

3
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
HARTFORD, CONN.

TO Commissioner Edward J. Hickey
FROM Captain Paul Lavin
SUBJECT: H-25-Z PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

May 25----- 1950

Dear Commissioner:

Pursuant to your order issued on the 21st instant, be advised that Captain Paul Beckwith and I made arrangements to be in Columbus, Ohio, at 9:00 A.M. E.S.T. on the 22nd instant. We went directly as ordered to the Headquarters of the Ohio Highway Patrol, located at 1117 Broad Street, Columbus. Both Captain Beckwith and I want you to know some of the pertinent facts that we have observed on this assignment and deem it necessary at this time to comment as follows.

We made our headquarters at the State Highway Patrol, and we were accorded every courtesy and facility by this organization from Colonel Mingle down to the last member of his organization with whom we came in contact. During the course of our investigation, however, we were faced with several obstructions which retarded our progress, and we feel that you should be acquainted with them. While it appeared that Fire Marshall Harry J. Callan desired to be cooperative in assisting us in conducting and completing our investigation, it further appeared that the attitude of Chief LaMonda and Deputy Marshal Smith were to the contrary. It appeared obvious to us that they desired to conduct their own investigation re the Hartford Circus Fire without our entering into the matter whatsoever, and as a result of their attitude, we were not able to interview the persons whom we should: Robert Segee, relatives of Robert Segee, and William Graham. To substantiate this observation, I should like to have you refer to paragraph 6 of the report by R. Russell Smith, Deputy of Arson Bureau. It appeared throughout our investigation that these two gentlemen want to get the credit of breaking the Hartford case as well as the cases in their own jurisdiction to build the prestige of their own office and division.

Col. Mingle, aware of our difficulties, offered us the full force of his organization to overcome same to the extent of going to the Governor's Office with our problems. This was respectfully declined due to your instructions. However, Col. Mingle left with us the information that, if you desired to go further in this investigation, and meeting with the same obstacles, he personally would see to it that the Governor was consulted and taken into our confidence, and he would make available to us anything possible to assist in our investigation.

Commissioner Edward J. Hickey

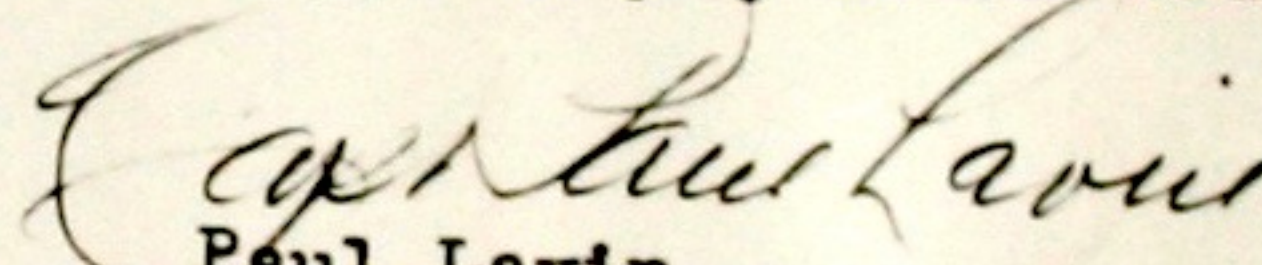
- 2 -

May 25, 1950

In conclusion, we want you to know that your instructions were carried out implicitly, and that from our departure from Hartford to our return to your office, our investigation was conducted quietly, our absence from Hartford, our presence in Columbus, and our return to Hartford was without incident as to publicity from press and radio.

Due to the hospitality afforded us by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, may I respectfully suggest that a letter of appreciation, from your office, to Colonel Mingle would be in order.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Lavin
Field Captain, Western District
Base Station, Bethany

PL/acl
Enclosure

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
HARTFORD, CONN.

May 25, 1950

H-25-3

TO Commissioner Edward J. Hickey
FROM Captain Paul Lavin
SUBJECT: **H-25-Z Ringling Bros. Circus Fire**
PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

May 25----- 1950

Dear Commissioner: Investigating Bureau C. R. Lamonda, and Deputy

Pursuant to orders from the State Fire Marshal Commissioner Edward J. Hickey on May 21, 1950, I was directed to make reservations to proceed to Columbus, Ohio with Captain Paul Beckwith of The Hartford City Police Department and there investigate one Robert Dale Segee, age 21, D.O.B. September 1929, who was being held by the Fire Marshal's Office located in Columbus, Ohio, for a series of fires in that vicinity over a period of several weeks, at which time it was inferred that the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus Fire had become involved in part of their information.

In accordance with the order received, Captain Beckwith and I left the City of Hartford and arrived in the city of Columbus, Ohio at 9:00AM, EST, May 22, 1950, and we immediately went to the Ohio State Patrol Headquarters, 1117 East Broad Street, Columbus, and we immediately were taken before Deputy Superintendent Fritz Moritz and Major Inspector U. C. Filty where we explained our mission in detail re Segee and Fire Marshal's Division. After Major Inspector Filty had made arrangements for an immediate interview with the Fire Marshal's Division, we were assigned Sergeant Joe V. Seryak of the Plain Clothes Division of the Ohio Highway Patrol.

was to be taken to the office of Dr. Bernard Hagle, located at the Albert Wilson Children's Center for Delinquent Children,
(continued)

May 25, 1950

After acquainting Sergeant Seryak with our mission and being told by the Major that an appointment had been made with the Fire Marshal's Office, we immediately went to the office of Ohio State Fire Marshal Harry J. Callan, 111 Wyandotte Building, Broad and Wall Streets, Columbus 15, Ohio, where we met Fire Marshal Callan, Chief of the Fire Investigating Bureau C. R. LaMonda, and Deputy Fire Marshal R. Russell Smith, a member of the Arsons Squad under Chief LaMonda.

We immediately went into conference with the Fire Marshal and members of the staff relative to the subject Segree and made request at that time to read any and all statements and reports pertinent to their case where Segree was being held and was promptly advised by the Fire Marshal and the Chief of the Arson Squad, that no statements or information had been reduced to writing relative to the case at hand. We made further requests upon the Fire Marshal and his subordinates present to be allowed to interview and talk with the subject Segree, and this request was denied by the Chief of the Arson Squad telling us, along with C. R. Russell Smith, his investigator, that arrangements had been made and completed whereby the Accused, Segree, was to be taken before a Doctor of Psychiatry on that day where an examination was going to be conducted for the Fire Marshal's Office. It was also stated that they were going to take the Accused, Segree, from the County Jail where he was being held to Ohio University where he was to undergo a physical examination, and immediately after the physical examination was completed, Segree was to be taken to the office of Dr. Bernard Hagle, located at the Albert Wilson Children's Center for Delinquent Children,

May 25, 1950

The following information secured was not part of a written report.

located at 615 East Town Street, Columbus. During this examination he was also to be examined by the Reactograph. It was explained to them, Captain Beckwith, and myself, that the doctor had issued specific orders that the Accused in this matter would not be questioned or interrogated by anyone previous to this examination, and that he further ordered that the Accused should be completely rested and well fed and perfectly at ease previous to this examination. Therefore, under the circumstances that existed, Captain Beckwith's and my request was denied at this time. Both the Captain and I further requested how long the examination would take before we were allowed the courtesy of listening to the subject's information, and we were also told at this time that there was a possibility that the examination would include several days to one week. We were informed again that no one would be allowed to question the Accused during this examination period.

After spending much time with the Marshal and upon leaving his office, we were advised by the Marshal to call his office and that he, personally, would see to it that we interviewed the Accused by securing permission from the said doctor, and that we would keep in said contact with him, and that about 4:00 P.M. he would give us the information.

In view of the aforementioned circumstances relative to the examination of the Accused Segee, and being denied the privilege of interviewing the Accused, we did develop and secure the following information relative to our mission in Columbus, Ohio.

May 25, 1950
May 25, 1950

In questioning the investigators of the Fire Marshal's Office we found the following facts to exist relative to the questioning of Segee at that time. Segee admitted to them that he was at that time with the Ringling Bros. Circus at the time that one William Graham, age 24, of Circleville, Ohio, had been apprehended by Chief LaMonda and R. Russell Smith of the Fire Marshal's Office on or about the first week of May 1950 at which time he confessed to starting a fire at the Mills Brothers Circus, Winter Quarters, located at Circleville, Ohio, and through the interrogation Graham had stated that Robert Segee had told him that he started many fires and said further that he had started the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Fire in Hartford, Connecticut, and that through further interrogation Graham repudiated this statement by saying that Segee did not tell him he started the circus fire in Hartford but said that he was employed by the Circus and was with them in Hartford on the day of the fire.

From the information secured from Graham, the Fire Marshal's Office proceeded to investigate Segee, and that through this investigation, it took them to East St. Louis, Illinois, where in company with an Underwriter's Fire Agent, one Ray Cook, located the Accused Segee in East Saint Louis where he was visiting a relative, and he readily agreed to accompany the Fire Marshal's representative and the Underwriter's representative back to Columbus, Ohio where he was questioned and admitted the setting of two fires and possibly the third in Pickaway County, Circleville, Ohio. Segee is currently bound over to the Grand Jury and presently held under \$5,000.00 bond on each count at the Franklin County Jail in Columbus, Ohio.

The information quoted above is all the pertinent information that we secured from this agency on this date, with no official record or report to substantiate the story, but was received verbally

May 25, 1950

In questioning the investigators of the Fire Marshal's Office from Chief LaMonda and his assistant, Smith, we found the following facts to exist relative to the questioning of Segee at that time. Segee admitted to them that he was at Hartford, Connecticut, with the Ringling Bros. Circus at the time of the said fire in Hartford, and that he was employed by the said circus as a helper on the electrical gang. That he had run away from his home in Portland, Maine, and joined the circus while it was playing in that location, leaving Portland to play in Boston, Mass., and Hartford, Conn. That the day previous to the fire he admitted that due to the fact that the circus was late in getting to Hartford, there had been no performance in the afternoon of the day of its arrival, but they were prepared for a performance on that evening. That his immediate superior was one Whitey Whitley, who was supposed to be a Foreman on the Light Gang. That while they were preparing for the evening show, he, Segee, had dropped a cluster of lights, breaking same, and was slapped across the face by the said Foreman, Whitey, and was advised that his pay was cut from \$20.00 per week to \$14.00 per week. Further, that Segee advised these investigators that on the date of the fire, July 6, 1944, that he was asleep on the lot in Hartford, and that he was dreaming of a fire and he had visions of a "Red Indian". However, he claimed that he awoke from that dream and discovered the tent was on fire, and that he got up, rushed to the tent, and with the use of his jack-knife slit the sidewall canvas and assisted in rescuing some of the people from the tent.

The information quoted above is all the pertinent information that we secured from this agency on this date, with no official record or report to substantiate the story, but was received verbally

May 25, 1950

from Chief LaMonda and his assistant, Smith.

We further developed the following information from the Marshal and his assistants: That William Graham, now being held in connection with the fire, is the cousin of Robert Segee, and it was definitely established that these men are, and have been, for quite some time sexual perverts, in effect, "sweethearts".

Not obtaining any further information at this time from the Fire Marshal's Division, Captain Beckwith and I, in company with Sergeant Seryak, returned immediately to the Headquarters of the Ohio State Patrol, where we awaited the call from Fire Marshal Callan, who was to make an appointment whereby we could see the accused Segee immediately after the doctor had made his examination. He was able to be present at 10:00 A.M., and suggested that we make

At 4:00 P.M., E.S.T., as agreed upon, Sergeant Seryak placed a call to the Fire Marshal's Office relative to further developments and whether we could see the accused or not, and we were advised by the Fire Marshal, through Sergeant Seryak, that the doctor had excluded any questioning of the Accused until his medical examination was completed. However, Sergeant Seryak was advised by the Fire Marshal to have us present at his office the next morning at 10:00 A.M., E.S.T., on the 23rd instant, where he was going to arrange to have all the information that he had up to date available for us in writing, if possible.

At 8:30 P.M., E.S.T., this day, May 22, while still at the State Highway Patrol, we received a phone call from Deputy Fire Marshal Smith. He stated that he had just returned the subject

busy on the 23rd, we informed Deputy Smith that insofar as we were concerned, we were available at any time--day or night on

May 25, 1950

Segee to Jail, and that Dr. Higle had advised him that the doctor's test will take possibly three days, or the period may be extended to ten days or longer. That the doctor desires to follow the matter to completion and wants no one to question the subject in the meanwhile. Deputy Smith also stated that he did not believe that we could get any more information from his office on the 23rd, other than that which we already had. It was suggested to him that he might more fully acquaint us with his information at the time of our appointment of the 23rd already made through his superior, Fire Marshal Callan. Deputy Smith stated that he had a conference for the morning of the 23rd with the prosecutor and the Underwriter's representative and would not be able to be present at 10:00 A.M., and suggested that we make the appointment earlier. As the appointed time had already been set by his Superior, this could not be accomplished. Deputy Smith further informed us that he was very busy compiling information for the Underwriter's agent and endeavoring to have it ready in time for the agent to take it with him to an Underwriters' Meeting in New York on May 24. Further, he informed us that he was bringing in a sister and brother of the subject, Segee, this night to his office to interrogate them further in connection with this case. A request that we be allowed to be present as observers only was rejected on the grounds that he, Smith, being only a subordinate could not agree to such procedure. However, he did add that he would again telephone us later this date in connection with this request. In connection with his lack of time and being extremely busy on the 23rd, we informed Deputy Smith that insofar as we were concerned, we were available at any time--day or night on

he added that they have been informed not to come on at this time this matter.

giving them the same information re: Dr. Hagle and his tests, Deputy Smith informed us during this telephone conversation and they will not come on until after the doctor's tests are in connection with the doctor's examination of that date, "that completed. Deputy Smith informed us that the Subject Segee appeared it looks encouraging". He was asked what he meant by "encouraging" and he replied, "Everything". He was asked what he meant by "Everything" and he replied, "Both".

Between 9:30 P.M. AND 10:00 P.M., EST, while we were still at the State Highway Patrol, Deputy Smith called in person and informed us that his plans of the evening had fallen through as his callers, the brother and sister of the subject Segee had failed to show up, and that he had a new appointment with them on the A.M. of the 23rd.

Previously we had secured information from the Fire Marshal that the employment record of Segee with the Ringling Brothers Circus was not available to the Marshal who had requested same on a previous date.

At the time of Deputy Smith's personal call at the State Highway Patrol, and during the ensuing conversation, present were Captain Beckwith, Sergeant Seryak, and myself. This group present was informed by Deputy Smith that the Ringling Concern had notified his office that the Ringling foreman referred to as "Whitey" has the employment record of the subject Segee, and that it reflects that the subject was employed from June 30 to July 13, 1944, and further, that the circus had three fires during that period of time, the dates being June 30, July 4 and July 6 and that "Whitey" is coming to Columbus with the record, and that he will be accompanied by an attorney of the Ringling Bros. However, subject Robert Dale Segee, which is herewith attached and self-explanatory.

May 25, 1950

he added that they have been informed not to come on at this time giving them the same information re: Dr. Higle and his tests, and they will not come on until after the doctor's tests are completed. Deputy Smith informed us that the Subject Segee appeared calmed down after his first visit to Dr. Higle on the 22nd, and that as he was returning Segee to the Jail from the doctor's, Segee had told him that he felt he had found a friend, someone in whom he could confide. Smith added that the doctor seems encouraged also and has told Smith that he believes Segee would be a good subject. Smith seemed quite elated over his progress and stated that he thinks they will clean up everything.

Sergeant Seryak left around midnight for his home and we, too, discontinued our activities for the 22nd instant and retired.

of the Ringling Concern coming to Columbus in connection with the Segee matter.

At this point we indicated our desire to interrogate William Graham who, according to the State Fire Marshal Callan, was undergoing observation treatment at the State Hospital for the Criminally Insane at Lima, Ohio. It was corrected at this time whereby we were advised that the said Graham was confined to the Pickaway County Jail located in Circleville, Ohio. The Marshal was agreeable for us to arrange an interview so that we could interrogate him.

On May 23rd, Sergeant Seryak came to the Patrol Headquarters where again we joined forces with the said Sergeant and went to the Fire Marshal's Office to meet our ten o'clock appointment. We went into conference with the Fire Marshal at about 10:00 A.M. and present were Fire Marshal Callan, Deputy R. Russell Smith, Chief LaMonda, Sergeant Seryak, Captain Beckwith and myself. We at that time were handed an original report submitted by R. Russell Smith, Deputy of Arson Bureau, dated May 23, 1950 under the caption of "Investigation Report Privileged and Confidential" from the District of Columbus, bearing a field and case number 23017 on the subject Robert Dale Segee, which is herewith attached and self-explanatory.

May 25, 1950

At this conference the following facts were secured relative to the Accused Segee. Fire Marshal Callan advised previously that the record of employment and the visitation of any representative from Ringling Bros. relative to the Segee matter was not available to the best of his knowledge, and that we asked the Fire Marshal at this point if that was still the status and was advised that it was. We asked the Marshal at this point whether he knew that a member of the Ringling Bros. Legal Staff and "Whitey", the so-called Electrician Foreman, were headed west with these pertinent records and had been stopped due to the fact that the Accused Segee was undergoing this examination with his Department's Psychiatrist. He at that time stated that he knew nothing of a representative of the Ringling Concern coming to Columbus in connection with the Segee matter.

At this point we indicated our desire to interrogate William Graham who, according to the State Fire Marshal Callan, was undergoing observation treatment at the State Hospital for the Criminally Insane at Lima, Ohio. It was corrected at this time whereby we were advised that the said Graham was confined to the Pickaway County Jail located in Circleville, Ohio. The Marshal was agreeable for us to arrange an interview so that we could interrogate this prisoner, Graham, but Chief LaMonda was of the opinion that we could get nothing relative to the case we were on other than what he had already informed us.

We also made a request at this conference to question the sister of the Accused Segee, one Mrs. Dorothy Segee Thompson, a resident of R.F.D. 2, Ashville, Ohio, and was told by Chief LaMonda

May 25, 1950

that he would rather not upset this individual inasmuch as she was cooperating 100 per cent with their division, and he thought that an interrogation at this time would be apt to damage their case in Columbus. However, he did state that the relatives were most cooperative in this matter and stated that the sister had admitted to her ^{MOTHER} some time ago that the Accused Segee was acting very funny and was of the opinion that something was wrong with him, and she also believes her brother, Segee, is mentally unbalanced.

We questioned Chief LaMonda further relative to any medical history on the Accused Segee that might have been secured through the investigation, and he admitted that the sister, Mrs. Thompson, had given him the following information: That her brother, Robert Segee when an infant had a severe case of Undulant Fever, and later on during his childhood had what was termed Rheumatic Fever. It is also alleged that he had suffered a severe sun-stroke and was confined to his bed for well over a year with what she described as being a Cremoflagn. This information was secured by Chief LaMonda during the interrogation of the sister, and again, there is no positive proof that this record is authentic. He further advised that he believed Segee was in Hartford, Connecticut, on the date of the fire because the sister had advised him that her brother Robert was sent home from Hartford by the Travelers Aid with both his hands and arms severely burned and his abdomen and chest burned, and slight burns about the face.

Chief LaMonda at this point was asked point blank if, as a result of his investigation, and as an experienced fire investigator,

May 25, 1950

he believed the Accused Segee was in or around Hartford on July 6, 1944 and he stated that he knew that he was in Hartford, Connecticut by virtue of the fact that he had been shipped from there to his sister's home in Ohio by the Travelers Aid Society. He was asked further if he had any facts to prove conclusively, as far as he had gone in his investigation of the subject Segee, that this subject did set the fire in Hartford, Connecticut, and he stated, "No". He did not have the facts but that "this subject Segee was a logical suspect and was capable of setting the fire". He further admitted at this time that the subject Segee, in his opinion, was "strictly psycho as well as being a pyromaniac". He admits further that the accused Segee had never been caught on account of his modus operandi, and previously it has been found that the accused would set a fire and leave the vicinity immediately, but according to LaMonda, could have acted in reverse at the Hartford Fire by going back to the scene and assisting in the rescue of some of the victims. Chief LaMonda further stated, to illustrate the mental set-up of the Accused Segee, that while at the County Jail on the 22nd instant, waiting for the sister to appear, the fire apparatus located directly across from the County Jail was called out, and sirens started to work, and that he observed that the Accused's facial expressions immediately started to tighten up, and that the accused, in his estimation, was obviously disturbed but appeared to be fighting his emotions.

Chief LaMonda, at this conference, volunteered the following information: That the subject Segee had spoken to him of the Hartford Circus Fire on the 22nd while transporting him from the doctor's office to the County Jail, inquiring of Chief LaMonda

May 25, 1950

what the Connecticut Authorities would do about it if he admitted to setting the Circus Fire at Hartford, Connecticut.

whether or not they had the subject Robert Segee and whatever

It was the unanimous opinion of Fire Marshal Callan and his assistants, Chief LaMonda, Deputy Smith, that Segee was definitely a pervert, a "Psycho" and a pyromaniac, and their opinions are based upon the results of their investigation to date and their own observations. Traveler's Aid Society which are STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Terminating the conference on this date with Fire Marshal Callan, we requested and it was his sincere promise, that he would submit a complete copy of the entire investigation relative to Robert Dale Segee, and that he would submit a copy of the Psychiatric examination made of Segee to the Office of the State Fire Marshal at Hartford, Connecticut as soon as it was completed.

Segee, residents of 20 Brackett Street, Portland, Maine. Return of Robert Segee authorized by Portland Travelers Aid Society on

On May 24, immediately after making our verbal report to the Fire Marshal at his office at 100 Washington Street, we went to the Office of the Traveler's Aid Society and there interviewed a Social worker, Mrs. Taylor, at the New York, New Haven and Hartford RR Station, located in Hartford and requested confidentially of her any record of Robert Segee, and we were respectfully referred to Mrs. Peterson in charge of the Travelers Aid Society, located in the American Railway Express Office immediately to the rear of the Railroad Station, Hartford, Connecticut. Upon being received by Mrs. Peterson, we explained our mission in strict confidence to her

assigned to the cook tent. That he had never worked before and

May 25, 1950

and was advised that she would endeavor to locate such information as we desired from their general files and would advise as to whether or not they had the subject Robert Segee and whatever pertinent information relative to this subject in their files. We were advised by Mrs. Peterson to be at her office at 10:30, Thursday morning, May 25, and we appeared there and interviewed Mrs. Peterson as directed and secured the following information from the files of the Traveler's Aid Society which are STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

advancement to \$7.11. The record further shows that on August 3, 1944. The files show under their Case No. 417A, dated at Hartford, July 13, 1944 -- Robert Segee was brought to their attention by one Earl Hackett, both of Ringling Circus, who requested assistance in getting to their homes. The record shows Robert Segee's date of birth 9-17-29. Application made for assistance to Traveler's Aid Society 7-13-44. Mother: Amy Josephine; Father Lewis Simian Segee, residents of 20 Brackett Street, Portland, Maine. Return of Robert Segee authorized by Portland Travelers Aid Society on 9-13-44. Record shows further, Robert Segee employed by Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus in Cook Tent as a helper. Was referred to the Travelers Aid Society by Earl Hackett, also employed by the Circus in a Cook Tent, who advised the society of Segee being destitute and in need of assistance. Robert Segee's description: Fair complexion, light hair, blue eyes, shy but friendly, dirty, no friends; reason for being destitute--pay held up due to the circus fire. Segee courteous, completed the 7th Grade in School in Portland, Maine, had joined the circus in Portland, Maine, because of the glamour and travel that it afforded and was assigned to the cook tent. That he had never worked before and

May 25, 1950

had good intentions of returning home and continuing school in September. That he wanted to go home very badly, and that he was tired of the assignment in the cook tent and did not like it. Knowing that his mother would worry as to his welfare, he was most desirous of getting home. The mother was contacted by Portland Travelers Aid Society who guaranteed payment of fare. Travelers Aid Society advanced \$5.76 for train fare and allowed sufficient money to pay for meals while en route, making a total of this advancement to \$7.11. The record further shows that on August 3, 1944, through the Travelers Aid Society at Portland \$5.76 was paid to the Traveler's Aid Society by Amy and Lewis Segee of 20 Brackett Street, Portland, and this case was handled by Mary McCarthy, Travelers Aid Society Worker, located in Hartford.

Under the Travelers Aid Society Case No. 415-A, dated 7-11-44, Earl Hackett, DOB 9-20-28 of 284 1/2 Congress St., Portland, Maine; Mother Louise Hackett; Sister, Eleanor Holman; appeared at the Travelers Aid Society on 7-11-44 Segee and himself, and referred Segee to the Society and was ordered by the worker to bring Segee to the office. Record shows that Earl Hackett, formerly of Portland, Maine, joined Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus in Portland, Maine and was employed in the cook tent with Robert Segee. Description: 5'6", blond hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, was dirty due to working and sleeping in circus wagons after fire. After the said fire Hackett wanted to go home to his mother and applied to the Travelers Aid Society who, in turn, sent him to his home. Worcester, Mass. Also employed in the cook tent. He repeatedly

May 25, 1950

Under Travelers Aid Society Case No. A-418-A Frank Romangno made application on 7-13-44 for assistance. Virginia, mother; Joseph, Father; and had six sisters and one brother, residents at 45 Hancock Street, Portland, Maine; employed Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus; Assigned cook tent. Description: Dark complexioned, swarthy, black hair and eyes; and had bad burns on mouth and chest, acquired through carrying bodies after Circus Fire. Joined circus in Portland, Maine, and was assigned to the cook tent. Record shows further the subject sending money to his mother at home. He was described as being rough and very dirty and did not seem to be bothered about the fire. Claimed while being interviewed that he assisted at the fire and had received the burns and injuries evident from carrying the dead and injured from the tent causing the severe burns on his face and mouth. He was further described as being a rough-and-ready character and had almost changed his mind in accepting the charity of the Travelers Aid Society and made up his mind on the last minute at the railroad platform to go to his home in Portland. It was found that Seggie, according to the report, repeatedly urged this boy to go home on this train which he did. The record shows that the same amount advanced by the Travelers Aid Society was received on August 3 at the Travelers Aid Society, Hartford.

Travelers Aid Society Case No. 416-A--One Frank Chaffee, DOB

4-31-28, a resident of 34 Chatham Street, Worcester, Mass. Mother: May A. Chaffee; Mother and Father separated. Father: Frank Chaffee, address 2666 West Carson, Torrance, California. Joined circus in Worcester, Mass. Also employed in the cook tent. He repeatedly

Paul Beckwith
Det. Captain, Hartford Police
City of Hartford

H-25-Z

- 17 -

May 25, 1950

denounced the assistance of the Travelers Aid Society inasmuch as he was not assisted by them when stranded in Amarillo, Texas, sometime back, and that while waiting for funds to arrive, he was incarcerated in a Detention Home for a period of three months. Due to this fact, he did not want to receive any charity or committed to a home in this area. He also admitted while being interviewed that he never did get along at home with his mother and that he had travelled all over the United States and had been in more than one jail. That he also admitted that all the men at the Cook Tent in the Ringling Bros. Circus hated him and he did not want to go back. He stated that the men in the cook tent would kill him. It was further found that the mother moved from the address stated above to 468 Prairie Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island. The record further shows that the amount of money advanced on this subject was later received at the Travelers Aid Society in Hartford on 8-19-44.

While in conversation with Mrs. Peterson, she stated that in searching the files that the aforementioned information was all that she had relative to persons from Portland, Worcester, and Providence, and she also informed us in this interview that the records of the Travelers Aid Society were STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lavin
Paul Lavin

Field Captain, Western District

Paul Beckwith
Paul Beckwith

Det. Captain, Hartford Police
City of Hartford

PL/ac1