

[Barber, Roger L.]

Faulty Muffler Blamed

Couple Found Dead in Car in Orleans

By Merritt Landon

*Special to the Democrat and Chronicle*

ALBION—The bodies of a Knowlesville man and an Albion woman were found in a car parked in a cherry orchard on the West Transit Church Road section of the LaMont Fruit Farms about four miles east of Albion early yesterday.

Orleans County Sheriff John R. Williams and his deputies identified the victims as Miss Stella F. Potting, 26, of 129 Bank St., Albion, and Roger L. Barber, 34, of Knowlesville Road, Knowlesville.

Sheriff Williams said the possible cause of death was monoxide poisoning from exhaust fumes, as the muffler on the car was found defective.

Ironically, a new muffler was found on the back seat of the car, advancing the theory that Barber knew the old muffler needed replacing. Coroner Dr. Ruth Barrett of Albion is expected to issue a certificate of accidental death.

The car was discovered at 7 a.m. by John Benfer of Lattin Road, an employe[e] of the LaMont Farms, but his suspicions were not aroused until he found that the car still was there at 9 a.m. He stopped the Gaines town highway crew and together they investigated and notified the sheriff's office. How long the couple had been dead when found has not yet been determined.

Miss Potting, a native of Albion, was a graduate of Albion High School, class of 1960. A member of the First Presbyterian Church. She had been a teacher in the Sunday School for some time.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. William F. Potting of Albion.

Friends may call at the Merrill-Grinnell Funeral Home, Albion, today and tomorrow, where services will be held at the convenience of the family. Burial will be in Mt. Albion Cemetery.

Barber was born in Ridgeway and had been employed recently as a farmer and truck driver. Previously working for the Farm Machinery Corp. of Middleport. He was a member of Medina Lodge of Odd Fellows and attended the Universalist Church at Ridgeway Corners.

Survivors are his widow, Evelyn Behm Barber; eight children, ranging from one to 13 years of age: Paul, James, Claudia, Samuel, Clifford, Betty, Nancy, and Carolyn; his father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. Louie Barber of Ridgeway; a brother, Robert J. Barber of Gasport; and grandmother, Mrs. Helen Rutherford of Lyndonville, and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Friends may call from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 at the Barnes Tuttle Funeral Home, Medina, where services will be held Monday at 2 p.m., Rev. Richard Billingsley, pastor of Lyndonville Presbyterian Church, officiating.

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