

Millionaires Narrowly Miss Pauper Grave

SARASOTA, Fla. (U)—The bodies of John and Mable Ringling—members of the famous circus family—never have been buried and narrowly escaped a pauper's grave, the Sarasota Herald-Tribune said Thursday.

In a copyrighted story, the newspaper said the bodies have remained in temporary storage at two New Jersey cemeteries since John died in 1926 and she at the Ringling summer home at Alpine, N. J.

That is why the bodies are in New Jersey.

Burial vaults prepared for the Ringlings at the John and Mable Ringling Art Museum—now owned by the State of Florida—remain empty.

Millions in Estate

When Ringling died, his estate was valued at 23 1/2 million dollars. It has been in litigation ever since.

The Ringlings spent at least 20 million dollars on the art museum and his palatial mansion here. They also contributed big sums of money to various Sarasota community projects.

For the past four years the body of Ringling has been in a receiving vault above ground at the Hackensack, N. J. cemetery. Before that for 18 years it rested in a temporary vault in the Brookside cemetery at Englewood, N. J.

Mrs. Ringling's body stayed at Brookside Cemetery for 25 years before removal with her husband's remains from Englewood.

Released Storage

The Brookside Cemetery released the bodies to the Hackensack Cemetery because it was unable to continue storage of the bodies. Bodies usually are stored for a short time only.

The newspaper reported that at one time payments on storage of the bodies at the Brookside Cemetery were several thousand dollars in arrears.

The monthly rental for storage of the bodies at Hackensack is \$50 and paid up to date. Payments have been made by a New York law firm representing the Ringling estate.

The newspaper said cemeteries in both New Jersey cities have regulations forbidding storage of remains for longer than a few months.

Conventional Burial

George Harris, superintendent at the Hackensack Cemetery, said he had suggested to the estate attorneys that a plot of land be purchased for conventional burial of the Ringlings.

There never has been an explanation why the Ringlings were not buried in the vaults set aside for them at the museum. The vaults were designed by John H. Phillips, a New York architect, in the late 1920s.

Another plan was to have a mausoleum built on the museum grounds. Nothing ever came of that.

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Tass Reports Dog Sputnik to Fizzle in April

MOSCOW (U)—Sputnik II is expected to blaze out between April 8 and 15, the Soviet News Agency Tass reported Thursday.

Tass said Soviet scientists figure the half-ton, dog-carrying satellite will enter a 'denser layer of the earth's atmosphere then. It is expected to disintegrate in hot friction contact with the air and cremate the dead dog passenger Laika.

If the Soviet Union wants to keep a Russian-made moon up with the American Explorer and Vanguard midjet moons it will have to launch Sputnik III in the next few weeks. Sputnik II's life cycle expectancy includes 2,000 revolutions around the earth—96 million miles. It was launched with Laika aboard Nov. 3. The dog died in a week or so.

Boy, 3, Falls Into Canal; Mother Sees Him Drown

BENTON CITY, Wash. (U)—A 3-year-old boy tumbled up to the bank of a water-filled canal near his home six miles west of here Wednesday and then tumbled in to drown as his horror-stricken mother watched in disbelief.

Victor Webley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Webley, wandered out of the yard of his rural home, crossed the old Inland Empire Highway and then fell into the Chandler pumping station canal.

Mrs. Webley saw the boy fall from a window of her home. The body of the youngster, one of five Webley children, was not recovered.

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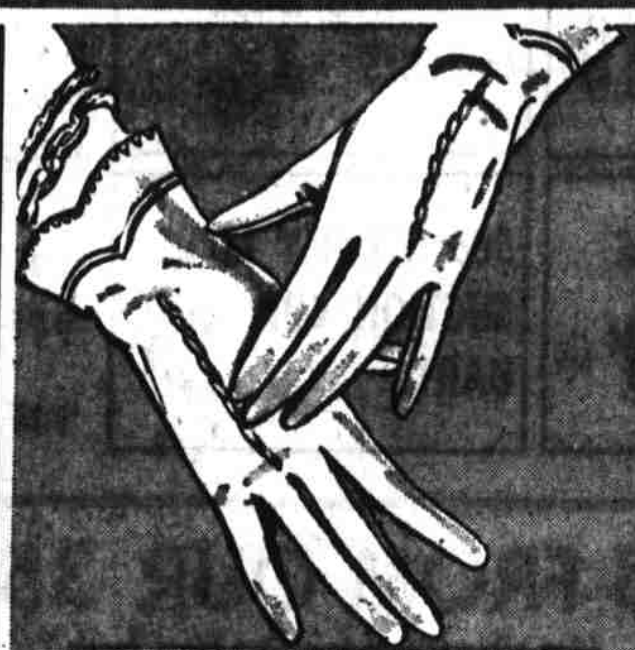
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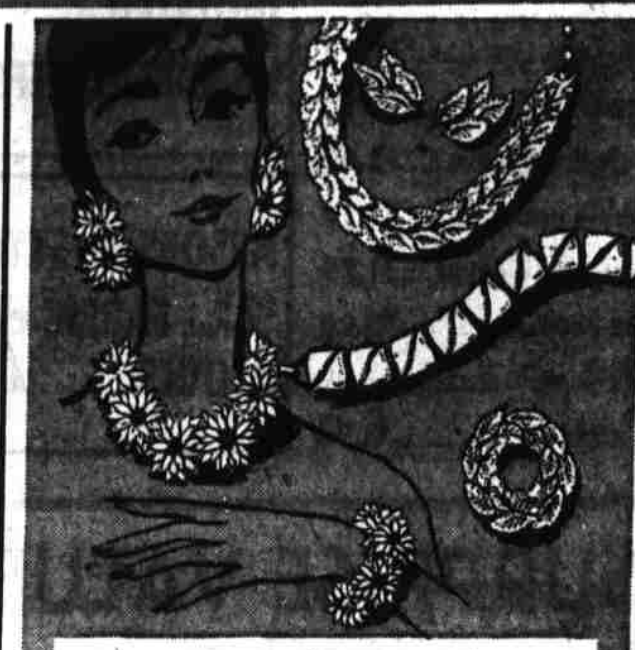
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