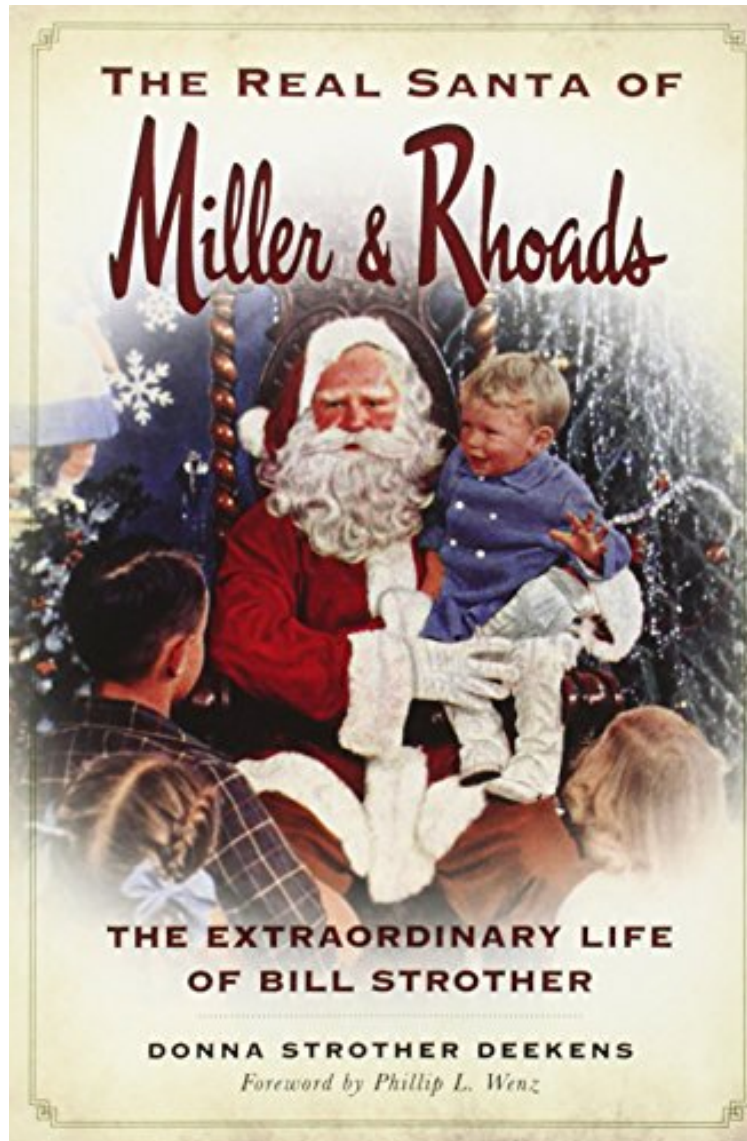


The Real Santa of Miller Rhoads: The Extraordinary Life of Bill Strother

Donna Strother Deekens

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Donna Strother Deekens : The Real Santa of Miller Rhoads: The Extraordinary Life of Bill Strother before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Real Santa of Miller Rhoads: The Extraordinary Life of Bill Strother:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Department Store CollectorBy AndrewAs a collector of books on Department Store History, I found this book to be interesting. The focus is on the life of Bill Strother, who second

claim to fame is as Santa at Miller Rhoads. There are interesting stories photos about his involvement with Miller Rhoads and how beloved Bill was as Santa1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I was one of those fortunate children to have experienced many a Christmas at Miller ...By Peggy CookWhenever I think of Christmas, some of my first thoughts are about the legendary Santa Claus at Miller and Rhoads Department Store in Richmond, Virginia. I was one of those fortunate children to have experienced many a Christmas at Miller and Rhoads and to have sat on this beautiful man's lap and whisper my Christmas secrets in his ear. Bill Strother was and forever will be the Real Santa in the hearts of many children who grew up in the 1950s. Many thanks to Deena Strothers Deekens for writing this book about her amazing dad and for bringing memories of him to life. It is because of Bill Strother that I still believe.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The life of the real SantaBy ccrbI remember going to see the Real Santa at Miller Roads in the 40's. The book brought back those wonderful memories. The stories about Bill Strother' s work as The Human Spider were a little too long, but loved reading about "My real Santa.

After the turn of the twentieth century, young Bill Strother left the tobacco farms of North Carolina to make a living climbing buildings. He became known as the "Human Spider," scaling countless structures across the nation. Yet this was just a prelude to his true calling as the Santa Claus at Richmond's famed Miller Rhoads department store. As department stores everywhere reached their golden age, Strother became one of the most beloved and sought-after Santas in the nation. Author and former Miller Rhoads Snow Queen Donna Strother Deekens recounts the amazing history of the Real Santa.

About the AuthorDonna Strother Deekens is owner of Teapots, Treats Traditions. She has performed professionally as an actress, soloist, entertainer and public speaker. She played the role of a "Snow Queen" to the "Real Santa" from 1971 to 1989 at the Miller Rhoads department store in Richmond, Virginia. She is the author of three books, "Christmas at Miller Rhoads: Memoirs of a Snow Queen"; "Santaland: A Miller Rhoads Christmas"; "Virginia's Legendary Santa Trains" (co-authored with Doug Riddell) and The Real Santa of Miller Rhoads: The Extraordinary Life of Bill Strother. Phillip L. Wenz is one of the most well-known and revered professional Santa's in the nation. He is the longest tenured Santa in the history of the Santa's Village theme park in Dundee, Illinois. He has appeared in over forty Christmas parades, numerous TV shows, billboards, commercials, magazines and large corporate and civic holiday events in some of the nation's largest cities. As an author he is considered the leading authority and historian on the Santa Claus legend, history and folklore.