

CWM Audio 70-14

Interview with Nancy Davies

July 23, 2017

Part 2

Interview conducted by LaVahn Hoh

LaVahn Hoh: Part two with Nancy.

Nancy Davies: So I said to the regional publicist ... I said, "Huh, I wonder if they would let us take [Beau 00:00:11] next door and stroll him through the Krispy Kreme drive-through" Because I'm thinking of the visual. She looked and she goes, "I don't know. I'll ask." And they did. We set this all up with media. We had eight media outlets there, like four TV stations, [00:00:30] newspapers, and such. Larry brings out Beau, and we had arranged that there were going to be ... They had three dozen donuts. We get the shot. Larry's going to feed Beau. And we're done. So we have all this media there. Larry comes out, strolls up to the drive-through, first dozen come out. They've already pre-made these. Beau eats them. Second dozen, Beau eats them.

LaVahn Hoh: Oh, Geez.

[00:01:00] Nancy Davies: And we're really kind of done at this point. But third, okay, Beau eats them. Larry wasn't done, though. Larry decided he was going to keep feeding, so they need to give the hot donuts that were coming off the line. So another dozen. And I have no control at this point. Neither does the regional publicist. We are at Larry's mercy. And I looked at her, and I said, "I really don't need any more. They've got the shot." She goes, "I know. We can't say anything." I went, "Okay." So there's the fourth dozen. And then he gets another one, a fifth dozen. I said, "I'm not feeling good about this." And she goes, "I [00:01:30] know. I know." So fifth dozen, and all of a sudden he goes for a sixth dozen. I went, "You know, I don't think this is going to end well." And there we go, sixth dozen, and he turns for a seventh. I went, "I cannot look. This is not going to be good." And he gives Beau the seventh dozen. Beau takes it and chews it up. And all of a sudden, it all comes out of his mouth, and it looks like he's thrown up. And they have this on video. I said, "Oh." [00:02:00] The Krispy Kreme is not happy. I went, "Wow. I didn't see that coming. If anything, I thought it was coming out the other end."

LaVahn Hoh: The other end, yes.

Nancy Davies: What Beau had done was throw it. He didn't throw up. He just let it fall out of his mouth, because I learned that elephants don't like things that are hot. He had just eaten several dozen hot donuts and was just done. He ate a lot of donuts. He was just done. So Krispy Kreme is not happy. I'm horrified. That went out nationally, because it went on [00:02:30] one of the news feeds. I think it was the Fox news feed, and it hit on over 100 TV stations. And bless their hearts, nobody showed that part. But that was probably my most uh-oh moment.

LaVahn Hoh: I would have thought he would have gotten sick.

Nancy I know. That's why I thought at first it was throwing up.

Davies:

LaVahn Hoh: Yeah. One of ...

[00:03:00]

Nancy One of the life's lessons is don't feed an elephant more than seven dozen. If I haven't

Davies: written about it yet, it is one of my ideas to write on my Be The Ringmaster website. When you have what you need, end. Don't keep going because you think it will be fun, or you think, "Oh, yeah. I'm going to do that." Or who knows why. But if what you have, you have, that you basically have fulfilled it, unless you know differently, stop, because something bad could happen.

[00:03:30]

LaVahn Hoh: And something did.

Nancy An elephant might throw it up.

Davies:

LaVahn Hoh: Yeah. Have you seen Beau lately?

Nancy The last time was ... Oh, that was at Kenosha. That was about four years ago.

Davies:

LaVahn Hoh: He's huge. He has grown now.

Nancy Oh, wow.

Davies:

LaVahn Hoh: I'll show you a picture when we're finished.

Nancy Okay. Okay. Wow.

Davies:

LaVahn Hoh: He is giant. I was talking to [Bellow 00:03:52] at the Smithsonian. He said, "Oh, he has just grown so much. She's a big girl now, even bigger." So do you have any other things that you want to add?

Nancy No, I think I ... I got lots of stories like a lot of people, but I think I just want to end it by, once again, reiterating what so many have said. It is truly ... It's a unique community. I'm sure there are others like it, whether it's a military community or a NASCAR community. I don't know. I mean, they travel a lot, too. But circus people are a unique group of people, whether you're first generation or you're seventh generation. These are hard working people. This is their living. For so many, it's also the love of what they do. It is really just an amazing group of people. And from so many different cultures and so many different cities and so many different states.

[00:04:30]

[00:05:00] I've been afforded the great opportunity to be a part of it. To be a part of Ringling's history, to be a part of Big Apple's history, the Hanford history. That is such a gift to me, and I just that everyone. And meeting people like you, Lavonne. I've heard your name for years. I have your book at home. It's just such a joy to meet you and get to know

[00:05:30] people here at Circus World that I had not met before. It's just been a joy. I love the circus, and I want to keep spreading that love like so many people do.

LaVahn Hoh: Yes, indeed. That's what we have in common.

Nancy That's right. Thank you for this.

Davies:

LaVahn Hoh: Oh, thank you. I'm [crosstalk 00:05:40].

Nancy I appreciate being able to get my story out, because now it's going to be preserved for history.
Davies:

LaVahn Hoh: That's right. We've been preserved.