

WALTER TESTER HAS FATAL ATTACK AFTER BOATING ACCIDENT RESCUE

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tester, prominent couple living a short distance north of Geneva along US 27, survived a boating mishap Thursday afternoon on ? of the Woods, just west of their ?, but just a few minutes later Mr. Tester, 68, collapsed and died. Death is tied to a heart attack. Tester had a history of heart trouble.

Thelma Tester, wife of Walter, is in Jay County Hospital in Portland and she is being treated for exposure, ? and shock. Her condition is ? satisfactory although chest x-rays were taken after she complained of ? that area.

Mr. and Mrs. Tester were fishing from the boat, about 200 feet from shore. Tester had fastened a chair on the ? for his wife to sit on. In some ? she slipped from the chair and ? lurch upset the boat, throwing both of them into the water which was four to five feet deep.

? Stanley, 20, of Geneva, and a Adams High School graduate, was fishing from the shore a considerable distance away. He heard the splash, then went to the rescue of Mr. and Mrs. Tester. Before jumping into the water, he pulled off his boots. He was able to reach the couple and with Mrs. Tester being on top of the overturned boat, and her husband alongside, Stanley was able to pull both to shore.

Mrs. Tester stretched out on the ground to recuperate a little and Tester went into his home to change clothes. He was accompanied by a next door neighbor, Merlin Beer, who had heard the commotion and ran over to offer his assistance.

Beer said Tester asked him to go into the house with him while he changed into dry clothes. Tester went into the bathroom and while in there he apparently was stricken and fell in front of the bathroom door. Beer called to him but did not get any response and he could not open the door because of Tester's body being lodged against it.

Dr. George Donnally was summoned and he order [sic] Mrs. Tester to the hospital and the body of Mr. Tester was taken to the Downing Funeral Home in Geneva. Also called to the scene were Darrol Smitley, Geneva Police Chief, who said the incident ocured about 2 p.m., and Geneva Firemen Terry Nevil and Alan Mann who drove the Downing ambulance.

Before his retirement Mr. Tester was employed at the Decatur plant of the General Electric Company for many years. Mr. Tester was a member of the First Missionary Church of Berne. He was born April 21, 1907, in Ohio, the son of Jake and Martha (Riffel) Tester.

Surviving, in addition to the wife are a daughter, Mrs. Richard (Margie) Sweeney of Rome City; two sons, Jerry and Bill, both of California; a sister, Mrs. R. D. (Bess) Williams of Bluffton; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Missionary Church, Berne, with the Rev. C. H. Wiederkehr officiating. Burial will be in MRE Cemetery. Friends may call at the Downing Funeral Home, Geneva, after 1 p.m. Saturday, and at the church one hour before time of services.