

Additional Ringling Family Facts

Tales of Earlier Days

By Bob Dewel

Among the little pleasures of being a columnist is the knowledge that someone not only reads his/her column, but upon occasion critiques it. Such is the case regarding our recent column about Marjorie (Fisher) Stekl.

In a paper she prepared, Marjorie recounted memories of her youth, and particularly her relations with over two generations of the Ringling family.

The seemingly innocuous article caught the eye of Patricia Ringling Buck of the Sarasota area. Granddaughter of the August G. Ringlings, Pat is a prolific and diligent author of things Ringling. Noting my surprise to learn that Ida Ringling's husband, Harry North had a daughter in his earlier life, she reports that the daughter's name was Ida, a familiar name in the Ringling genealogy also.

She also noted that only Della, not Alf. T., adopted the daughter Marjorie, whom I had mentioned. The adoption was when Della was a widow, after the death of Alf. T. In an additional correction, she notes that Hester Ringling was older than her brother Robert, not younger.

We've previously written about both, including Robert singing operatic arias from the Ringling stage, and Hester as a High School student in Baraboo. Later she became the Mother of Charles Ringling Lancaster. I knew Mrs. Lancaster, and have a large amount of material that she gave me before her death regarding life in the Edith (Charles) Ringling household, and also the circus ownership conflicts after the death of John.

In another part of the Marjorie Stekl article, I mentioned that little is known locally about Ida North's daughter Sally, born in 1907. Pat Buck had the information, and says that Salome Juliar North, known as Sally, "married Randolph Wadsworth III of Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, had two children and lived an active, socially prominent life until her death in 1988."

I thank Pat Buck for this additional information and clarification. This column and some 420 previous ones, plus the supporting documents for each story, will go to the Historical Society soon, including Pat's contributions.