

Ringling's Fabulous Home Now Tourist Attraction

By HAL BOYLE
SARASOTA, Fla., March 26 (AP)—If you think elephants work for peanuts you should see a fine palace here in the bay. It is a palace built from the labor of parading elephants, roaring lions, snarling tigers, laughing clowns and the pennies of millions of kids sipping pink lemonade.

They furnished the money for John Ringling, the circus man, to erect a million dollar mansion fashioned after a doge's palace in Venice.

It is by far the most pretentious home in Florida, fit for a Caesar, a medieval prince of the church, an emperor—and fit, John Ringling thought, for the wife he loved.

Art Collector
But the great palace, set off by sapphire waters and exotic trees from many lands, is only the shell. An astute art collector, he culled the world and spent \$2,000,000 for treasured antiques to furnish it in a way he thought suitable for the wife of the world's greatest circus master.

The solarium had priceless marble busts from Italy and fan-backed chairs from Haiti. Its gold-leafed doors came from an old Astor house in Manhattan.

The teakwood floors were put together with pegs. The Louis XV furniture in the ballroom was upholstered in red cut velvet. The ceiling of the great living hall—large enough for a wild animal act—was timbered with huge cypress beams. Windows of tinted hand-blown Venetian glass tempered the glare of the sun.

Six gondolas were anchored in the bay at all times, available to guests.

The dining room had two priceless Titian paintings and a solid walnut table seating 42 people. The bar in the next room came from the celebrated old Waldorf hotel in New York. It had a musical bottle that tinkled—"How Dry I Am."

In his library Ringling had 1000 rare art volumes. In his bathroom he had his own private barber chair and a bathtub made from one chunk of pure Sienna marble. The faucet was of solid gold. It leaked.

Handmade Bedcovers
The house was opened just before Christmas, 1926. Her expansive husband had built her a museum as much as a home, but Mabel Ringling made it her own in a woman's way. She sewed her own lampshades and bedcovers. Her handwork helped give it a "lived-in" flavor.

"She was a lovable, democratic, well-liked woman," said one who knew her.

But in 1929—less than three years after the mansion was completed—she died. From then on John Ringling had little pleasure in his palace by the bay. He died in 1936 and willed it to the state of Florida.

It was closed for years. Fifteen thousand sightseers tried to get in to view it when it was opened to the public last Dec. 15. Now 300 to 400 tourists come daily to gawk at the gold faucet and put their feet on the old Waldorf bar rail.

Dark-eyed, sweet-faced Mabel Ringling looks down at them from one portrait. Big, tall John Ringling, his hand thrust imperiously into his pocket, stares down from another wall.

Proud of this portrait, Ringling once showed it to Will Rogers.

"Don't look natural," said Rogers critically.

"Why?" asked the crestfallen circus magnate.

"Cause you've got your hand in your own pocket," laughed Will.

Special Train Moves Patients

STELLACOOM, Wash., March 27 (AP)—A special train was en route today to Eastern State hospital at Medical Lake with 135 mental patients who have been bedridden since Tuesday's destruction of their four-story building at the Western State hospital here.

An additional 50 patients will be transferred to the Northern State hospital at Sedro Woolley sometime next week, Dr. W. N. Keller, hospital superintendent, said today.

Former Resident Dies In Eugene

Word has been received of the death of William H. Roberts, 54, of Blachley, a former resident of Klamath Falls. Mr. Roberts died in a Eugene hospital on March 25.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday, at the Poole-Larsen chapel in Eugene. Interment will follow at a Eugene cemetery.

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Toddlers' DRESSES

1⁴⁹ to 2⁹⁸

Voiles trimmed with embroidery and ribbon. Also rayons trimmed in embroidery. Pink, blue, yellow. Sizes 6 mos., 9 mos., 12 mos., and 1 to 3. New shipment of Honeysuckle dresses, sizes 3 to 6½.



Boys' DRESS SHIRTS

1⁹⁵

Plain colors. Blue, tan, white. Broadcloth, Sanforized shrunk. Sizes 8 to 14.



Cotton Polo Shirt

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Trim crew-neck style polo shirt made of fine quality cotton yarns with short sleeves. Assorted stripes, colors. Even sizes, 4 to 18.



Petal Soft Rayon Slip

Tailored to Fit

1⁹⁸

The slip that's tailored to mold your figure perfectly. Made of fine, long-wearing rayon. Straight cut skirt with well fitting darted bust section. All seams double stitched. Comfortable adjustable shoulder straps. Tealose or white. 32-40.



Striped Slack Socks

Boyville 39c

Socks he'll be proud to wear. In colorful striped patterns that will please him. Strong combed cotton. Snug fitting elastic top. 8 to 11.



Kerrybrooke Wool Sweater

long Sleeve Style

3⁹⁸ and 4⁹⁸

Long wearing, lightweight 100% virgin wool pullover. A sweater that has many change possibilities—dress it up with pearls, bright pins, or any costume jewelry. Wide ribbed waistband and cuffs. In white, blue, green, brown, navy, gray. 34 to 40.



Boyville Belt

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Genuine steerhide bridle leather that will take hard everyday wear. Attractive embossed leaf design. Metal buckle, loop, tip. Tan. 22-32.



Long Sleeve Cardigan

Beautifully Knitted

3⁹⁸ and 5⁹⁸

Knit of fine quality 100% French spun zephyr wool that's as soft as kitten's fur. Popular V-neck style. Smooth fitting ribbed waistband and cuffs. 5-button front. Your choice of white, black, gray, lush pink, aqua. Sizes 34 to 40.



White Plastic Sandal. Size 4 to 3.

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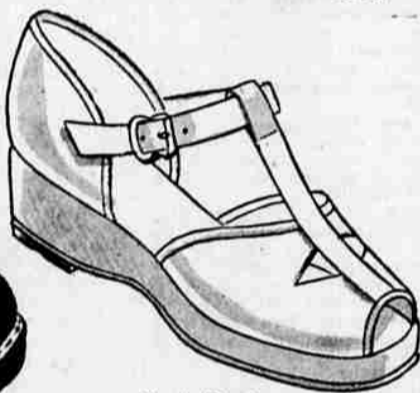
Barefoot Sandal. Size 9 to 3

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