

STATE OF MAINE

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION, INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

INVESTIGATION REPORT June 1, 1950NAME: Robert Dale Segee ADDRESS: Adelphi, OhioSUBJECT: Setting fires in Old Town, Maine and Portland, Maine

Director Flynn:

Your inspector was assigned to work with R. Russell Smith, Arson Bureau, Division of State Fire Marshal, Columbus, Ohio. On June 1, 1950 your Inspector met Director Flynn and Arson Investigator Russell Smith of the State of Ohio. A conference was held and went over the case of Robert Dale Segee, whom Investigator Smith alleged set fire in Portland, Me. and Old Town, Maine. Investigator Smith and your Investigator went to Dover, N. H. to meet National Board representative, Lewis Pendleton, and then we had a conference with Police Chief McDaniels in regard Robert Dale Segee who was born in Dover, N. H., September 17, 1929, checked to see if there were any fires at these places where he lived. Could find none here. Investigator Smith and N. B. R. Pendleton and myself went to Portsmouth, N. H. and had a conference with Sargent Neil Bierce and Police Chief William J. Linchey in regard to Ralph Dale Segee who moved to Portsmouth in his youth. "We found where there was a young girl age nine years was murdered Sept. 5, 1938. Her name was Barbara Driscoll. Herbert W. Sprague was arrested on Sept. 11, 1938 and tried for this and acquitted. There were a couple of large fires in the vicinity in which Robert Segee lived one in particular was the Diamond Match Co., and was marked cause unknown." I got this information from Police Chief Linchey who was a Deputy Sheriff and in charge of the suspect, Sprague. He maintained that Sprague did not commit the crime. Left Mr. Pendleton and Investigator Smith and myself and returned to Portland, Me. arriving about 11:00 p.m., June 2, 1950.

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION—INSURANCE DEPT.
Investigation Report

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| <u>Case No.</u> Report made by Inspector Guy E. Moors | <u>Character of Case</u> Investigation with Investigator Smith <u>Town</u> Portsmouth, N. H. | <u>Date of Report</u> June 1, 1950 <u>Number of pages</u> (3) This is page (2) |
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Met Investigator Smith and went with him to check the dates of the Stein fire and to get prints from the Portland Press papers in regard to fires on Commercial Street of the wharf fires. Checked the Segee boy when he was in the chair at St. James Church. We then went to Old Town, Me., where Segee was supposed to have set a fire and a girl burned up in this fire. We checked with Sylvester Francis who was Indian Cop at this time Segee was supposed to have moved to Portland, Mr. in August, 1939. In the years as he got older he drifted all over Maine and that is how he got up to Old Town. Segee is supposed to be half Indian. We also checked with Albert Niclor who used to run a basket factory in West Endfield at this time. Also checked with Indian Chief Poolaw who comes from Oklahoma and there did not seem to be anyone who knew or ever heard of Segee.

Inspector Smith telephoned to Columbus, Ohio to his boss for more information on these fires especially around Old Town, Mr., June 3, 1950.

Went to Bangor met Director Flynn and Inspector Smith and we went over all the fires in this vicinity that might be suspicious.

June 4, 1950 went to Bangor had a conference with Inspector Smith of the Arson Bureau from the State of Ohio to see if he had heard from Columbus, Ohio and if there was anything that I as representative of the Fire Prevention Bureau of the State of Maine could do to help him in any way.

June 5, 1950, I went to Bangor, met Inspector Smith of the State of Ohio, and he had not yet heard from Columbus. We checked the Bangor Police records for a record of Robert Segee as we also checked the Penobscot County records. Inspector Smith received a telephone message that he was in a Volunteer of America Camp at Old Town at the time he was in the vicinity of Old Town. Went to Old Town to check in regard to camp of this kind. Smith then telephoned to Portland headquarters of Volunteers of America and found out their only camp was at Old Orchard. Inspector Smith and I went to Augusta had a conference with Director Flynn and then went to Portland and checked with Volunteers of America and then went to Old Orchard, had checked with Fire Chief Mingo.

Could not locate in fire where anyone got burned to death. Telephoned to Inspector Dolby to see if he knew of anyone that had burned to death at Pine Point. He informed us that Pine Point was in Scarborough and that he would meet us tomorrow at Fire Headquarters in Old Orchard.

We had a conference at Fire Station Inspector Smith, Fire Chief Mingo, Inspector Dolby, could find no suspicions at Pine Point. It was suggested that we contact 1st Selectman Leon Lory of Scarborough who after a good searching located a fire at Pine Point on Nov. 5, 1942 in which the property of Enfield Simonton was burned and Andrew W. Mahar lost his life by fire in it. Then went to Portsmouth and checked fires at the Rockingham Hotel, there was a fire there in storeroom May 21, 1943 at 9:00 p.m. from an unknown cause. Got this from Fire Chief Coogan's record.

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June 7 went to South Portland and checked for fires and drowning near Portland side. We could not find anything.

Your Inspector took Inspector Russell Smith out to Portland Airport and saw that he was on the plane.

He was very high in his praise for you and the state of Maine in the support and help that we gave him.

received
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East Broad
information:

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Robert Sagee
got at their
sergeant
is a point
Sergee was giving

Sergeant Seryak that Dr. Higle was making
through the examination and stated
with the tests that had been made. He
might extend longer than the antici-
Sergeant Seryak further stated that
information relative to some fires
New Hampshire, but did not go into

Sergeant Seryak requested of Chief LaMonda to question
at the State Highway Patrol Headquarters, and
in the afternoon
Chief LaMonda's Division,
and informed
on the pictures,
It
a better back-
in conversation
"a circus fire
and
blowing
"It looked better,"
There was a good chance of breaking

Suspect Files - 1950