

[Bellinger, Raymond E.]

#### SUICIDE EDICT GIVEN IN AREA DROWNING

LITTLE FALLS—Raymond E. Bellinger, 75, of RD 3, was drowned yesterday in the Mohawk River east of Little Falls. Herkimer County Coroner Gilbert C. Upright ruled the death a suicide. Upright said that Bellinger had been in poor health.

The drowning was investigated by Senior Investigator Lewis W. Johnson, East Herkimer BCI, and Patrolman Anthony Noble, Little Falls Police.

Johnson said Bellinger had left home to go into Little Falls for a haircut. He said Bellinger left the barber shop at 9. Members of the family became concerned when he had not returned home by 10.

The body was found by Kenneth Brownell, Bellinger's brother-in-law, and Harry Edick, a neighbor, both of RD 3. They found Bellinger's pickup truck parked on the Old River Road, east of the city. Soon afterward they found the body floating in the river a short distance away. Johnson said. Bellinger's wallet, eyeglasses and jacket were found on the seat of the truck, Johnson added.

Little Falls Police were notified. Firemen were sent to the scene. The body was pulled from the water by Fire Chief Abram Swartz, fireman Earl Baker and call fireman Charles VanSlyke.

Bellinger was born in the Town of Little Falls. He had operated a farm there. He married Alice Catherine Sharp in 1919 in the Town of Little Falls.

He was a member of St. Paul's Universalist Church, the Little Falls Grange, a 50-year member of the National Grange and a life member of the Little Falls Masonic Lodge.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Miss Alice Bellinger, at home, and a sister, Mrs. Kenneth (Evelyn) Brownell, Little Falls RD 3.

The funeral will be at 1 Sunday from the Chapman funeral Home with the Rev. Robert W. Sterling, pastor of St. Paul's Universalist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Church Street Cemetery.

Calling hours are from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 today and tomorrow.

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