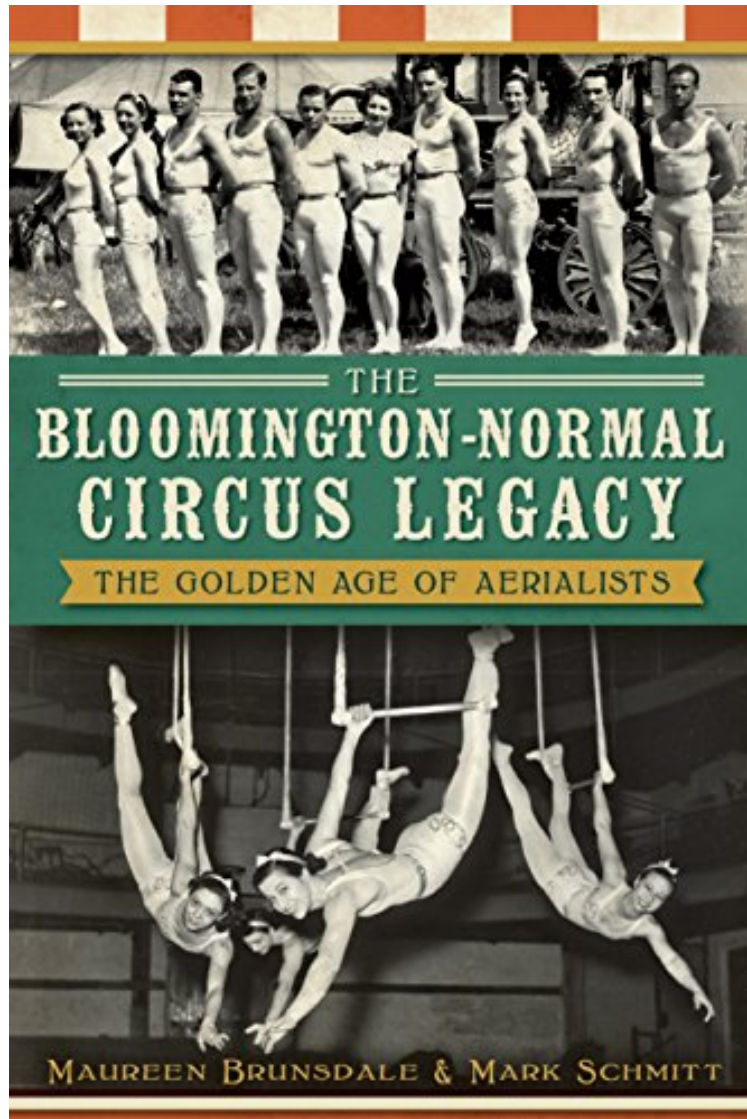


(Download pdf) The Bloomington-Normal Circus Legacy: The Golden Age of Aerialists

The Bloomington-Normal Circus Legacy: The Golden Age of Aerialists

Maureen Brunsdale, Mark Schmitt
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Maureen Brunsdale, Mark Schmitt : The Bloomington-Normal Circus Legacy: The Golden Age of Aerialists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bloomington-Normal Circus Legacy: The Golden Age of Aerialists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fun book for Bloomingtonians or circus buffsBy RLSinSFBeing from Bloomington, I had to check it out. I'd always wondered why there was so much circus culture in my small hometown, and this book answered all my questions. My parents had a blast thumbing through the index and finding

many people they knew. There's a ton of information in the book. My reservation is that it's not written in a particularly thoughtful manner. It jumps around haphazardly regarding dates and timeframes, sometimes confusingly so. A strong editorial hand could have enhanced this book considerably. Further, I do not think this would be particularly interesting to someone who's not either from Bloomington or a major circus buff. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Don't Forget These Circus Stars By Bruce Davis This Book gives us a chance to learn about many circus performers who would otherwise be forgotten. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By SGriffin Nice new book. Cant wait to read!

Starting in the 1870s, the barns, icehouses, gymnasiums and empty theaters of central Illinois provided the practice sites for aerial performers whose names still command reverence in the annals of American circus history. Meet Fred Miltimore and the Green Brothers, runaways from the Fourth Ward School who became the first Bloomington-born flyers. Watch Art Concello, a ten-year-old truant, become first a world-class flyer, then a famous trapeze impresario and finally Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus's most successful general manager. The entire art of the trapeze--instruction, training, performance and management--became a Bloomington-Normal industry during the tented shows' golden age, when finding a circus flying act without a connection to this area would have been virtually impossible.

About the Author Maureen Brunsdale is the Special Collections and Rare Books Librarian at Illinois State University, a member of the Circus Fans Association and a Board Member of the Circus Historical Society. Mark Schmitt is a lifelong native of Bloomington, Illinois, and a Senior Specialist in Special Collections and Rare Books at Illinois State University.