

CIRCUS ROMANCE SHATTERED

MAN CHARGED WITH ABDUCTION

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

BALLINA, Tuesday.

The story of a shattered romance of the circus was told in Ballina (County Mayo) District Court to-day, when Justice Guy returned Harry Hensley (50), Lorenzo Lodge, Taylor's Hill, Galway, for trial on a charge of abducting Laura Neumair, aged 13 years, whose father, Bernhard Neumair, is a native of Auhburg, Germany.

The girl, who is an acrobat in Heckenberg's circus, was born in Hamburg, on 27th February, 1924. The accused man, who was employed as a baggage man by the circus, which visited Ballina on 20th October, disappeared, it was alleged, with the girl at 2 p.m. The girl's father swore an information, and Sergeant Lynch, with other Guards, set out, and at Blacklion, County Cavan, the pair were arrested.

The girl's father said that in the beginning of the season he was teaching his daughter difficult acrobatic feats which she did not like. She said that she would go away and try something on her own with Harry Hensley. He never gave Hensley permission to take away his daughter.

Mrs. Neumair said that on the day previous to the girl's disappearance she slapped her daughter for talking to Hensley. She never saw them embracing, but she noticed they were too friendly.

Laura Neumair, the girl, said that the accused man suggested that they should go away together and open a show on their own, and they arranged to leave on the 20th October. They "hitch-hiked" from Ballina to Sligo, where they took a 'bus for Enniskillen, but were stopped by the Guards at Blacklion.

Sergeant Lynch said that Hensley, when arrested, said that he intended to get married in Enniskillen.

The evidence of three German-speaking witnesses was interpreted by Borris Lio Holtsin, a Chinaman in the employment of Heckenberg's circus.

This man speaks fourteen languages fluently, and the Irish language indifferently.