

[McConnell, Walter A.]

Accidental Death Verdict In Couple Who Died
In Car Saturday Night On Clinton
[abridged]

Verdicts of accidental deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning have been issued by Dr. O. A. Bennett, county coroner, in the deaths of a man and woman whose bodies were found in a parked car Saturday evening.

Found dead in a car, its engine running and lights on, were Walter A. McConnell, 39, of 58 Elm St. and Mrs. Olive Keller, 43, of 87 Clinton Ave.

The car was noticed at 8:10 parked near the intersection of Blaine Street and Clinton Avenue. Mrs. Grace Anna Arnold, 162 Clinton Ave., summoned police.

Officer Carl Staley responded and summoned the Fire Department Emergency Squad and Hayes ambulance. The man and woman were pronounced dead by Dr. George F. Nevin and the bodies were released to Cortland Memorial Hospital.

Later, inspection of the automobile's exhaust system indicated it to be faulty, Police chief Michael Canestaro said.

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Mr. McConnell was a resident of Cortland for 30 years. He was born April 2, 1920 at Sempronius, the son of Starr and the late Clara Hopkins McConnell.

He was a plumber employed at Wickwire Bros. Mr. McConnell was a veteran infantryman of World War II and a member of Hitchcock Hose Co. and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also was a member of the Universalist Church.

Surviving him are his wife, Marilyn Monroe McConnell, Cortland; his father, Starr McConnell, Homer; three brothers, Floyd of Tully, Paul of Cortland and Gerald McConnell of Homer; two sisters, Mrs. Edna Thomas, Homer, and Mrs. Harriet Hicks, Moravia, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Earle W. Wright Funeral Home. The Rev. James Hunt, pastor of the Universalist Church, will officiate. Friends may call at the funeral home tonight from 7 to 9. Interment will be in Cortland Rural Cemetery.

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