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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

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

2005 Outstanding Academic Title from Choice Magazine"Jerry Apps diligently searched the most extensive circus archives in America before writing about the Brothers Ringling. He covers the lives of the Ringlings and provides extensive examples of family correspondence. He details financial records of their circuses, proving their financial success. Best of all, Ringlingville USA is historically

correct." (Fred Dr. Pfening Jr., Editor,Â Bandwagon: The Journal of the Circus Historical Society)Â "Congratulations to Jerry Apps forÂ Ringlingville USA. This is an excellent historical story about my grandfather, Alf T. Ringling, and his brothers. Ringlingville brought bittersweet memories of my days with the circus, 1937 through 1941, and the lullaby of the wheels." (Paul T. Ringling)

Foreword by Fred Dahlinger, Jr. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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 the American revolution and civil war. This approach missed the real story of American. 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 set back. 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.

whether you have been to the circus or no, you will see its history and behind-the-scenes activities

Well written very interesting book about the ringling bros circus. Very nice to have now that the ringling bros circus is ending.

Of all the books in my "circus" collection this would rate as No 1 or 2. Apps does a great job with details and interesting stories. I highly recommend it. Jack Stengel
Circus Fans Assoc of America
#5904

I enjoyed the history of the circus. My grandfather worked for Ringling in 1900 as a carpenter and my father lived there with the family until he was 14. He talked of helping at the circus. I enjoyed the stories but had a special family interest.,

Great book

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

Full of anecdotes and stories. Easy to pick up and read at any time.

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