

[Steele, Marvin J.]

Marvin Steele Dies; Well Known Engineer

Marvin J. Steele, 56, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert J. Steele of West Bank Street, this village, died Feb. 29 in Detroit, Mich., where he was assistant chief engineer in the Marine Division of Packard Motors. He had been with the firm for 34 years. He was born at Elba when his parents operated a farm there.

He leaves a wife, Corinne Phillips Steele, and a son, Harry John, of Detroit; his parents, who observed 60 years of wedded life last Jan. 1, and two brothers, Clarence of Barre Center, and G. Gordon Steele of Buffalo, who is first assistant district attorney of Erie County. The body was brought here and funeral services were held at the Grinnell mortuary Saturday afternoon, with Rev. J. Murray Gay of the Pullman Universalist Church officiating. Burial in Mr. Albion.

Mr. Steele's death followed a six weeks illness, including a major operation performed two weeks prior to his passing. Many friends paid their respects at the Hamilton Funeral Home, Detroit, before his body was brought to Albion.

His prominence in Marine Engineering circles was national. He was responsible for the development of the motors now used in our deadly P-T boats, having worked on them along with Col C. J. Vincent, Packard vice president, and Marsden Ware, Chief Marine Engineer of the company. The P-T motor is an outgrowth of the motors which were developed for the Miss America X by Gar Wood, the owner, with Mr. Steele's cooperation. Mr. Steele became Packard's representative in Harmsworth Cup preparations following the death of the company's chief engineer, Capt. L. M. Woolson.

He joined the Packard firm as an engineer in September 1912 and assisted in the development of aircraft motors in 1914. He was Col. Vincent's right hand man in the building of Liberty motors at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, during World War I. He was an active member of the Society of American Engineers.

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