And possibly the 2nd, it all depends.

Tom Parkinson: 02:29 Oh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 02:29 Yeah. 'Cause we are gonna hold an audition there.

Tom Parkinson: 02:32 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 02:34 And then we have another one in Detroit, so I'll have to limit my Chicago stay to get back, make sure I- I get back to the Detroit one, on this show.

Tom Parkinson: 02:44 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 02:44 And then, I think we'll go through, uh, New York and Nassau ahead of closing the show.

Tom Parkinson: 02:48 Oh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 02:49 Because they will be closing ... after we'll be already down in Venice rehearsing this unit, for the time the blue show plays there.

Tom Parkinson: 02:58 Right, right, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 02:58 So w- we did that last year. We went early.

Tom Parkinson: 03:01 Will you take on some responsibility with the new show as well?

Antoinette C.: 03:04 Oh, yeah. We're having the, um [inaudible 00:03:06] planning what we're gonna do for the-

Tom Parkinson: 03:07 Yeah, great.

Antoinette C.: 03:08 ... for next year. Worked a little bit between shows, the first two shows, but ... three shows [crosstalk 00:03:14]

Tom Parkinson: 03:14 Yeah. Let me drop way, way back. Let me ask you about ... such things as you're going to school in Canada.

Antoinette C.: 03:21 Mm-mm (negative). I never went to school in Canada.

Tom Parkinson: 03:23 Okay, I thought ... she just ...

Antoinette C.: 03:24 I was born in Canada.

Tom Parkinson: 03:25 Okay, all right.

Antoinette C.: 03:25 But I never went to school there.

Tom Parkinson: 03:26 Okay. Why don't you tell me what happened, or uh, tell me about your childhood, where you were born, and- and when you first got to the circus.

Antoinette C.: 03:35 Well, I was born in a little town about 60 miles south of Montreal, called Sutton, Quebec.

Tom Parkinson: 03:41 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 03:42 We stopped there one year, going up to the [crosstalk 00:03:44]

Tom Parkinson: 03:44 Oh.

Antoinette C.: 03:44 And I haven't been back there since.

Tom Parkinson: 03:46 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 03:46 So about n- I was about nine years old, last time I was up there visiting my grandmother. But I went to school in Burlington, Vermont, at a convent there. 'Cause my- my father and mother are separated, and all the children were old enough to get out and earn their own in those days-

Tom Parkinson: 04:01 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 04:01 ... except my younger brother and me. And uh, I went to school in Burlington, Vermont, at Mount St. Mary Academy, and ... in the meantime my sister had, uh, joined the show, and she was working for Mr. Ward, who was [crosstalk 00:04:18]

Tom Parkinson: 04:17 Eddie Ward, right.

Antoinette C.: 04:18 Mm-hmm (affirmative). And uh-

Tom Parkinson: 04:19 This was Becky?

Antoinette C.: 04:20 Mm-hmm (affirmative). And I came on just really to visit her.

Tom Parkinson: 04:23 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 04:25 And uh, Mr. Ward had lost a couple of girls, and you know, he was always in the market for new talent, looking around.

Tom Parkinson: 04:30 Yeah. Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 04:31 And I really didn't have anyone to help me [inaudible 00:04:34] school anyway, so he kind of talked me into going with the, to

staying on the show, and then I practiced the rest of the year with them, and I did [inaudible 00:04:43] iron jaw and things like that-

- Tom Parkinson: 04:44 What show was that?
- Antoinette C.: 04:45 That was the Sells Floto show.
- Tom Parkinson: 04:47 Okay. And- and in that, you were doing things other than the flying act, right?
- Antoinette C.: 04:51 Yeah. But I saw the flying act, and that's what I wanted to do.
- Tom Parkinson: 04:53 Oh, great.
- Antoinette C.: 04:53 And he talked me into going into- into winter quarters there, Bloomington.
- Tom Parkinson: 04:57 Mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Antoinette C.: 04:58 And uh, that's where I started to learn to fly, and [crosstalk 00:05:03]
- Tom Parkinson: 05:02 Then y- you had the season on the Floto show, and then you came off of that, uh ...
- Antoinette C.: 05:07 Just part of the season, 'cause the-
- Tom Parkinson: 05:09 All right, yeah.
- Antoinette C.: 05:09 I came on towards the end of the season.
- Tom Parkinson: 05:11 'Cause you went to visit.
- Antoinette C.: 05:12 To visit, and I stayed on the rest, til the show closed.
- Tom Parkinson: 05:14 Yeah.
- Antoinette C.: 05:14 And went into quarters with them.
- Tom Parkinson: 05:16 Uh, who else, was that when Tom [Mix 00:05:18] was there, or was that, uh, uh ...
- Antoinette C.: 05:20 I don't know that Tom Mix was living that show that year or not.
- Tom Parkinson: 05:23 Yeah. Okay.

Antoinette C.: 05:25 See, I saw the television show the other night. Can't remember which program it was [inaudible 00:05:31] but uh, um ... uh, Roy Rodgers, there were two or three old [Com 00:05:37] boys that were hobnobbing together-

Tom Parkinson: 05:38 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 05:41 ... and Tim McCoy was with him, and I hadn't seen him since-

Tom Parkinson: 05:43 Oh.

Antoinette C.: 05:43 ... he was on, he was on the Ringling show [inaudible 00:05:45] one year.

Tom Parkinson: 05:45 Sure, sure.

Antoinette C.: 05:46 And uh, he looked great.

Tom Parkinson: 05:48 Yeah. I saw him not too many years ago, and-

Antoinette C.: 05:50 Mm-hmm (affirmative). He looked great.

Tom Parkinson: 05:50 ... I got to visit with him.

Antoinette C.: 05:51 I'd love to make it to the coast, try to look him up in the phone book or something.

Tom Parkinson: 05:55 Yeah, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 05:55 Just to say hello.

Tom Parkinson: 05:56 Year.

Antoinette C.: 05:56 'Cause he looked great. He was a swell person.

Tom Parkinson: 05:58 Yes, he was.

Antoinette C.: 05:59 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 06:00 Well, and when you went back to Bloomington, uh, Eddie Ward was in charge of a number of flying acts.

Antoinette C.: 06:06 Yeah, he had all the acts on the American Circus Corporation.

Tom Parkinson: 06:09 Right. And- and did you-

Antoinette C.: 06:10 That was Floto and, you know.

Tom Parkinson: 06:12 Robinson, Hagenbeck.

Antoinette C.: 06:13 Robinson, yeah. Al G. Barnes.

Tom Parkinson: 06:14 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Well, what was the first act that you were in, that ...

Antoinette C.: 06:21 Uh, with Edward. First, uh, we practiced and I was going to go on some winter dates with ...

Tom Parkinson: 06:27 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 06:27 I was ready to, I was doing [inaudible 00:06:29] and I got an infection in my hand.

Tom Parkinson: 06:31 Oh.

Antoinette C.: 06:32 One of the, one of the fellas and I both, little [Billy 00:06:34] Ward, who's dead now.

Tom Parkinson: 06:35 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 06:35 And so I couldn't make those dates. And I think Detroit date was the first one.

Tom Parkinson: 06:41 Oh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 06:41 The first two dates was, I think, Wichita, Kansas, and someplace else.

Tom Parkinson: 06:44 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 06:45 And I had to miss those because of my hand. And then I think the first winter date, it was Detroit. And uh, then we came back into quarters and practiced again, I know, but I think that year in the Coliseum in Chicago.

Tom Parkinson: 06:57 That would make sense, sure.

Antoinette C.: 06:58 I think.

Tom Parkinson: 07:00 The Sells Floto again.

Antoinette C.: 07:01 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Uh ...

Tom Parkinson: 07:05 Then, at that time you were with the Flying Wards.



Antoinette C.: 07:07 No, no, uh, that year, Edward was going to put me ... See, he had, uh, acts on the Floto show, and the Hagenbeck show, and I ... I think it was the John ... uh ...

Tom Parkinson: 07:25 Might have been.

Antoinette C.: 07:26 The John Robinson?

Tom Parkinson: 07:27 He owned, he had sh- uh, he had acts on that show, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 07:29 He had all of them.

Tom Parkinson: 07:30 Yeah. I don't know which one played Chicago.

Antoinette C.: 07:31 But anyway, we opened at the Coliseum.

Tom Parkinson: 07:32 Okay.

Antoinette C.: 07:34 And ... during that winter, Edward got sick.

Tom Parkinson: 07:38 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 07:40 He- he got sick. And ... [Mamie 00:07:42], Mamie started ... Mamie could catch, you know.

Tom Parkinson: 07:48 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 07:49 And Mamie was catching. Until we figured Edward could come back. Well, Edward did come back, but the doctor didn't want him to work, but you know, Edward does ... He was all right, he was gonna work. So uh, we went out on the road after the, after the building engagement. And uh ... I think it was Gary, Indiana, or one of those towns, with um, bad weather and all that.

Tom Parkinson: 08:14 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 08:14 Edward got sick again. And uh, we sent him to the hospital. I can just barely remember the boys taking him out of the train. That was a long time ago, you know.

Tom Parkinson: 08:24 Sure.

Antoinette C.: 08:24 And uh, he died.

Tom Parkinson: 08:25 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 08:25 I remember we all ... went from that town, whatever town it was [inaudible 00:08:33] I don't even know. But we came into Bloomington to his funeral, and then we went back to the show, and Mamie just kept on catching. She went back to catching them, and uh-

Tom Parkinson: 08:41 And were you with that unit of the Ward's, then? He would have had several acts-

Antoinette C.: 08:45 Yeah. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 08:45 ... but you were with the one that he was with.

Antoinette C.: 08:46 Right.

Tom Parkinson: 08:47 And at that time, then Mamie began to catch.

Antoinette C.: 08:49 Yeah. And-

Tom Parkinson: 08:51 And if I'm, maybe I can refresh your memory in this. After the funeral at Bloomington, the John Robertson show was at Decatur. And uh, at least this is what [Tuffy 00:09:02] tells me.

Antoinette C.: 09:02 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Well, maybe it was. I mean, I [crosstalk 00:09:04]

Tom Parkinson: 09:03 But when they, when they came back ...

Antoinette C.: 09:05 He's more familiar with these towns-

Tom Parkinson: 09:06 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 09:06 ... around Illinois than I am.

Tom Parkinson: 09:07 Oh, sure. And that doesn't make [crosstalk 00:09:09]

Antoinette C.: 09:09 And at that time, I- I just hadn't been in Bloomington very long.

Tom Parkinson: 09:12 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 09:12 So I knew very little about it.

Tom Parkinson: 09:13 You didn't- didn't care anyway.

Antoinette C.: 09:14 Mm-mm (negative).

Tom Parkinson: 09:14 But that's about the time Tuffy started flying. He was a stowaway on a John Robertson train until Decatur, when Mamie resumed work after the funeral. And uh, so, okay. Then you were with the Ward's for, uh, for several seasons, I suppose, or for a while.

Antoinette C.: 09:31 No, because ... When Mr. Ward died, as soon as I started, they s- kind of knew that I was going to progress quite rapidly-

Tom Parkinson: 09:39 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 09:40 ... and Mamie, uh, had [inaudible 00:09:43] on the side, and- and Mamie also, and Mamie started getting the idea that she was gonna do a lone girl act another year.

Tom Parkinson: 09:48 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 09:49 But in the meantime-

Tom Parkinson: 09:49 [crosstalk 00:09:51]

Antoinette C.: 09:50 ... Robert and I had been, yeah, and she- she planned on grabbing me, see.

Tom Parkinson: 09:53 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 09:54 And in the meantime, Arthur and I were flirting around, and playing around, and you know, which we had to be very careful when Ed was there, 'cause he wouldn't allow that [crosstalk 00:10:02]

Tom Parkinson: 10:02 In those days that didn't go.

Antoinette C.: 10:03 We had to sneak, we had to sneaky-poo the, uh, everything.

Tom Parkinson: 10:06 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 10:06 And I was kind of green behind the ears yet, you know, I hadn't been out of the convent very long.

Tom Parkinson: 10:10 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 10:11 And I had my sister around watching. So anyway, I'd started making plans, that he d- didn't, he and Mamie didn't get along too well anyway. And um, so we had sort of planned on doing our own act. And uh ... at the end of, uh, May, the end of May we- we scooted off to Detroit and got married.

Tom Parkinson: 10:33 Oh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 10:33 And that, Mamie was furious. Oh, Mamie was furious-

Tom Parkinson: 10:37 Little rough for the act.

Antoinette C.: 10:38 And she let Art go.

Tom Parkinson: 10:39 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 10:40 But I stayed with the act the rest of the year. And, 'cause we needed the money. (laughs)

Tom Parkinson: 10:44 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 10:44 Which was very little, in those days, but it went further. (laughs)  
So when the show closed that year, we started, uh, while I was home, he started building his rigging and making his nets, stuff like that.

Tom Parkinson: 10:55 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 10:55 And when the show closed that year, he'd come over to [inaudible 00:11:00] and pick me up, and we'd go back to Bloomington, we started practicing together [inaudible 00:11:05]

Tom Parkinson: 11:05 And that would be at the YMCA, rather than in-

Antoinette C.: 11:07 Uh-

Tom Parkinson: 11:07 ... or the, or the Ward barn?

Antoinette C.: 11:08 We practiced a little in the YMCA, but it was pretty low for-

Tom Parkinson: 11:11 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 11:12 ... to do a whole lot of stuff.

Tom Parkinson: 11:13 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 11:14 No, we didn't practice in the Ward barn, [inaudible 00:11:16] in the old Coliseum down there.

Tom Parkinson: 11:18 Oh, okay.

Antoinette C.: 11:18 It was very cold-

Tom Parkinson: 11:19 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 11:19 ... and I remember the boys had had their r- their coats on, and they'd say to me, "Do another one while you're resting."

Tom Parkinson: 11:24 (laughs)

Antoinette C.: 11:25 "Do another one before you get cold."

Tom Parkinson: 11:27 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 11:28 And uh, that's how we started.

Tom Parkinson: 11:30 And then your first show was Robbins Brothers.

Antoinette C.: 11:33 Yeah, th- that first year after we had started our own act, uh, we went out with Robbins Brothers. And uh, we had only been out with them two, three weeks, or shortly, I don't know just how long now.

Tom Parkinson: 11:48 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 11:49 And they made the show smaller, uh, and they cut- cut the poles ... I dropped the ...

Tom Parkinson: 11:54 I'll get it.

Antoinette C.: 11:55 Uh-oh. Thank you. And it was a little too low for the flying act.

Tom Parkinson: 12:00 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 12:00 But he didn't want us to go. He kept paying us. He didn't want us to go. He said, "Business picks up, I'll put the other poles back up."

Tom Parkinson: 12:06 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 12:08 Well, anyway, in the meantime, it ... While we were working somewhere, at [inaudible 00:12:17] and he went back and [inaudible 00:12:20] went back up, couple of kids there ...

Tom Parkinson: 12:23 Gonna be good.

Antoinette C.: 12:25 Yeah. So he kept after us and after us, and we really, we were a little bit [inaudible 00:12:33] so, you know, we'd heard so many tales-

Tom Parkinson: 12:35 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 12:36 ... about the [inaudible 00:12:37] over here, and they'd had the acts, I think, flying acts, for about 30 years. And everyone was getting old. And uh, so Pat says, "Look, they're [inaudible 00:12:46]" well, we went on the, uh, we went on the Floto show the next year, with their act. And uh-

Tom Parkinson: 12:51 Uh, let me ask you a question. You were with Robbins only a short time?

Antoinette C.: 12:54 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 12:55 And then, did you go to the Floto show-

Antoinette C.: 12:57 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 12:57 ... for the rest of that year?

Antoinette C.: 12:58 Yeah. Uh, I believe we did, because-

Tom Parkinson: 13:01 Okay.

Antoinette C.: 13:01 ... some of the things I'd heard ...

Tom Parkinson: 13:04 Okay.

Antoinette C.: 13:04 And that's when Pat says, yeah, 'cause they were using ... I think, I think it was [inaudible 00:13:14]

Tom Parkinson: 13:14 Okay, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 13:14 You know what I mean? I'm not sure.

Tom Parkinson: 13:16 Secrets, maybe?

Antoinette C.: 13:17 No, they were s- they were on this show.

Tom Parkinson: 13:18 They were on Ringling, yeah. Right.

Antoinette C.: 13:20 Uh, that's how we had [crosstalk 00:13:21]

Tom Parkinson: 13:21 Okay. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 13:22 Because [Sid 00:13:23] was, um, broke his neck, remember?

Tom Parkinson: 13:25 Uh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 13:26 And uh, Pat [inaudible 00:13:27] always kept saying, "Listen, you gotta come over," because Ringling, in the meantime Ringling bought the corporation [inaudible 00:13:33]

Tom Parkinson: 13:33 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 13:36 This is [inaudible 00:13:37] So we finally decided to take a chance.

Tom Parkinson: 13:41 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 13:41 And sure enough, they put the thing on the, on the show the next year. And in the meantime, uh, Charlie [Severs 00:13:47] fell and broke his neck.

Tom Parkinson: 13:48 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 13:49 So we came here, and uh, the very next season, remember we were in Boston Garden, and we were on one end, and one of our [inaudible 00:14:03] was on the other end. And uh, [Kodolny 00:14:04] was in the middle, and Kodolny hurt his arm, and then [crosstalk 00:14:09]

Tom Parkinson: 14:09 Pulled his shoulder?

Antoinette C.: 14:10 Yeah. So we went in Boston Garden [inaudible 00:14:13] and I reckon we switched over [crosstalk 00:14:14]

Tom Parkinson: 14:14 Oh, so that's the way you learned.

Antoinette C.: 14:16 (laughs) So ...

Tom Parkinson: 14:18 What do you recall about your top trick at that time? This was before the triple.

Antoinette C.: 14:22 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 14:22 This is, what were you doing? The two and a half?

Antoinette C.: 14:24 Two and a half, I had the two and a half for quite a while, [inaudible 00:14:27] before I did the triple.

Tom Parkinson: 14:28 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 14:29 And then I also did double full-twister.

Tom Parkinson: 14:31 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 14:31 And double- double cutaway, and [flexus 00:14:33].

Tom Parkinson: 14:33 [Flewis 00:14:34], I think, is my favorite. (laughs)

Antoinette C.: 14:36 Well, you know, there's something funny about the flexus. It's a good-looking trick.

Tom Parkinson: 14:39 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 14:40 It's- it's hard to learn, but it's one of the easiest big tricks to do after you've learned it.

Tom Parkinson: 14:44 Oh, is that right?

Antoinette C.: 14:44 Mm-hmm (affirmative), you can do it more consistently. But to return from the flexus, you see, you're hanging down underneath the catcher on the bar ...

Tom Parkinson: 14:51 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 14:52 And the fly bar is higher than the catcher. And to do a somersault from the stick back to the fly bar is- is [crosstalk 00:14:59]

Tom Parkinson: 14:58 You gotta gain a little there.

Antoinette C.: 15:00 Yeah, it's tough.

Tom Parkinson: 15:00 Yeah. Tell me about the triple, now. After you were in the center ring on the Ringling show, and you were succeeding the [Kodolnys 00:15:09], was there, uh, you hadn't done the triple by that time, nor had Art done the triple by that time, I suppose.

Antoinette C.: 15:15 Let me think. No, we did two and a half. 'Cause I remember the first [inaudible 00:15:24] garden, and nobody c- knew I could do the two and a half.

Tom Parkinson: 15:25 Hmm.

Antoinette C.: 15:25 We hadn't showed anybody yet.

Tom Parkinson: 15:26 Oh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 15:27 And uh-

Tom Parkinson: 15:28 Well then, was there, was there any pressure from the show for you to do the triple?



Antoinette C.: 15:32 Oh, no.

Tom Parkinson: 15:32 No?

Antoinette C.: 15:33 No, in fact, they told us, any time she doesn't feel good, to leave it out, you know.

Tom Parkinson: 15:37 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 15:37 They were very considerate.

Tom Parkinson: 15:39 Good.

Antoinette C.: 15:39 But no, I can remember ... Every time we played the winter shows, you know, every other year we'd play the winter shows-

Tom Parkinson: 15:39 [crosstalk 00:15:46]

Antoinette C.: 15:45 ... and the other year we'd go, we'd go to Europe.

Tom Parkinson: 15:50 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 15:50 And the potentate of the shrine, or the man who put the show on in Detroit, uh, his name was-

Tom Parkinson: 15:50 [Eddie Stinson 00:15:55]

Antoinette C.: 15:55 ... Eddie Stinson. He would get me, "When are you going to do that?" 'Cause I'd do the triple into the net as a finish trick, see.

Tom Parkinson: 16:00 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 16:01 And it was getting pretty nice and high, and ... "When are you gonna catch that triple for me? When you catch that triple I'mma buy you the prettiest dress you ever had." And just, you know. So we started f- fooling around with it whenever we could, I had the chance to practice it. And uh, I was, I was doing about two out of three.

Tom Parkinson: 16:20 Oh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 16:21 Uh, in practice, and when we, when we went to Detroit. We played Grand Rapids first, and I did three or four good ones in Grand Rapids.

Tom Parkinson: 16:29 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 16:29 In practice, without missing any. So the opening night in Detroit, we had a, I remember we had a packed house. They were sitting all over the ground. And uh, we did the whole act. And Art had told the catcher, but he didn't tell me-

Tom Parkinson: 16:40 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 16:40 ... 'cause he figured I'd be nervous. "If everything goes well, don't drop Donna after the passing trick." So we did the whole act, we did the two and a half to the announcement, and we did the passing trick. Everything went fine, so ... I go up, and the catcher didn't drop the net. So Art put the raise up, and he says, "Let's do it for them."

Tom Parkinson: 16:58 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 16:58 And Mr. Stinson was down there. We did a real nice one.

Tom Parkinson: 17:01 Great!

Antoinette C.: 17:02 And he went over to the microphone, and he started telling the people what they'd just, you know, witnessed.

Tom Parkinson: 17:06 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 17:07 And it was real, like ... He dropped down in the net, and he st- he come over and hugged me and kissed me, there before God and everybody.

Tom Parkinson: 17:13 Oh, good. (laughs)

Antoinette C.: 17:13 But it was really, it was a, it was a wonderful moment to remember.

Tom Parkinson: 17:16 Oh, I'm sure it would be.

Antoinette C.: 17:17 Really a nice moment. If I never caught another one, that would-

Tom Parkinson: 17:19 Yeah?

Antoinette C.: 17:20 ... that would have been happy.

Tom Parkinson: 17:21 And of course you're the first woman in history to do that.

Antoinette C.: 17:22 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 17:24 And you held that-

Antoinette C.: 17:25 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 17:25 ... h- held that position for a long, long time.

Antoinette C.: 17:28 This little girl in, uh, in uh, Las Vegas.

Tom Parkinson: 17:34 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Terry Cavaretta.

Antoinette C.: 17:35 Cavaretta, yeah. And I went over especially to see her, and I saw her doing, um, a dandy and I came back and I told Kenny, I said, "Gee," I said, "She's really a nice one." So he went over several times, and she just didn't catch it.

Tom Parkinson: 17:48 Oh!

Antoinette C.: 17:49 You know?

Tom Parkinson: 17:49 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 17:50 But a little later, I think she had some bad luck, because her husband was killed.

Tom Parkinson: 17:53 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 17:54 So I think she had to start practicing to a new catcher.

Tom Parkinson: 17:56 I see, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 17:57 And I don't, haven't seen her since.

Tom Parkinson: 17:58 I see.

Antoinette C.: 17:58 I haven't seen her [crosstalk 00:17:59]

Tom Parkinson: 17:59 I don't know if she's still doing it either.

Antoinette C.: 18:00 I don't know. I haven't seen. I was in, um, Las Vegas not too long ago.

Tom Parkinson: 18:04 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 18:06 But when you see show, show, show [inaudible 00:18:07] I went there for, I only had a few hours.

Tom Parkinson: 18:10 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 18:11 So uh (laughs) pulled a slot machine. (laughs)

Tom Parkinson: 18:13 Sure, yeah. Well, now when you were doing triples, uh, that first one in Detroit would be a- a great thrill for everybody who saw it, and certainly for you.

Antoinette C.: 18:21 It was for me, really.

Tom Parkinson: 18:22 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 18:22 The next morning, the phone rang. It was his wife.

Tom Parkinson: 18:25 Mm-hmm (affirmative)?

Antoinette C.: 18:25 She says, "Come on, put your clothes on. This is one promise he's gonna keep." She took me shopping and got me a beautiful dress.

Tom Parkinson: 18:30 (laughs) Oh, great.

Antoinette C.: 18:30 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 18:30 Well, uh ...

Antoinette C.: 18:31 Well, when you're the first one to do it, you learn all about it.

Tom Parkinson: 18:34 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 18:34 You know, it's easier to go for something when you know it can be done.

Tom Parkinson: 18:37 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yes. Yeah, somebody else has already f-blazed the trail.

Antoinette C.: 18:42 Like Tito now, playing with a quad.

Tom Parkinson: 18:43 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 18:46 You're- you're learning all about it for somebody else. 'Cause they take pictures of it, and then they slow it down [crosstalk 00:18:51]

Tom Parkinson: 18:51 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 18:52 ... to all the fine points, that you've had to work hard ...

Tom Parkinson: 18:55 Sure.

Antoinette C.: 18:56 ... to- to, and you know, when you don't, when you know it hasn't been ... And at that time, see, several men had [inaudible 00:19:03]

Tom Parkinson: 19:02 Yeah. Eddie [Lane 00:19:04].

Antoinette C.: 19:04 Eddie Lane, uh, a boy in Europe. Um ...

Tom Parkinson: 19:11 Probably several others.

Antoinette C.: 19:12 [inaudible 00:19:13] [Segrist 00:19:13].

Tom Parkinson: 19:13 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 19:15 A lot of men.

Tom Parkinson: 19:16 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 19:18 And uh, too, [Kodolna 00:19:20] had sort of passed the [inaudible 00:19:24] the people who would write that you black out.

Tom Parkinson: 19:27 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 19:28 Going so fast that you black out. That's what got me curious.

Tom Parkinson: 19:30 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 19:32 Because I thought, "You can't black out, 'cause if you black out, you can't think."

Tom Parkinson: 19:36 Sure.

Antoinette C.: 19:37 And you can't do what you're supposed to do, you know? You can't ...

Tom Parkinson: 19:40 That- that makes sense.

Antoinette C.: 19:42 You'd be limp. The catcher couldn't hold you. You couldn't think, uh, if you black out. So he did that for publicity reasons, I imagine.

Tom Parkinson: 19:49 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Uh, was there a particular secret that you found, that was the difference between catching it and- and not [crosstalk 00:19:58]

Antoinette C.: 19:58 No, just, you just keep going until you ... Just some f- funny little ... I caught it for days and days, and we'd carry it just so far and land in the [inaudible 00:20:11] so uh, you got to the point where-

Tom Parkinson: 19:58 [crosstalk 00:20:15]

Antoinette C.: 20:14 ... I then pointed my heels, you know, take the jar off.

Tom Parkinson: 20:19 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 20:19 Just some little thing that I was doing, or wasn't doing, that just couldn't hold me any further.

Tom Parkinson: 20:25 Was Art a pretty good coach in that?

Antoinette C.: 20:26 Oh, yeah. Oh.

Tom Parkinson: 20:27 And he was doing triples-

Antoinette C.: 20:29 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 20:29 ... at that time too.

Antoinette C.: 20:29 Yeah. Yeah. Art was a good teacher.

Tom Parkinson: 20:31 How often did you, uh ... uh, how often did you, or how long did you do his-and-hers triples? How often did you do?

Antoinette C.: 20:42 Oh, let's see. I know '37 and '38, we did it quite often [crosstalk 00:20:50]

Tom Parkinson: 20:49 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 20:50 ... but not all the time.

Tom Parkinson: 20:52 Yeah. Well, I guess nobody ever does them all the time.

Antoinette C.: 20:54 Well, I mean, under canvas ...

Tom Parkinson: 20:56 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 20:56 Under canvas you've got a lot of things to come back-

Tom Parkinson: 20:59 Right.

Antoinette C.: 21:00 ... if you don't have any [crosstalk 00:21:02]

Tom Parkinson: 21:01 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 21:01 You get [inaudible 00:21:02] every day here-

Tom Parkinson: 21:03 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 21:03 ... in out of the ... It might get warm in a few buildings, but as a rule you've got air-conditioned buildings. There, it's so hot, or so cold, or raining, wet-

Tom Parkinson: 21:11 I've always heard about how hot it got in the top of the tent.

Antoinette C.: 21:13 ... and wind getting under the canvas, just as you go to break for a trick, the wind getting ...

Tom Parkinson: 21:18 Haven't heard of that one. Of getting it under the canvas before.

Antoinette C.: 21:20 Mm-hmm (affirmative). These kids are lucky.

Tom Parkinson: 21:21 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 21:22 They don't know it.

Tom Parkinson: 21:22 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 21:22 They don't know it.

Tom Parkinson: 21:24 What do you attribute to the fact that- that so many people now do the triple more often?

Antoinette C.: 21:28 Well, the tents are bigger, some of them.

Tom Parkinson: 21:31 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Do you think it's partly because they're indoors? Is that, is that [crosstalk 00:21:37]

Antoinette C.: 21:36 Well, that helps. But they've got the catcher [inaudible 00:21:40]

Tom Parkinson: 21:39 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 21:40 ... so the catcher's lower.

Tom Parkinson: 21:41 I see.

Antoinette C.: 21:41 You send them up a higher rate, so they get a lot [crosstalk 00:21:45]

Tom Parkinson: 21:44 Little more time.

Antoinette C.: 21:45 ... to turn.

Tom Parkinson: 21:47 Yeah, I see.

Antoinette C.: 21:48 And they're kids, they're light.

Tom Parkinson: 21:49 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 21:50 You know.

Tom Parkinson: 21:52 Like the four-minute mile in running, it seems a lot more people-

Antoinette C.: 21:54 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 21:55 ... are- are doing it, now that you've blazed a trail. When did you, uh, when did you stop flying as a regular thing?

Antoinette C.: 22:04 In '53.

Tom Parkinson: 22:05 Okay.

Antoinette C.: 22:05 '53. And uh, I just played around after that. I mean, I didn't do anything difficult-

Tom Parkinson: 22:12 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 22:12 ... 'cause I didn't want to hurt my shoulder. I've had three operations on my shoulder-

Tom Parkinson: 22:15 Oh, yes.

Antoinette C.: 22:15 ... and I had a disc operation also.

Tom Parkinson: 22:18 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 22:18 And I felt that there was no ... as long as I didn't have to, it was foolish to try to do something ... to- to injure myself so that I couldn't continue to-

Tom Parkinson: 22:30 Enjoy?

Antoinette C.: 22:30 ... enjoy, you know.

Tom Parkinson: 22:31 Mm-hmm (affirmative).



Antoinette C.: 22:33 You have to know your own capacity, I think.

Tom Parkinson: 22:36 No, you're right. Uh-

Antoinette C.: 22:37 I play around, and I go up every winter with Tito and [Ralph Isbarras 00:22:40] and play around, and mount the board, and do a somerset to the net, and in fact, I worked for him for six weeks one time, when he [crosstalk 00:22:48]

Tom Parkinson: 22:47 Wow.

Antoinette C.: 22:47 ... did to trick Papa, just 'cause I know Papa wouldn't give me a jerk on my arms. He's very, very smart. But uh, to go playing around just to be, it would be showing off.

Tom Parkinson: 22:56 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 22:57 Even though I'd like to try sometimes, just ... But it- it's not worth it. I mean ...

Tom Parkinson: 23:01 You took my next question away from me, because I was gonna ask you about this six weeks' time that you filled in, 'cause I've heard about that. And I- I didn't know that you ...

Antoinette C.: 23:08 I hadn't been up in 15 years.

Tom Parkinson: 23:10 Yeah, that's amazing. Really remarkable.

Antoinette C.: 23:12 I felt naked when I walked out there. (laughs)

Tom Parkinson: 23:13 (laughs)

Antoinette C.: 23:13 But as soon- soon as you get in the ring, though, you get over that.

Tom Parkinson: 23:16 Yeah. Well, you must still have a fondness for flying [crosstalk 00:23:19]

Antoinette C.: 23:18 Oh, I do. I love it, and I watch every show that I'm here, I'll watch it.

Tom Parkinson: 23:21 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 23:22 And um, I just keep my mouth shut, for the, uh, unless they ask me.

Tom Parkinson: 23:25 Oh, yeah. That'd be hard.

Antoinette C.: 23:26 But the ... Tito, he's- he's great.

Tom Parkinson: 23:31 Is he gonna make the quad?

Antoinette C.: 23:33 I've seen him carry it through the ridge ropes.

Tom Parkinson: 23:35 Yeah. Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 23:35 Yes, in fact ... I was standing in the barn last year, because [Tilla 00:23:39] Short, you know, she had a bad arm at the time. And Armando likes to watch it from the ground.

Tom Parkinson: 23:43 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 23:44 So I'd go up with them, and uh ... I, uh, you could hear it squeak, you see, and pull.

Tom Parkinson: 23:50 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 23:51 As- as, uh, but um, if anybody's gonna do it, now, he don't plan on doing it all the time.

Tom Parkinson: 23:56 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 23:57 But if he can, if he can do one, or two-

Tom Parkinson: 24:01 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 24:01 ... just to please himself, to say he'd done it, that's all. He's not planning on ...

Tom Parkinson: 24:05 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 24:05 But uh, everything he does, he does well.

Tom Parkinson: 24:08 Yes, he does. Tell me about-

Antoinette C.: 24:09 And very unspoiled, you know-

Tom Parkinson: 24:10 Mm-hmm (affirmative). [crosstalk 00:24:11]

Antoinette C.: 24:11 ... this little, uh, no conceit or ...

Tom Parkinson: 24:14 Yeah. Tell me what you [crosstalk 00:24:15]

Antoinette C.: 24:15 And that's what I admire about him.

Tom Parkinson: 24:16 Elaborate on what you mean by the ridge ropes, bring it, uh ... [crosstalk 00:24:20]

Antoinette C.: 24:20 Well, the end of the rope, the end of the net.

Tom Parkinson: 24:21 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 24:22 There's a ... you know, there's a rope that goes all the way around the net.

Tom Parkinson: 24:25 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 24:25 It's tight.

Tom Parkinson: 24:26 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 24:26 And that ridge rope, if you hit on that ridge rope ... (laughs)

Tom Parkinson: 24:28 You really hit something.

Antoinette C.: 24:29 Yeah. (laughs) Then you can skin yourself badly, and uh ...

Tom Parkinson: 24:33 Yeah. Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 24:33 Or if you just go past the ridge rope, hit the apron right in a pocket where, uh, you get underneath that ridge rope, you can't get out. (laughs)

Tom Parkinson: 24:39 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 24:40 You have to be a contortionist to get out of that [inaudible 00:24:43]. We used to call the apron the summer home under canvas, because you get wet or slippery, or get a little time and get wet, you know, we used to land out there.

Tom Parkinson: 24:50 Oh, yeah. Well, when he's done a quadruple, or when you were talking about earlier, when you hit the ridge rope, uh, does that mean he'd do this but he, the catcher and he missed, and he hit the ridge rope instead?

Antoinette C.: 25:02 Well, he- he'll have to carry it quite a ways to hit that.

Tom Parkinson: 25:04 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 25:05 It's way out in fr- front, in front of the catcher, you know, that way.

Tom Parkinson: 25:07 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 25:09 It, when you just miss, you miss there.

Tom Parkinson: 25:11 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 25:11 The catcher's ... Or if you carry it a little ways, you hit underneath the catcher, like, a little bit.

Tom Parkinson: 25:14 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 25:15 But you carry it far enough to hit the ridge rope, you carry it quite a ways.

Tom Parkinson: 25:17 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 25:18 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 25:19 And what about the, uh ... I see what you mean. The- the catcher and the flier are together quite a ways-

Antoinette C.: 25:23 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 25:23 ... and then you- you've changed angles, so you [crosstalk 00:25:25]

Antoinette C.: 25:25 It's just some little, just when I was first starting.

Tom Parkinson: 25:27 I see.

Antoinette C.: 25:27 It's just something I wasn't doing, or didn't do ...

Tom Parkinson: 25:29 Yeah. Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 25:31 Or some little thing I was doing wrong. But he just couldn't hold me past that point.

Tom Parkinson: 25:35 Yeah. I see, I see.

Antoinette C.: 25:36 But once- onc they really get together, and [inaudible 00:25:39] just perfect time and perfect everything, and they carry it, take it away.

Tom Parkinson: 25:42 Yeah. Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 25:43 That'll give them a ...

Tom Parkinson: 25:44 I see, okay.

Antoinette C.: 25:44 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 25:45 Then what a- what about the squeak? You were, you were saying this.

Antoinette C.: 25:47 Oh, the rosin-

Tom Parkinson: 25:48 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 25:48 ... and I just, y- you could tell it was a pull.

Tom Parkinson: 25:50 Okay.

Antoinette C.: 25:50 I mean, it wasn't just slapping hands. There's a difference with just ...

Tom Parkinson: 25:53 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 25:53 Anyway. We used to have a boy who worked the [inaudible 00:25:57] you know, his name was Billy Ward.

Tom Parkinson: 25:58 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 25:58 He was no relation of the Wards, but ... good kid. And oh, he tried so hard, and he was s- he worked so hard, you know. [inaudible 00:26:08] his English was, the kid [inaudible 00:26:10] pretty good [inaudible 00:26:11] but not, it wasn't the [inaudible 00:26:12] kind.

Tom Parkinson: 26:12 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 26:12 And the boys who put the folks on, and we put the mechanic in, you can help them teach it, see? And they'd tap the ropes just the right time, get the catcher so [inaudible 00:26:23] taken away. Happy, he ...

Tom Parkinson: 26:25 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 26:26 For two months he was the happiest guy in the world, talking about that triple he caught.

Tom Parkinson: 26:29 Sure.

Antoinette C.: 26:29 But we do it just to make the kid feel good.

Tom Parkinson: 26:31 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 26:33 Now you see a lot of tricks done with a mechanic in there. You take them off, and that's ...

Tom Parkinson: 26:37 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Now, in more recent years, you've been involved in training that aerial ballet. And you've trained [Betty Hotten 00:26:44] and you've done a number of other things in more recent times. Um, what do you find, uh, most interesting about that? Is it fun to, uh ...

Antoinette C.: 26:52 Yes. It's something to think about, something to plan. Uh, all the girls are different, and you learn a lot about personalities.

Tom Parkinson: 26:58 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 26:59 And about younger people, and uh, it's- it's fun to try to get the precision, you know, and you can let them all do their own thing if you want to, but to get precision in a number, and- and to have it worked out with the music and all, it's sort of a ... it's- it's an accomplishment [crosstalk 00:27:16]

Tom Parkinson: 27:16 Lot of satisfaction.

Antoinette C.: 27:17 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 27:17 Seeing that worked out.

Antoinette C.: 27:17 'Cause you've got all kinds of girls up there-

Tom Parkinson: 27:19 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 27:19 ... and some foreigners that can't speak English, and then meant hat can't speak English underneath.

Tom Parkinson: 27:23 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 27:24 And then, uh, then you get them in the same [inaudible 00:27:28] (laughs)

Tom Parkinson: 27:28 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 27:28 You spot it right away, and uh ... it's nice, because all the girls, I like all the girls, and all the girls like me.

Tom Parkinson: 27:37 Yeah. Great.

Antoinette C.: 27:37 I feel, in the spring when we started out and had to push them so hard, that they're all gonna hate me by the time the show closes, uh, by the time the show opens. And then opening day I usually get a bouquet of flowers or something pretty-

Tom Parkinson: 27:47 Sure.

Antoinette C.: 27:47 ... and a few of the girls start bringing me little presents, and I get a big [inaudible 00:27:51] out of it.

Tom Parkinson: 27:51 Most of all, you gain their respect. And you- you're-

Antoinette C.: 27:53 Well, I ...

Tom Parkinson: 27:54 You're a good teacher.

Antoinette C.: 27:54 They don't make it, they don't teach them these things.

Tom Parkinson: 27:57 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 27:58 And they know that, too.

Tom Parkinson: 27:59 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 27:59 They're, oh, sometimes their ankle's swollen and they're skinned up-

Tom Parkinson: 28:02 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 28:03 ... and they're stiff and sore, they have no strength.

Tom Parkinson: 28:08 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 28:09 Some of them haven't even been up on the step [inaudible 00:28:12] before. And uh, but they want to [inaudible 00:28:14]

Tom Parkinson: 28:13 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 28:14 So they- they- they're [crosstalk 00:28:15] we've got a great group of girls now. Very great [crosstalk 00:28:17]

Tom Parkinson: 28:17 That, uh, yeah.

Antoinette C.: 28:18 Yeah. [crosstalk 00:28:19] girls.

Tom Parkinson: 28:18 What about your- your attitudes or your own, just general feeling about the circus business in general? This is an old ... questions you get asked every time. Would you do it again?

Antoinette C.: 28:28 Sure. Why not?

Tom Parkinson: 28:29 Would you prefer, uh, a tented circus, or an indoor circus, or what are your [crosstalk 00:28:36]

Antoinette C.: 28:35 Well, there's a lot of nice memories back there with the tented circus. It's different atmosphere, and ...

Tom Parkinson: 28:41 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 28:41 But the new crop, they don't know that, so they don't miss it.

Tom Parkinson: 28:46 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 28:46 And really, it was the hard way, when you think back.

Tom Parkinson: 28:50 Sure.

Antoinette C.: 28:52 I don't regret it, because I think it's, it ... I think it helps you, to cope with a lot of things in life, but uh, you know.

Tom Parkinson: 28:59 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 29:01 Everything isn't easy, you know. You know that.

Tom Parkinson: 29:03 Right.

Antoinette C.: 29:03 But actually, you couldn't do it today. And I'm as spoiled as everyone else is, now that I ... have had a few luxuries, because they are luxuries-

Tom Parkinson: 29:14 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 29:15 ... compared to what we had in the old days.

Tom Parkinson: 29:17 For one thing, you don't have the one-day stands.

Antoinette C.: 29:19 Yeah. Well, that- that part of it. You wake up in the morning and everything is the same place where you-

Tom Parkinson: 29:24 Mm-hmm (affirmative).



- Antoinette C.: 29:24 ... that part, that isn't a hardship. The weather, the ... for instance, we didn't, our living conditions weren't as good then. We didn't know it.
- Tom Parkinson: 29:36 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Antoinette C.: 29:36 I mean, we coped with it. Uh ... you're m- and most always you're in nice buildings now, with good dressing rooms, hot showers. We used to take cold-water baths in a bucket-
- Tom Parkinson: 29:50 Yeah.
- Antoinette C.: 29:50 ... and get clean.
- Tom Parkinson: 29:51 And your train accommodations must be better now.
- Antoinette C.: 29:54 Our train accommodations, we've got-