

REPORT
OF
COMMISSIONER OF STATE POLICE
AS
STATE FIRE MARSHAL
TO
STATE'S ATTORNEY For Hartford County
concerning
THE FIRE IN HARTFORD
on July 6 1944
AT THE
RINGLING BROS.—BARNUM & BAILEY
COMBINED SHOWS, INC.



REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE POLICE AS STATE FIRE MARSHAL
TO STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HARTFORD COUNTY CONCERNING THE FIRE
IN HARTFORD ON JULY 6, 1944, AT THE RINGLING BROS.-BARNUM &
BAILEY COMBINED SHOWS, INC.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2307, Chapter 127, of the 1930 Revision of the General Statutes, an investigation of the cause, circumstances and origin of a fire which occurred in Hartford on July 6, 1944 during the circus performance at the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. was instituted by me, as Commissioner of State Police and State Fire Marshal, immediately after the fire, to determine whether such fire was the result of carelessness or the act of an incendiary.

SECTION 2307, INVESTIGATION OF THE ORIGIN OF FIRES, reads:
"The Commissioner of state police shall thoroughly investigate the cause, circumstances and origin of all fires to which his attention shall have been called, in accordance with the provisions of section 2308, by reason of which any property has been burned, destroyed or damaged, and especially examine and decide as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or was the act of an incendiary. He may take the testimony under oath of any person supposed to be cognizant of or to have means of knowledge in relation to the matters as to which an examination is being made, and shall cause the same to be reduced to writing and filed in his office; and if, in his opinion, there shall be sufficient evidence to warrant that any person should be charged with the crime of arson, he shall forthwith submit such evidence, together with the names of the witnesses and all other information obtained by him to the proper prosecuting officer....."

A number of witnesses (146) appeared before me on divers dates and offered testimony under oath on matters relating to the cause, circumstances, and origin of this fire.

The inquiry disclosed the following circumstances:

Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc., through duly accredited agents and employees, made arrangements on February 10, 1944 with duly accredited representatives of the City of Hartford for the use of city-owned property on Barbour Street for circus performances on July 5 and 6, 1944. Upon payment of a \$300.00 fee, a license was obtained from the office of the Chief of Police of Hartford on July 5, 1944. The duplicate record indicates the following:

"City of Hartford
446

Hartford, Connecticut
July 5, 1944

"License is hereby granted to:

"Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc.
"A public performance
"Barbour Street lot
"July 5 and 6, 1944
"Subject to the direction and control of the police department and to the laws and ordinances of the state and city covering such performances.

"License fee \$300.00

"Chief of Police"

Other than to inquire at the City Hall as to whether the rental fee for the use of the premises had been paid to the City of Hartford, no investigation was made by the police department to determine whether the circus had complied with "the laws and ordinances of State and City governing such performances." The rental fee of \$500.00 called for in the contract was paid on the morning of July 5 at the office of the Superintendent of Buildings, City Hall, Hartford.

The circus arrived in Hartford late on the morning of July 5, and, owing to the delay, the matinee performance was canceled.

The July 5th evening show performed as scheduled. About noon on July 5, arrangements were made for police protection on the circus grounds and for a detail of traffic officers on Barbour Street, between Chief of Police Charles J. Hallissey, of Hartford, and an agent of the circus, John H. Brice, who holds the position of chief of police for the Ringling Circus. Police protection, at places of amusement, is authorized under the provisions of Section 156e of the 1939 Supplement to the General Statutes.

No arrangements were made or requested by an representative of the circus for firemen or for fire fighting equipment to be in attendance upon the circus grounds during any performance. The Hartford Fire Department did not detail any firemen or assign any fire fighting equipment or apparatus to be in attendance at the circus grounds during any of the performances. The executive officers of the Hartford Fire Department could not recall or produce any records to indicate that such protective measures had ever been furnished to any circus appearing in the City of Hartford for the past 30 years. The office records of the local fire marshal disclosed the following data concerning brush and grass fires on these premises requiring departmental services:

1939	- 5 alarms
1940	- 2 alarms
1941	- 2 alarms
1942	- 3 alarms
1943	- 3 alarms
1944	- 2 alarms (April 4 and April 30)

In Waterbury, the local Fire Marshal inspects the circus grounds and equipment prior to and after each performance and remains on

duty at the circus grounds with a two-way radio communication system in his car. He also requires that after each performance the grounds about the menagerie and under the main tent be wet down by circus employees.

In Bridgeport, the Chief of the Fire Department, with an assistant, inspects the grounds and equipment prior to the first performance.

In Hamden, outside of New Haven, for the past two years, because of the shortage of policemen, several uniformed firemen were on duty during the performances, in addition to a police detail.

It has not been the practice in Connecticut to detail or assign any fire fighting equipment to be in attendance at circus performances. There was no telephone communication on the circus grounds prior to the fire. Police cruisers equipped with radio communication were patrolling the adjoining streets and, at intervals, the circus grounds, in addition to regular patrol assignments covering this section of the city. There was no fire alarm box or fire hydrant located on the circus grounds. The nearest fire alarm box is approximately 600 feet from the Barbour Street entrance located at the corner of Barbour Street and Cleveland Avenue. There are two fire hydrants on Barbour Street-one directly in front of the circus grounds and about 300 feet from the main tent; the other, on the opposite side of the street approximately 175 feet south of the bus station pole located directly opposite the circus lot entrance.

The circus lot is located on the east side of Barbour Street,

between Buildings #344 and #378. It has a frontage of approximately 287 feet and a depth of approximately 800 feet. These grounds have been rented to carnivals and circuses for a number of years. In recent years, rentals were only given to circuses, the Common Council restricting the use to circuses. The only inspection made of the premises and of the main tent was that conducted by the Building Supervisor's Office for the City of Hartford. A building inspector went to the circus grounds at 11:00 o'clock on the morning of July 5, and finding that the big tent was not ready, he left and returned to the grounds at about 3:45 P.M. where he remained until 4:45 P.M. He made the following report, in writing, to his Supervisor:

"Inspection Report -

"Location	Barbour Street	circus
"Permit	dated 7-5-44	
"Issued to	address	
"Claim		

"Remarks: Inspection made of the grounds on the afternoon of July 5. Work on big tent and seats was progressing. It was not completed at the time of my visit as circus was late in arriving. I was satisfied that erection of tent, construction of seats and exits complied as in previous years.

"(Signed) HAYES"

No other inspection was made by representatives of the Building Supervisor's Office until after the fire. No inspection was made of the premises or properties in question prior to the fire by the local Fire Marshal. No report of any existing fire or casualty hazard on the circus grounds was made by the local Fire Marshal to the State Fire Marshal. After the fire, the local Fire Marshal complied immediately with Section 363f and

364f of the 1941 Supplement to the General Statutes. No report or information was received by the State Fire Marshal's Office from any other authentic source of a fire or casualty hazard existing on the circus grounds.

On July 6, public entrance to the circus grounds was gained from Barbour Street to the Midway, which extended about 250 feet westward to the main entrance, to the menagerie and to the main tent. The side show was on the south side of the Midway, under tent, with side wall canvas and the usual banner display in front of the tent. The north side of the Midway was occupied by vendors and circus wagons which served as ticket and business offices. Passing through the main entrance, one could either turn to the right into the menagerie, which was surrounded by a white canvas side wall but had no canvas top, or continue through the main entrance passageway to the main tent.

At the front entrance of the main tent, toilet facilities were available on the right side to the men and on the left side to the women. The facilities on the right side were located adjacent to the menagerie and to the main tent and were comprised of a brown side wall canvas and a white canvas top. The main tent was comprised of a white canvas side wall 15'6" high and white canvas top 550' x 220' from stake line to stake line, lengthwise and crosswise. George W. Smith, general manager of the circus, described the Hartford circus lot as being a "tight lot" with just enough room beyond the stake lines to pass a wagon.

On the day of the fire, July 6, the following exits were in evidence within the main tent: the main entrance on the west side; an exit to the right of the main entrance and in the southwest section, between the bleachers and the "A" Section of the grandstand; an exit in the center of the south side, separating the grandstand; an exit in the southeast section of the main tent, between the grandstand and the bleachers; two exits on the east side, one on each side of the bandstand; an exit on the northeast side, between the bleachers and the grandstand; an exit in the center of the north side, dividing the grandstand; an exit on the northwest corner, between the grandstand and the bleachers; this making a total of 9 exits from within the main tent.

The main entrance, which also served as an exit on the west side, led to the menagerie and the Midway. The two exits at the east end, on each side of the grandstand, led to an open space and also to dressing quarters. The exits on the south side led to open spaces and also to tent quarters. The exits on the north side led to open spaces, limited by a narrow area in which animal wagons and other vehicles used to carry seats and tent equipment were confined. This north side of the lot beyond the circus tent, the animal wagons and the "room for one wagon to pass," was bordered by a thickly wooded section with a slight incline. The area on the south side of the circus tent was irregular in shape and bordered by a lattice fence protecting victory gardens. The east end of the lot, beyond the main tent exits, was comprised of a dressing tent and more woods. This area was abutted by Hampton Street, of sparse settlement.

The official weather report of July 6 indicated that between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 P.M., the maximum temperature was 88; the wind direction was north; and the sun was shining. The grounds on this date were dry and dusty. The grass was cut and raked on July 3. Within the menagerie and main tents wood shavings were strewn on the ground with the dried grass on July 5 and 6. The maximum seating capacity of the main tent was given as 10,048. The attendance for the afternoon performance of July 6 was given as 9,048 - 6,048 in the grandstand and 3,000 in the bleachers. There were 555 circus employees with the circus on July 6.

The July 6th matinee performance started at approximately 2:00 P.M., with the band playing "The Star Spangled Banner," which was followed by animal acts in large iron cages located at both ends of the main tent. As the animal acts were concluding, the Wallenda Troupe, aerialists, took their places on platforms, one platform being located at each end of the main tent about 30 feet above the ground. The testimony disclosed that after the audience had been seated and during the playing of the national anthem, so-called chute cages were placed in the two exits on the north side--one in the northwest corner and one in the northeast corner--thereby connecting the exhibition cages in the main tent to the animal wagons located beyond the stake line of the north side of the tent. The animals were driven to and from their cages through these chutes by circus attendants. After the animal acts and during the performance by the Wallendas, these chute cages were to be disengaged and withdrawn from the exits and the track by circus employees.

The animal acts had been concluded and the animals, with the exception of three or four in the west exhibition cage, were passing through these chutes when a cry of "Fire" was heard from the southwest corner of the tent where the general admission bleachers were located, to the right of the main entrance. The animal trainers in the exhibition cages stuck to their posts. Trainer Marie Kovar succeeded in driving the remaining animals from the west exhibition cage through the chute into the animal wagon which was outside the northwest exit.

The approximate time of the fire discovery is given as about 2:40 P.M. The official fire alarm record shows that the alarm was placed in operation at 2:44 P.M. Numerous witnesses within the tent saw the fire burning on the side wall canvas inside the southwest section of the main tent. Some eye witnesses described the fire as in back of the so-called "Blue Bleachers," just to the right of the main entrance. When several cries of "Fire" were made, many patrons for the first time saw the fire burning the upper portion of the side wall canvas and the lower section of the top adjoining the side wall canvas. Many saw only the tent top burning.

The side wall canvas burned slowly upward, and when the tent top took fire, witnesses described it as about the size of a football; burning slowly and then spreading rapidly upward. Suddenly a burst of flame appeared from underneath the west end of the tent top and shot to the northeast corner. Then the entire top became a mass of flames, with portions of it

dropping down upon the audience. It is also reported that liquid of some sort dripped down and inflicted severe burns on persons fleeing from within.

For the first few minutes, possibly four or five, there was little confusion, but as the fire started to spread on the tent top and numerous cries of "Fire" were heard, with the band striking up its music and the heat increasing, more confusion, panic, and chaos prevailed. Efforts to quell these conditions were of no avail. Men, women, and children fell, and some were trampled to death. Many of the ushers, employees, performers, and patrons rendered assistance to fleeing women and children. Some employees were observed running to the exits when the music started. Several of the attendants were observed outside the tent, removing the elephants and other animals from the circus grounds. Their prompt attention to this particular duty prevented further personal injury and possibly panic outside the flaming tent.

Standing at the main entrance, inside the big top and approximately 50 feet from where the fire was first noticed, were several local police officers. One of them, a member of the Vice Squad, was attracted to the fire by an usher who was pointing his finger towards the fire, which at the time was on the side wall about 18 inches from the main top, in back of the "Blue Bleachers" in the southwest corner. This officer immediately started to holler to the crowd in the bleachers, that was evidently on the move, "Be calm, walk slowly!" Another officer who was with him asked him where the fire equipment was located. A man who was up in the "Blue Bleachers" with a boy shouted,

"That dirty son-of-a-b---- just threw a cigarette butt!" A police officer, hearing the remark, approached the bleachers, and the man who had shouted dropped his boy to the officer, then jumped. As soon as he landed, he again said to the officer, "It was a cigarette." The man accused of throwing the cigarette was not apprehended. The name or identity of the man who informed the officer as to the throwing of a cigarette by another person was not obtained and to date he has not been located.

Chief Hallissey, Assistant Chief Thomas Sullivan, and Chief of Police John Brice, of the Ringling Shows, were standing in the main entrance within view of this fire at its inception. Upon hearing the cry of "Fire" they immediately left that location, went out to the main entrance, and cleared it by removing the ticket boxes and other fixtures used to admit patrons to the show. Then they went out towards Barbour Street to a point near the wagon ticket office where the cash receipts of the day were located. Sergeant Spellman and other police officers on the circus lot, upon seeing the fire, ran across the Midway onto Barbour Street and across to adjoining houses for a telephone. Sergeant Spellman succeeded in placing a call to Fire Headquarters, which in turn gave the fire alarm. About the same time a police cruiser arrived on the circus lot and parked near the wagon ticket office. Chief Hallissey then had radio communication with Hartford Police Headquarters and gave the alarm to the city authorities. He also assisted the Commissioner of State Police, who was attending the circus and on the scene, in giving the radio alarm to the State authorities.

The Hartford Fire Department responded promptly to the fire alarm and had free access to Barbour Street as no vehicles were parked to interfere with its progress. When they arrived, several hundred feet of hose were laid and water was spread upon the remaining stands and equipment. Circus wagons adjacent to the main tent were on fire at this time, and some misunderstandings arose when circus employees endeavored to make use of the water hose to extinguish fires on some of the wagons.

Immediately after the fire had been put out and the heat had subsided, a search disclosed that approximately 125 persons had lost their lives. Nearly all of this number were found in the vicinity of the northeast corner of the tent, particularly on both sides of the animal chute running from the exhibition cage to the northeast exit and between the exit in the center of the north side and the northeast exit. About a dozen bodies were found underneath the grandstand and bleachers on the north side and in the northeast corner. A large number of seriously injured patrons were removed from the area east of the main tent and northeast of the main tent to near-by hospitals. With the permission of the Medical Examiner and Coroner, all the dead were removed to the State Armory, which served as a temporary morgue.

The testimony further disclosed that no fire drills had been conducted by the circus employees, no person had been employed by the circus as fire chief, and none of the employees had been trained in fire fighting practices.

The fire fighting equipment owned by the circus and found on the grounds on July 6 consisted of 14 water pails labeled, "For Fire

Use Only"; 35 fire extinguishers of various types; 28 one-quart Pyrene extinguishers; and four mobile trucks on which water tanks with attached hose were mounted. Each water pail held four gallons of water and two pails were placed under each of the seating sections. The fire extinguishers, Pyrene Type, had been unloaded from the supply wagon and placed underneath a small tent, but they were not distributed for use about the main tent on the day of the fire. No extinguishers were found under main tent seats on July 6. Usually the fire extinguishers were placed under the seating stands, to be available for emergency service. There is question as to one or more of these extinguishers being fit for use. The mobile water trucks each have a capacity of 1000 gallons, with power pumps attached as well as 2-inch hose 50 feet long with an attached 1/2-inch nozzle tip. An extra 50 feet of hose was carried in a box on each vehicle. On July 6, at the time of the fire, these water tanks were filled and located at the following places outside the main tent: one on the south side near the light plant, about 20 feet beyond the exit; and two at the northeast side of the tent, parallel with Section "Y". These water trucks are used primarily to haul water to animals and performers and to wet down the grounds. Two men were assigned and were with each truck. On the day of the fire, none of the vehicles were actually put into use in fighting the fire in the main tent. They were used to wet down the animal and supply wagons, which were parked adjacent to the main tent.

James A. Haley, first vice president, and the general manager, George W. Smith, were in charge of the entire circus on July 6.

Both were on the grounds at the time of the fire. The next in authority was Leonard S. Aylesworth, who holds the position of boss canvas man. Aylesworth had a first assistant named William Dwyer. Owing to a death in his family, Dwyer did not come to Hartford from Providence with the circus on July 5 and was absent from Hartford on July 6. With the knowledge and approval of General Manager Smith, Aylesworth and other assistants left the circus grounds in Hartford on the morning of July 6, at about 9:00 A.M., and went to Springfield, Massachusetts, where the circus was scheduled to perform the following day. They went to the circus grounds in that city for the purpose of staking out the premises, intending to return to Hartford before the matinee performance. For one reason or another, they were delayed and did not return to Hartford until 3:00 P.M. The duties of Aylesworth and Dwyer required that before each performance an inspection be made underneath the seating arrangements in the main tent, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the water buckets and fire extinguishers were in place and making certain that 8 seat men were on duty underneath the stands to serve as fire watchers.

Aylesworth made such an inspection on the evening of July 5. He did not make such an inspection on July 6 and did not designate any subordinate to make such an inspection prior to the matinee of July 6. He testified that on his inspection of July 5 the water pails were in place. He didn't see any fire extinguishers and he didn't take any steps to have them placed in their usual locations.

In March of 1944, at the winter quarters in Sarasota, Aylesworth,

as boss canvas man, supervised the application of a waterproofing process on the main tent top. Seventy men were employed in waterproofing the main tent top, and this same top was used to cover the main show on the day of the fire. There were 6,000 gallons of gasoline and 1,800 pounds of wax rubbed into this top with brooms. No fireproofing process of any kind was applied to this tent top. The side wall canvas used about the main tent was not processed for waterproofing or for fireproofing.

Aylesworth was present in 1942 at Cleveland when the menagerie top took fire and burned many animals to death. No human lives were lost. From time to time he has found burned holes in side wall canvas which he attributed to discarded cigarettes; and from his 30 years' experience as a canvas man and with his knowledge of the Cleveland fire, he testified that he was well aware that if a flame hit the top it would be a rapid fire with terrific heat and that such a tent top was hazardous.

Two seat men were assigned on July 6 to serve as fire watchers under the "Blue Bleachers" located in the southwest corner of the main tent and to the right of the main entrance. This was their regular assignment. One was William Caley, who has been an employee of the circus for three years. The other, John A. Cook, started to work with the circus this year for the first time, and was with the circus for about five weeks prior to the day of the fire. Two water buckets filled with water were underneath the "Blue Bleachers." Owing to the shortage of manpower, Caley and Cook were required to perform other duties in addition

to their fire watch service. Both of them were required to leave their posts and go to the opposite side of the tent to set up the animal chute cages in the northwest corner. They were also required at the end of the animal act to expedite the movement of the animals and to disengage the cages and remove them from the exits. During their absence, no substitutes were assigned or on duty under the "Blue Bleachers" in the southwest section. Both of these employees were working on the animal chute cage at the northwest exit when the fire was discovered in back of the "Blue Bleachers" in the southwest section. Their attention being called to the fire by the cries of "Fire", they ran back to the southwest bleachers and assisted other circus employees in trying to extinguish the fire. Two other assistants, Mike Dare and Paul Runyan, had emptied three water buckets on the fire but had failed to put it out.

Gwinnell, an usher at the circus, stated that when he first saw the fire the side wall was burning and the fire was about 5 or 6 feet up from the ground. He was standing at the main entrance directing people to their seats when he saw the fire about 40 feet away, and he definitely fixed the flame as on the side wall, 5 or 6 feet from the ground. In his testimony, Gwinnell was asked, "Could you see what caused the fire?" Answer - "I couldn't see what caused it; the only logical thing would have been a cigarette or throwing the match down without putting it out. A cigarette would have smoked for a while, but this came all of a sudden and it evidently was a match."

Two circus employees testified before me that a fire was discovered on the side wall canvas in Providence on July 4 and put out with a pail of water. This fire was reported to Aylesworth. One of these witnesses stated that there have been a dozen fires of this kind this season, including one in Portland, Maine, on June 30, 1944 when a piece of canvas webbing used to swing one of a series of swings was found ablaze during the performance and quickly extinguished.

All information reported from various sources relevant to this inquiry, concerning discharged and/or disgruntled circus employees, was fully investigated with the assistance of local and State Police officers within and beyond the borders of Connecticut.

Upon the testimony before me, I find that this fire originated on the ground in the southwest end of the main tent back of the "Blue Bleachers" about 50 feet south of the main entrance, and was so caused by the carelessness of an unidentified smoker and patron who threw a lighted cigarette to the ground from the "Blue Bleachers" stand. The evidence before me does not disclose this to be the act of an incendiary.

It indicates this ground fire at the point described above burned the immediate grass area, the wooden supports for the "Blue Bleachers" structure, the side wall canvas upward, then the tent top, and traveled quickly under and over the tent top northeastward, causing panic, an immediate loss of 125 lives, personal injuries to 538 persons, and destruction by fire of considerable circus property. Subsequently, 43 of the injured

died in hospitals.

Other circumstances contributing to the progress of this fire, to the loss of life, personal injuries, and destruction of property, were a lack of adequate fire prevention facilities; failure to maintain sufficient personnel to meet such emergencies; neglect to provide replacements for fire watchers required to render other services during the performance; absence of supervisors from the circus tent premises during the performance; the use of animal runway cages in passageways designed for exit purposes; and the use of a non-fireproof tent top knowing it to be a fire hazard and of combustible materials.

The names of all witnesses with the record testimony and exhibits impounded by me are herewith submitted.

Edward J. Hickey

Edward J. Hickey
Commissioner of State Police

January 11, 1945

Witnesses Appearing Before The Commissioner
of State Police as State Fire Marshal

Re: Inquiry Concerning

Fire of Ringling Bros.-Barnum and Bailey Combined Shows Inc.
at Hartford on July 6, 1944.

WITNESSES

Walter C. Abel	Hartford Police
Oliver Addison	Middlefield
Wm. Ellery Allyn	Hartford
Leonard S. Aylesworth	Sarasota, Florida
William F. Baker	Hartford Police
Thomas C. Barber	Hartford Police
Paul B. Beckwith	Hartford Police
Harry E. Bendell	Hartford
David W. Blanchfield	Sarasota, Florida
Rocco Bonaface	Hartford
Willard S. Brewer	Hartford
John H. Brice	Ironton, Ohio
Thomas Brophy	New York City
William Caley	Wanamie, Pa.
John M. Carson	Sarasota, Florida
Wm. David Clark	Farmington
Sam W. Clarke	Sarasota, Florida
John Peter Conlin	West Hartford
Peter J. Connerton	Hartford
William T. Connors	Hartford Fire Dept.
Bufard Cook	Chattanooga, Tenn.
John A. Cook	Sarasota, Florida
Martin B. Courneen, Sr.	Hartford
Alfred Court	Sarasota, Florida
C.H. Leon Crawford	Hartford Fire Dept.
William H. Cronin	Hartford Police
James J. Crowe, Jr.	Hartford Fire Dept.
Eugene J. Cummings	West Hartford
Francis R. Cunningham	Cheshire
Edward Curtin	Hartford Fire Dept.
Michael A. D'Addario	McKeesport, Pa.
Paul Danovsky	Chicago, Ill.
Antonette DiBella	Hartford
John Doyle	State Police
William Dunn, Jr.	West Arns, N.J.
John F. Dutton	Hartford
Herbert DeVal	New York City
George J. Dworak	Hartford Police
William J. Ennis	Hartford
Edna Ferrante	Wilson
Jersey Foster	Sarasota, Florida
Roger Frantz	U. S. Weather Bureau
William J. Galligan	Hartford
Joseph Geiger	Sarasota, Florida
Mrs. A. J. Gilbert	Windsor

WITNESSES

Daniel L. Gilbert	Hartford
Michael J. Godfrey	Hartford Police
Albert E. Gordon	New Britain
Mark Grady	Hartford Police
Charles A. Graff	Hartford Police
Frederick E. Green	Hartford Fire Dept.
Henry W. Griffen	Hartford Police
Kenneth G. Gwinnell	New Haven
James A. Haley	Sarasota, Florida
Charles Hallissey	Hartford Police
Pervey L. Hamill	Hartford
Morris H. Handler	Hartford
Charles H. Hayes	Hartford
James Healy	Chicago, Ill.
James F. Healy	Hartford Police
Thomas Hickey	Hartford Police
Anton Holst	Hartford Police
Elizabeth Hurley	Hartford
Anthony A. Juliano	Hartford Police
Daniel J. Juliano	Hartford
George Kelly	Sarasota, Florida
James J. Kenefick	Hartford Police
James A. Kennedy	Hartford Police
Thomas J. Kershaw	Hartford Police
Edward Killian	Hartford
John C. King	Hartford Fire Dept.
William J. Kirby	Hartford Fire Dept.
Mae Kovar	Sarasota, Florida
Bernard Kupperstein	Hartford
Joseph L. Lloyd	Sarasota, Florida
Joseph J. Losty	Hartford Fire Dept.
William F. Lynch	Bloomfield
Daniel McAuliffe	Hartford Police
John McDonald	Hartford
James P. McSweeney	Hartford Fire Dept.
John Meck	Sarasota, Florida
Mrs. Eugene Menard	Windsor
Alberta Merva	Hartford
Charles Mitchell	Chicago, Ill.
Helen Moiger	Hartford
Martin Monihan	Hartford Police
John R. Morris	Chattanooga, Tenn.
George E. Morrissey, Jr.	Washington, D. C.
Thomas F. Nagle	Hartford Police
Ward Nathe	Sandusky, Ohio
John Ringling North	Sarasota, Florida
John M. Obride	New Britain
Robert E. Onorato	Plainville
Anthony Pandolfo	Middletown
Adolph Pastore	State Police

WITNESSES

Ernest C. Perry	Hartford Fire Dept.
Samuel G. Phillips	Cleveland, Ohio
Raymond Phipps	Newington
Joseph Poirot	Hartford Police
James Poveromo	Hartford
James B. Quilty	Hartford
Thomas Radican	East Hartford
Alfred H. Ratell	Hartford Police
Charles J. Regan	Hartford Police
Lymoine Reiff	Kewanee, Ill.
Louis E. Runyan	Sarasota, Florida
Charles Ryan	Knoxville, Tenn.
George J. Sanford	Hartford Police
Emner B. Seaton	Hartford
George W. Smith	Sarasota, Florida
Francis W. Smith	Hartford Police
Francis W. Spellman	Hartford Police
William E. Spillane	Hartford Police
John Sponzo	Wilson
Frank Starkel	State Police
Robert Stift	Chicago, Ill.
Walter F. Stiles	State Police
Wilson Storey	Sarasota, Florida
Thomas F. Sullivan	Hartford Police
William L. Sullivan	Hartford Fire Dept.
Leroy Summers	Saginaw, Mich.
Henry G. Thomas	Hartford Fire Dept.
Neil Todd	Sarasota, Florida
Spencer Torrell	New Britain
Thomas W. Tucker	East Greenwich, R.I.
Edward Tulppo	Virginia, Minn.
Clifford Tuttle	Middletown
Edward R. Versteeg	Baldwin Park, Calif.
Albert H. Viering	Collinsville
Bertha C. Viering	Collinsville
Henry W. Wadsworth	Hartford Police
Frank Wainwright	East Hartford
Joseph Walch	Sarasota, Florida
Carl Wallenda	Sarasota, Florida
Helen Wallenda	Sarasota, Florida
Henrietta Wallenda	Sarasota, Florida
Herman Wallenda	Sarasota, Florida
Herbert S. Waterhouse	Hartford Police
Mrs. Rose Weber	Hartford
Joseph W. Weidel	Hartford Police
Ernest E. Westgate	South Windsor
David J. Whelan	Hartford Fire Dept.
Frederick E. White	Wilson
William E. Winslow	Sarasota, Florida
James Yacavone	Hartford Fire Dept.
George J. Young	Philadelphia, Pa.

EVIDENCE TAKEN BY STATE POLICE FROM
RINGLING BROS.-BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS
GROUNDS, DELIVERED TO STATE'S ATTORNEY,
HARTFORD COUNTY

July 8, 1944. Two small pieces of burnt canvas, assumed to be part of side walls of "big top."

Sample canvas (dressing room tent) not involved in fire, treated the same as "big top."

Three jacks, and small boards from West bleacher section, origin of fire.

One section of animal cage.

Steps, and remains of steps which were originally over animal cage.

July 13, 1944. Yellow canvas which comprised South wall of men's toilet; also a portion of the side wall of the menagerie tent.

July 20, 1944. Small piece of melted iron (in manilla envelope) taken by Commissioner Edward J. Hickey.

July 20, 1944, Piece of wood, approximately 4 feet long, covered with steel -- taken by Commissioner Edward J. Hickey.