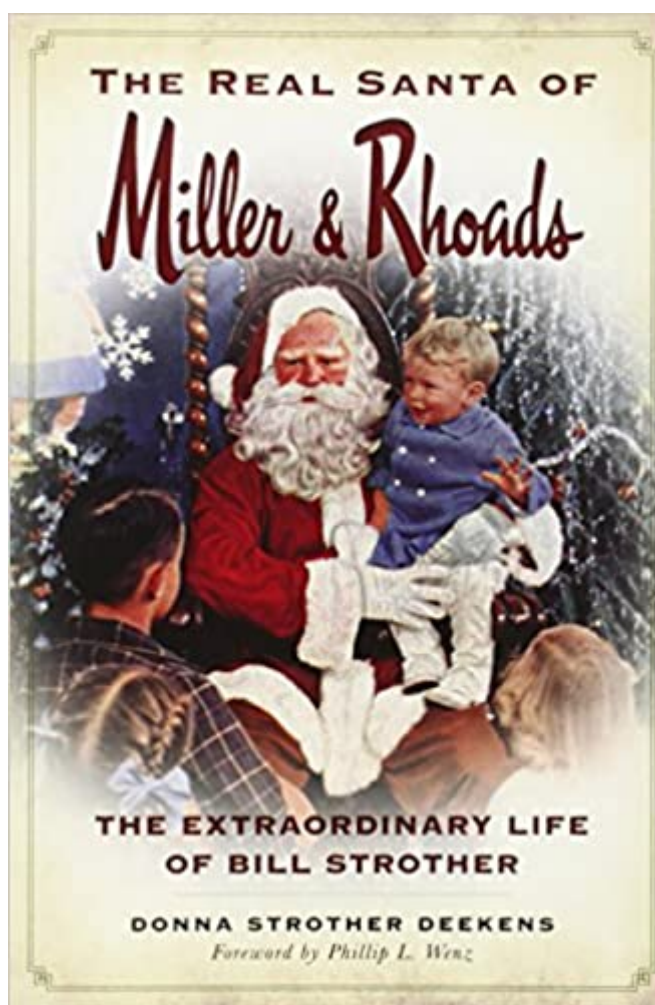


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# The Real Santa Of Miller & Rhoads: The Extraordinary Life Of Bill Strother



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Paperback: 204 pages

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## Customer Reviews

Donna 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"

As 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 Santa

Whenever 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.

I 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.

Great Christmas gift.

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