

ANTALEK troupe

U. S. Untangles Circus Troupe's Alien Mixup

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By HENRY CANTIN

A Hungarian circus performer, who actually is an Austrian, today obtained traveling permits for his Chinese wife and a Russian woman trouper, both of whom are Germans.

The strange case of tangled citizenship was unraveled before Assistant District Attorney Louis M. Hopping. The applicant was Joseph Antalek of the Antalek aerial performers, now appearing with the Greater Olympia Circus.

In compliance with enemy alien regulations, Antalek applied for permits for his wife, the former Tschen Der Dsai, and the Russian performer, Olga Pedroff, so that they could travel to New York for an appearance.

FORCED TO CLOSE SHOW

Antalek, whose grandfather founded the Antalek Circus in Europe in 1900, was forced to close the show and join another in Warsaw, Poland, in 1932. There he met Tschen, then 18 years old.

He came to the United States shortly before the bombing of Warsaw. Under European law, he was a citizen of Austria because that was his father's birthplace. But under laws of this country he was a native of Hungary, his own birthplace. Thus he is not considered an enemy alien in the United States.

Last year while appearing in New York, Antalek received a call from an immigration authority on Ellis Island.

GIRL WAITS TO WED

"There's a good looking Chinese girl here who wants to marry you," Antalek quoted the man as saying.

Antalek got the girl released on bond and married her in Chicago that month. Because he actually was a citizen of Austria, which was subjugated by Germany, he procured a German passport for his wife from the German consul. Thus she became an enemy alien.

The Russian-born Miss Pedroff married a German citizen in her native land and went immediately to Germany, where she divorced him. When she came to this country she was traveling on a German passport. Thus she, too, is an enemy alien.

The Antaleks now have an infant daughter, born in New York. Thus, as Antalek expresses it, "she is a little Yankee."

When Hopping granted the two permits, Antalek turned to his wife and quipped:

"Come on, you little enemy alien."