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SWORN STATEMENT OF MRS. EUGENE MENARD

Q. What is your full name? A. Mrs. Eugene Menard.

Q. And your home address? A. 37 Prospect St., Windsor.

Q. And you were at the Municipal Hospital? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work there? A. No, I belong to the Red Cross Motor Corps in Windsor, and when I heard the appeal for help I went to the Municipal Hospital, and did ambulance work.

Q. Can you give me some idea of the time you got there?

A. I should say it was about 4 o'clock.

Q. And you were assigned to what room? A. I wasn't assigned to any place. Mrs. Wood, the Lieutenant of the Hartford Motor Corps, asked me to stay near the front entrance and send any members to the staff room, and I helped as best I could.

Q. Do I understand that you heard one of the patients that was injured make a statement? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know the identity of the patient? A. I do now.

It was a circus employee. He told me his name, but I heard so many names that afternoon, - he was slightly built. He was dark, and he had khaki pants on, and the upper part of his body was reddened, as though it was sunburned, a reddish color.

Q. Have you since learned his name? A. Yes, Harry Lakin.

I think that's the name.

Q. What did you hear him say? A. I can't remember he said these exact words. He was hysterical, and I thought he was drunk.

I was standing in the wide corridor, and they brought him in, and

a nurse, or a nurse's aide, was lighting a cigaret for him, and he said "You come here. Will you take hold of my hand". I thought I would humor him, so then he began to talk, and some of the things he said sounded peculiar.

Q. What is your recollection as to what he said? A. I said "You are a circus employee", and he said "Yes". He said he was an electrician, and he worked with the spotlights, and he said "I'm not squealing", then he cried, and finally I spoke sharply to him and I told him to buck up, that he wasn't hurt as badly as some or most of the people. He told me his name and he asked me my name. I asked him where he was hurt, and he said "his leg". They took the stretcher off to the ex-ray room, and I didn't see him again.

Q. Do you recall anything else he said? A. He asked about the ballet girls. He said "You will never get another girl like Lydia".

Q. Do you recall anything else he said? A. I don't think so.

Q. Did he discuss the fire at all with you? A. He said "I never knew it would be like this". Then he said, "I don't know that I can take it". (I am not quoting him exactly).

Q. What appeared to be his injuries? A. He didn't seem badly injured, just the redness, which might have been sunburn, and he had a bandage tied around his left leg. There was no swelling, and no

blood. It was apparent he was hysterical, and apparently under the influence of something or other.

Q. You thought at first he was drunk? A. Yes sir.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Your full name?

A. Alberta Merva.

Q. Did you detect any odor of intoxicating liquor? A. No, sir.

Q. 15 Kenneth Street, Hartford.

Q. Where are you employed?

A. Astor Fire Insurance Company.

Q. Tell me whether or not you attended the store?

A. I did.

Q. Were you accompanied by anyone?

A. The children.

Q. Names and ages?

A. My son, William Robert Merva, age 5, was with me, and another little boy, I don't know his name, age 3. He is a neighbor's child. He lives right across the street. If necessary I can get it for you.

Q. The three of you went to the store?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember just where you went to?

A. I was seated on the benches to the right of the entrance, directly in front of where the fire started. The benches seats.

Q. Will you tell me what you saw, what you heard and what happened?

A. I had gone down on the ground to get some clothes for the children. I stepped on to the first bleacher and was started on my way up when I noticed fire about 15' in diameter. I got up to the