

Hometown Gal

By Brenda Johnson Ahern



Clown Camp® in my backyard has provided me a lifetime of memories. La Crosse is my hometown. My family has been fortunate to be a part of the Clown Camp® experience since 1983. It is always exciting to hear my daughter Natalie ask in the middle of April, "How many weeks till Clown Camp®? Can I go over every day? Can I stay late and watch open mike?" It is like a family reunion for us!

I tell people in the non-clown world, I know clowns all over the world. They laugh, but it is true. It amazes me how the "art of clowning" has an attraction in so many cultures throughout the world. Clowns have a common bond and a universal way of communicating. My memories are many, however, my amazement over the many years of Clown

Camp® are the people-new and old friends, acquaintances and the remembrances of friends and friendships that have passed on.

My favorite people to remember are actually the people in my very own backyard. The Coulee Clown Club was a major contributor to the Clown Camp® experience, through the Blue Vesters in the eighties. Staying at the dorms, Blue Vest Specials, helping prepare for camp, and just helping the campers are my best memories.

My all time favorite person at Clown Camp® was Mark Anthony, mostly because he was himself. He didn't put on airs, pass judgment and he made everyone feel comfortable. He was truly a creative free spirit.

Thanks for the hard work and passion in bringing Clown Camp® to all of us for the past twenty-five years. Clown Camp® has changed our lives and clowning in America