

STATE OF OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Post General Headquarters

Case No. H-80-3

Date November 21, 1950

Radio Message No.

Pouch No.

Lab. No.

SUBJECT Arson - Possible Connection with Murder

ACTION TAKEN:

A letter of inquiry from Chief of Police, William F. Kane, Scituate, Massachusetts, regarding a possible connection of Robert Segee, subject on this case and the murder of Francis McGrath at Nordwell near Scituate, Mass.

Sergeants Seryak and Baker, Ohio State Patrol, Columbus, contacted Robert Segee about 12:15 PM, Friday, November 17, 1950 in Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Allen's office at the Ohio State Reformatory, Mansfield, Ohio.

Segee was questioned for a lengthy period regarding his activities during the period preceding his experience with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Baily Circus fire in July, 1944.

The town of Scituate and Nordwell, Mass. were not mentioned to the subject.

The subject's statements when finally placed in orderly arrangement were about as follows:

That he had attended school believed to be the Bracken Street School at Portland, Maine until about the first week of June, 1944. He was employed by his father who was engaged in wrecking houses, from the time school was dismissed for the summer vacation until he joined the Ringling Brothers Circus the last of June or the first of July.

The subject stated that the only time he remembered of being in Massachusetts was when he went to Hartford, Connecticut with the circus and again when he was sent home.

Segee stated in answer to question by Sgt. Baker and Seryak that he at no time set a fire, nor has he ever killed anyone.

During the conversation Segee stated that all the fires and homicides he is accused of committing came about as a result of his telling about his startling dreams and vivid imagination. All the publicity given Segee's case was based upon his dreams rather than on the actual facts told.

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ACTION TAKEN;
(Continued)

In relation to the Ringling Brothers Circus fire, Segee stated that he and two companions, one named "Danny" went into the City of Hartford on the day of the fire. When the three arrived downtown one of the companions separated from them and he and "Danny" went to a movie and saw a show "The Four Feathers." Segee stated they stayed to see the show twice. On their return to the circus grounds by trolley car they heard that the "Big Tent" burned down.

When they arrived at the circus grounds a large crowd had collected and the area of the fire was roped off and guarded by police. They worked their way up to the ropes and were stopped from going any further.

They then went to the light department and reported to their foreman "Whitey."

They were ordered by "Whitey" to remain nearby as officers were questioning all circus employees. Soon two plain clothesmen came to the light department, one questioned Segee and the other "Danny." They told the officers where they had been and they were released.

On Monday, November 20, 1950, Sergeants Baker and Seryak contacted Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Segee at their home, RFD #2, Laurelville, Ohio (State Route 327 four miles southeast of Adelphi.)

They were questioned about their son's whereabouts prior to leaving home and joining with the Ringling Brothers Circus.

In substance, Mr. and Mrs. Segee concurred that Robert had attended school at the Bracken Street School in Portland, Maine until June 13, 1944. Then he helped his father wreck houses in Portland, Maine until he ran away with the circus.

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ACTION TAKEN:
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Mrs. Segee stated that she establishes the date of June 13 being the last day of school for June 10 is her birthday and on that date the children stated they were to receive their grade cards on the 13th which was the last day of school in 1944.

On Monday, November 20, 1960, Sergeants Baker and Seryak contacted Mrs. Roselyn (nee Segee) Vannocelli, nickname "Penny" at her home, 491 W. Third Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

She was questioned about her brother's whereabouts prior to leaving home and joining with the Ringling Brothers circus.

She stated that Robert attended grammar school at the Bracken Street School until June 21, 1944. After school was out Robert helped his father on construction work. He had a fight with his two brothers, Earl and Harry, about this time and because of this fight he ran away from home and joined the circus.

She stated that the only time Robert ran away from home while the family lived in Dover, N.H., Portsmouth, N.H. and Portland, Maine, was when he joined the Ringling Brothers Circus in 1944.

Segee's parents and sister Mrs. Vannocelli all stated that they have never known of Robert deliberately setting a fire either at home or anywhere else. Furthermore, he has always appeared to be extremely afraid of fire, even to the extent of going hungry rather than start a fire in the kitchen stove to heat a meal.

The family emphasized the tendency of Robert to have an extreme imagination and for years had vivid dreams bordering on hallucinations.

The family are very doubtful of Robert's participation in the setting of any fire or committing any crime of violence.

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ACTION TAKEN:
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Mrs. Vannecelli stated that on the night that Barbara Driscoll was raped and murdered at Portsmouth, N.H. Robert was home in bed as she was taking care of the children that night.

The Segree family lived a few blocks from the Driscoll family and that the Segree children knew the Driscoll girl.

Signature