

# World's oldest working showgirl

## At 85, cancer survivor is still kicking up her heels

**L**EGGY Dorothy Kloss is 85 years old — but she still wows audiences with her dynamic tap dancing and in her revealing, spangled showgirl outfits.

The amazing granny has been crowned “The World’s Oldest Still Performing Showgirl” by the Guinness Book Of Records.

And Kloss shows no hint of slowing down in the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies at the Plaza Theater in Palm Springs, Calif.

The senior ball of fire performs in 10 energetic shows a week as a “Long-Legged Lovely” and also dances solo tap numbers.

And she doesn’t even have a secret diet. “No health food — I need all the preservatives I can get!” she quips. “If I had a special diet, I wouldn’t be able to dance. I don’t have a banana split every day, but I don’t deprive myself of anything.”

Dorothy’s been dancing since she was a 3-year-old tot in Chicago, but performing never gets stale for her.

“Every time I hit the stage, it’s magic for me,” she says. “I love what I’m doing. I’ve always loved to dance since I was 3 when the Charleston came out.

“I’ve done it all — tap, ballet, modern and jazz dance.”

She was so talented by the time she was a teen,



Amazing 85-year-old Dorothy as a Long-Legged Lovely and in a tap number from years ago (left)



Dorothy taps out the beat during an energetic solo

she landed a gig at the Windy City’s ritzy Empire Room at age 15, earning \$35 a week and wearing costumes created by her mom.

She won tap dance contests and taught tap to a young Bob Fosse, before he became a world-famous choreographer.

She worked with Eddy Duchin and his band, Liberace, the dancing Mills Brothers, crooners Mel Torme, Frankie Lane and Howard Keel, songbird Kay Starr and zany Chico Marx.

During World War II, she was a soldier favorite on USO tours.

Somehow she found time to raise a family and is mother of a son and grandma to two girls.

Twenty years ago, she won a battle with colon cancer.

Like Father Time, the deadly disease never faded her. I just never thought about it,” she says. “I just changed my thinking and my eating habits.”

Dorothy began dancing with the Palm Springs show 14 years ago and has no plans to quit.

Her key to health and long life is her positive, easy-going attitude. “In good times and bum times, I’ve always been happy,” she notes. “Most people take life too seriously.”

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