

CIRCUS OFFICIALS UNDER ARREST IN TENT FIRE DEATHS

146 Lives Lost and Toll May
Reach 150 — Searching
Investigation Ordered.

Hartford, Conn., July 7.—(U.P.)—Five officials of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey circus were charged with manslaughter today while state, county and municipal authorities pushed a searching investigation into the disaster of fire and panic under the big top in which 146 persons, 80 of them children, died.

While authorities questioned roustabouts, performers, roustabouts, and members of yesterday's matinee audience of 10,000 that saw an acre and more of canvas dissolve into flame above its head, 20 or more of the 214 injured crowding all local hospitals were in dying condition and it was feared that the ultimate death toll would reach 150.

Manslaughter Charge
Police Prosecutor S. Burr Leikind ordered a charge of manslaughter lodged against J. A. Bailey, vice-president of the circus; Edward Versteg, chief electrician; David W. Blanchfield, chief wagon and tractor man; George W. Smith, general manager, and Leonard Aylesworth, boss canvas man. Leikind said the five men were arrested by Hartford police during the night.

Coroner Frank E. Healy subpoenaed the five officials plus 15 executives to an inquest Tuesday when he intends fixing responsibility for the disaster.

Mayor William H. Martensen headed a committee of nine officials conducting an investigation paralleling the coroner's and early today he issued a public statement making two charges: (1) the circus tent, the largest in the world, "had been sprayed with paraffine which had been melted in gasoline"; (2) a steel runway, used to bring animals in and out of the big top, "closed off an entire end of the oval, obstructing exits."

Approximately 60 bodies were found jammed against the runway, he said.

Spotlights Eyed
Authorities, it was learned, were concentrating upon the spotlights perched high in the corners of "the biggest tent in the world" belonging to "the greatest show on earth" which at the instant the fire broke out were illuminating "the Flying Wallendas," a high wire aerial act, in their white, hot glare. A number of witnesses said the fire first appeared directly above one of the spotlights which were so high they appeared to be almost touching the slanting roof of the tent.

At first the fire was merely a red spot, tiny in comparison to the great sweeping acres of canvas in which it was an uncontrollable destructive force. One second later it had grown large and with an audible swishing sound it raced toward the center poles and 50 feet below 10,000 men and women momentarily went insane, stampeding, kicking and climbing over one another, and, it gleefully, hundreds of small children, occupying, as children will at a circus, the very front seats.

Many Die in Panic
Almost all of the dead were believed to have died in the panic, of suffocation, of shock induced by acute fright, and of being knocked down and stomped under the feet of the thousand stampeding for the exits. Though the fire swept over the top of the tent with speed of an eye blink, there was enough time for all 10,000 to have escaped unharmful if they had responded to the efforts of the circus people to calm them. The circus band played on until the part of the audience that hadn't been converted into piles of corpses had fled safely from beneath the sagging sky of flames.

80 Children
The greatest tragedy was centered in the bodies of 80 children laid out on army cots in the local armory of the Connecticut national guard—on some of the cots, two little bodies—

all covered with olive drab blankets. Parents, fathers and mothers moved along the rows of cots. A blanket would be pulled back, revealing a white, inanimate face, a mother's lips would sag and her facial muscles would tighten and with a scream perhaps, but more often, with a dry sob that barely was audible, she would turn away and a coronor's assistant would ask her the name and age and address, write it on a green card and attach the card to the blanket with a wire.

Many Unescorted
This is a big war industry town, in the heart of industrial New England, and parents don't have time to take children to the circus. Therefore, many of the children had gone unescorted, but in a number of cases the bodies of the father or mother or uncle or family friend who had taken a child to the most thrilling afternoon a child can have, were on cots nearby.

Circus headquarters in Sarasota said the big top had been treated to resist fire but, being canvas, could not be made fireproof. In Evanston, Ill., Robert Ringling, president of the circus, declined to comment on Mayor Mortensen's charge that it had been treated with paraffine, but said the tent was supposed to have been fire resistant.

"Every test we put that tent through showed that it would resist fire; a fire might endanger some of the equipment but would never endanger human life," he said.

Circus officials here said the tent cost \$60,000 and its guys, ropes, and poles were worth \$20,000 more. Except for the center poles, all were lost. It was understood that the circus carries \$500,000 liability insurance and fire and storm insurance on all its equipment.

\$5 Auto Tax Stamp
Only On Sale Here
Only the \$5 denomination of the automobile tax stamps are carried at the local postoffice, according to Frank DeSouza, postmaster. Anyone desiring to purchase stamps of lesser denomination must do so through the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, Portland.

The postmaster pointed out that after the first month's sales, the stamps may be purchased on a declining rate each month, but only through the collector's office in Portland. The postoffice here will have the \$5 stamps throughout the year, sales being continued until May 15, 1945.

Fishing at Night
Brings \$25 Fine

Jacob George Dye of Shady Cove was fined \$25 and costs in justice court yesterday on a charge of angling during prohibited hours. He was fishing in Rogue River at 10:30 p. m., the game warden's report showed. Dye has been living at Shady Cove for several years.

LOS ANGELES BUS WAGE
INCREASE AGREED UPON

Los Angeles, July 7.—(U.P.)—Before the 10th regional war labor board today was an employer-employee agreement on \$850,000 in annual wage increases for 3000 trainmen, bus operators and mechanics of the Los Angeles Railway Corp. and Los Angeles Motor Coach Lines.

The wage issue, pending since a strike a year ago tied up transportation for 24 hours, was settled yesterday after six weeks' negotiation with the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America (AFL).

FLIER DIES IN CRASH
INTO FACE OF BIG DAM
Los Angeles, July 7.—(U.P.)—A navy flier died yesterday when his Douglas dive-bomber crashed into the face of Fullerton Dam, Fullerton, Calif., navy public relations officers said today.

The pilot, whose name was withheld, was based at San Diego.

WARD BOND SUED
Hollywood, July 7.—(U.P.)—Ward Bond, film actor and former University of Southern California football star, today was faced with a divorce suit on the grounds of cruelty. Mrs. Bond said a property settlement had been reached in an amended complaint filed in superior court. Mrs. Bond previously had filed suit for separate maintenance, charging desertion and requesting \$1250 monthly support.

Lemonade Helps To Combat Fatigue



"Pack your lunch with a vitamin punch," is an admonition this pretty war worker has taken seriously. Uncle Sam, whose current worries include seeing that all of his millions of war workers eat an adequate, well-balanced lunch, can take this girl off his anxious list, for she knows her foods and has chosen a vitamin-rich selection for her lunch box.

Into her vacuum bottle goes lemonade—good source of vitamin C, the vitamin that counteracts fatigue. Ice-cold and sweetened to just the right degree, this beverage will add appetite appeal to the rest of the lunch box foods. Perhaps she plans to drink this lemonade between meals for a "cooler effect." The vitamin C of lemonade also helps to restore the vitamin C lost through perspiration.

Ready-to-Mix Lemonade
For the worker whose lunch must go into a paper bag or for the worker who wishes lemonade often throughout the day, a small bottle of pre-mixed lemon juice and sugar may be prepared. Combine:

1 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup sugar (use more or less to taste)
2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
Add this lemon-sugar syrup to water, 1/4 cup to a cup of water.

Gold Hill Artist
Sells Painting in
Portland Display

Gold Hill, July 7.—The All-Oregon Art Exhibition, including two paintings by F. L. Wertz of Gold Hill, has just concluded a six weeks showing at the Portland Art Museum. The display had 203 paintings and 161 artists. Mr. Wertz being the only artist from outside the metropolitan area of Portland who sold a painting at the exhibit.

One of his water colors, "Historical Jacksonville Main Street," was purchased by Dr. O. B. Wright of Portland. The second entry was "The Old Lyman Ranch on Rogue River."

WRONG MOTHER-IN-LAW
Denver, July 7.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Martha Martin nursed a black eye today, the result of her resemblance to someone's mother-in-law. A stranger walked up to her yesterday, hung a shiner on her and then apologized unexpectedly, explaining: "I thought you were my mother-in-law."

WEATHER
Northern California — Clear today, tonight and Saturday, but with fog along the coast from Golden Gate southwards. Some cooling interior today.

DROP IN FRESHMEN
State College, Pa.—(U.P.)—The Registrar at Pennsylvania State college reported today that only slightly more than 14 per cent of applicants to the freshman class of 1944 are male students.

ALLIS-CHALMERS
TRACTORS — LOGGING and ROAD
BUILDING MACHINERY
FARM TRACTORS—HARVESTERS
All Kinds of—
FARM MACHINERY and
IMPLEMENTS
"Carco", Isaacson, Baker, Gar Wood and other Makes of
ROAD AND LOGGING MACHINERY
—A large stock of GENUINE PARTS
for all ALLIS-CHALMERS Machines
EXPERIENCED MECHANICS
McCOY MACHINERY COMPANY
111 No. Fir Phone 3415 Medford

U. S. NATIONAL HAS BIG DEPOSIT GAIN

In its statement of condition to the Comptroller of Currency as per the official call of June 30, the United States National Bank, which has one of its important units in this city, reported deposits of \$428,139,114.56 and its resources \$446,541,330.88.

These figures represent the highest peak in deposits and resources in the history of the United States National and show a gain in deposits of \$99,567,489.59 over the corresponding call date of a year ago and a gain in resources over the 12-month period of \$104,274,335.75.

George T. Frey, manager of the local branch, reports that gains shown in this immediate territory are in keeping with the growth of the bank as a whole.

THE GRANGE

Roxy Anne Grange
Roxy Anne Grange will hold the regular meeting tonight at the hall. A "birthday night" program has been planned and all members are urged to attend.

Applegate Grange
Applegate Grange met June 23 with Master Glen Best presiding. Candidates obligated in

first and second degrees were Irene Walker, Mary Ann Duane and Ben Ver Bryck and Carl Lester Rich.

Grangers and guests from Williams Creek spent remainder of the evening in social activities with Brother and Sister Hansen furnishing music for dancing.

Report was made that the Home Economics pie social made \$7.40, to be used for redecorating the Grange kitchen.

Serving committee for Grange on July 14 will be Marie Benedict, Georgia Benedict, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pernoll, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Carl and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Krause.

At the last Home Economics meeting, June 20, held at Bertha Abercrombie's with Grace Hunter as hostess, Mrs. Schenck and Mrs. Rankin of the Jackson County Red Cross were present to start the group on Red Cross work. Beryl Elmore and Berthea Hill were appointed on cutting committee and all members are to get cut garments from them and finish them as soon as possible. Next Home Economics meeting will be July 26 at Grange hall.

LAST B-25
Inglewood, Calif., July 7.—(U.P.)—The home plant of North American Aviation Co. builds its last B-25 Billy Mitchell bomber today. The plant will devote the B-25 line to production of more P-51 Mustang fighters, described by the War Department as the world's fastest plane.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 5:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember.

Friday, July 7, 1944 MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE—SEVEN

The largest single collection made by the Greenwood school of waste paper ever turned in when 900 students collected 54,700 pounds.

HERE'S A FAIR OFFER!

TRY "SHREDDIES" FOR ONE WEEK—IF IT DOESN'T PUT NEW ZEST INTO BREAKFAST GET YOUR MONEY BACK!

You'll love "Shreddies". Delicious! All the goodness of 100% natural whole wheat. Delightfully crisp. Convenient spoon-size. Today—buy "Shreddies"!

MADE BY NABISCO NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY in the original Shredded Wheat Bakeseries at Niagara Falls.

IT ALWAYS PAYS TO BUY AT LUMANS'

LUMANS

TELEPHONE 2239 MAIN AND BARTLETT

JULY FOOD NEWS

HALEY'S SOUPS A Good Assortment 10c PER CAN

MILK, all brands 4 for 29c
BLUE ROSE RICE 2 lbs. for 25c
FORMAY SHORTENING 3 lbs. 65c
HILLS BROS. BLUE CAN COFFEE lb. 27c

CIGARETTES
Camels
Luckies
Chesterfields
Ctn. \$1.28

Bakery Special Saturday
DOUGHNUTS
Cake doughnuts, iced and flavored. Some rolled in chopped Walnuts. 40c
Dozen 40c
Plain and Powdered 29c
Sugared — Dozen 29c

COCO-MALT
Large Jars 49c
HEMO
Large Jars 59c

DUDE RANCH
Citrus Marmalade
2-lb. jar 38c
— No Points —

DEL MONTE CORN
Cream Style
2 No. 2 size Tins
29c

No. 1 Grade
BLUE ROSE
RICE
2 lbs. for 25c

A Fine Assortment of
PICKLES
OLIVES
JAMS
JELLIES

Thrifty Meats
LEG OF SPRING LAMB, fine for roasting lb. 38c
STEAKS T-BONE OR SIRLOIN CHOICE CUTS lb 35c
Loin or Rib VEAL STEAKS lb. 35c

R. I. RED FRYERS
PORK ROASTS — Choice Shoulder Cuts lb. 33c
BACON, best grade, lb 33c
BEEF POT ROASTS — Choice Cuts lb. 25c
NICE SUPPLY **HENS** YOUNG FAT
SPRING LAMB—Shoulder Cuts—Extra lb. 30c
HAMS WHOLE or HALF lb 35c
BEEF SHORT RIBS—Fine for Baking lb. 20c
LARD PURE — A-1 HOME RENDERED 3 lbs 50c

FARM FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES BUY WAR BONDS

Watermelons . lb. 4c

CANNING TIME IS HERE
Now is the time to can Berries. Fresh every day from the Shangri La Berry Farm. This includes Youngberries, Boysenberries, Loganberries, Red Raspberries, and Black Raspberries.

LARGEST FRUIT DISPLAY IN TOWN

Tune up your drinks
Drinks sparkle out loud when they're mixed with Canada Dry Water. Its "Pure Point Carbonation" insures liveliness to the last sip.

CANADA DRY WATER
BIG BOTTLE 15c Plus deposit