

SARASOTA STORIES



The Ringlings were instrumental in making Sarasota what it is today. As you explore the museum, look for evidence of their impact on the local area.

GO TO THE TIBBALS LEARNING CENTER, FIRST FLOOR

This model shows what it looked like when a traveling circus came to town in early 20th-century America.

A circus was a huge operation. Over 1,300 performers and workers traveled with the show. As you walk around the model, what kinds of work do you see people doing? List as many examples as you can find.



In 1927, John Ringling moved the Winter Quarters of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus to Sarasota. When the circus stopped traveling for the winter, many of the workers you see in the model would move to Sarasota to prepare for the next season. How do you think this affected the local economy?

GO TO THE TIBBALS LEARNING CENTER, SECOND FLOOR

Developments in Sarasota happened at the same time as events around the world. Use the timeline in this gallery to match each significant moment in Sarasota history with a date and a world event.



Significant events in Sarasota history

- Ringling Clown College opens.
- John Ringling moves his circus's Winter Quarters to Sarasota.
- Millionaire socialite and land investor Bertha Palmer first visits Sarasota.
- The name "Sarasota" is printed for the first time on maps of Florida.
- John and Mable Ringling purchase a home in Sarasota.

Date

- 1830s
- 1910
- 1912
- 1927
- 1968

Events in world history

- The *Titanic* sinks.
- The daguerreotype, an early form of photography, is invented.
- Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated.
- Jazz music is born in New Orleans.
- Charles Lindbergh flies nonstop from New York to Paris.

The Ringling



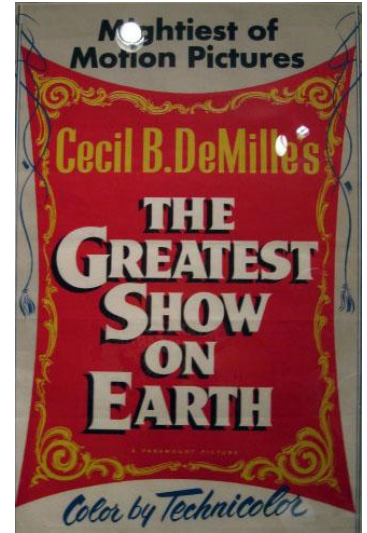
SARASOTA STORIES



GO TO THE ORIGINAL CIRCUS MUSEUM

Sarasota's association with the circus lasted far beyond the height of the circus's golden years. In the 1950s, Cecil B. DeMille filmed large portions of *The Greatest Show on Earth* in Sarasota, using actual performers and townspeople as stunt doubles and extras. One gallery in this building shows memorabilia left over from the film's production. List a few of the objects you find there.

What other reminders of Sarasota's circus days can we still see around town today?



GO TO THE CA'D'ZAN TERRACE

When you look across the water from this vantage point, you can see parts of Longboat Key, one of the barrier islands that John Ringling worked to develop and market. Real estate investors like Ringling contributed greatly to the growth of the city by financing the building projects that lured tourists, retirees, and other settlers to the area.

If you were a real estate developer in the 1920s, how might you advertise Sarasota? Sketch your idea for a slogan, poster, or logo in the box.



The Ringling

