

Marriott: The J. Willard Marriott story



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The definition of friend that I like best is: "One before whom one can think out loud." For that reason, this is a choice opportunity. You see, Bill Marriott is my best friend. I challenge any man to know another better than I know "Montana" Marriott. I saddled him with this nickname when we were horseback riding twenty years ago--in self-defense he calls me "Wyoming." What makes this ridiculous is that the roots of both of us sprang from a valley in the majestic Wasatch Mountains of northern

Utah where our fathers once herded sheep.

Knowing "Montana's" faults as well as his virtues is both a help and a hindrance in writing objectively a foreword to this brilliant account of his productive life.

The late Bing Crosby once answered the question regarding his success, saying, "The average guy hears me sing and feels he can do as well." To know Bill Marriott and realize his immense success makes the average person feel he could have done as well under similar circumstances. "I think anyone can succeed by emulating the life and principles of this twentieth century Horatio Alger.

Evidencing that he is also very human, Bill is a bundle of contradictions--both gentle and tough; devoutly religious, and yet fun-loving; demanding, yet tolerant; half pessimistic, half optimistic; penurious, yet philanthropic. All he wants of family, employees, and friends is perfection. Though he is a worrier, he knows no fear. He has no use for laziness, dirtiness, dishonesty, social climbing, or wasting time.

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