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Ringlingville USA: The Stupendous Story Of Seven Siblings And Their Stunning Circus Success



Synopsis

The Ringling Brothers began their business under the most modest of circumstances and through hard work, business savvy, and some luck created the largest, most famous circus in the world. They became wealthy men, one 50 cent admission ticket at a time. Ringlingville USA chronicles the brothers' journey from immigrant poverty to enduring glory as the kings of the circus world. The Ringlings and their circus were last studied in depth over four decades ago. Now, for the first time, the brothers' detailed financial records and personal correspondence are available to researchers. Jerry Apps weaves together that information with newspaper accounts, oral histories, colorful anecdotes, and stunning circus ephemera and photos, many never before been published, to illuminate the importance of the Ringlings' accomplishments. He describes how the Ringling Brothers confronted the challenges of taxation, war, economic pressure, changing technology, and personal sorrows to find their place in history. The brothers emerge as complex characters whose ambition, imagination, and pure hucksterism fueled the phenomenon that was the Ringling Brothers' Circus.Â

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Customer Reviews

Besides teaching the history of popular entertainment at the University of Wisconsin, I'm a writer and historian. There are a lot of circus surveys and shallow Ringling histories out there. No other circus book I've found has been so detailed and pleasant to read as "Ringlingville." It places the brothers in their proper context without being one of those rehashed "life and times" works that are short on content. Especially interesting is Apps' look at the family's dynamics -- a three ring circus in itself. There's lots of new material here, with locations, dates and the wagon-by-wagon growth of this American icon. Anyone interested in the Ringlings or American pop culture will find this a fascinating and important book!

Ringlingville USA is the fantastic true story of seven brothers' odyssey from immigrant poverty to immortality as the creators of an enduring circus world. Recently and for the first time, the brothers' financial records and personal correspondence have become available to researchers; Wisconsin and U.S. history specialist Jerry Apps consolidates information from a wide range of sources to offer an unmistakably human portrait of the Ringling Brothers and their personal challenges amid taxation, war, economic pressure, technological advances, and individual tragedy. An amazing saga of real-life legends, illustrated throughout with vintage black-and-white photographs, Ringlingville USA is a must for students of Big Top history and a "must" for all Wisconsin school and community library collections.

If you want to appreciate the struggles and work of people at the turn of the 20th Century this book is a true inspiration. The Ringling Brothers pooled their unique skills to build what became America's most successful circus enterprise. From horse draw wagons to the evolution of the circus traveling by rail this is an important part of American history. In public school, we drilled over and over about the American revolution and civil war. This approach missed the real story of America. This country was founded by the revolution, but built by so many families like the Ringling Brothers. They were not wealthy or educated at elite institutions, they had an idea and an incredible work ethic. They endured failure and setback. They never gave up and were never given anything. This book also is a shocking reminder of how much of American history is not told in the government funded public schools. Thank you Mr. Apps, for filling in part of this missing history.

Great picture on the cover. It is time for a new book on the Circus according to the Feld girls. I know where their office is but they probably have an estate in Loudon County. Check out their website. It

is one of the best.prosperitycoalitionllc@gmail.com

After going to Sarasota and touring the Ringling Museum ,I had to learn more about the circus. This book is the real history of the Ringlings. A Must read if your into circuses!

I enjoyed the history of the circus My grandfather worked for Ringling in1900 as a carpenter and my father lived their with the family until he was14. He talked of helping at the circus.I enjoyed the stories but had a special family interest.,

Truly a great book, all about Ringling Brothers start and life. they truly were amazing. people dont know the real story...at least I didnt until I read this and I was immersed in their story.

Since I volunteer at The Ringling Museum, I found this book very informative and enjoyable. Would recommend Ringlingville as very good reading.

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