

The Massena Observer

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MASSENA GIRL KILLED IN PLUNGE DOWN SHAFT

Miss Frances A. Covey, 18, Falls Four Stories in Dormitory at New Rochelle College - Miss Marie McDonough, 19, of Worcester, Mass., Badly Injured

Miss Frances Augusta Covey, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Covey, of 14 Bishop avenue, was instantly killed Sunday afternoon when she and Miss Marie McDonough, 19, of Worcester, Mass., plunged four stories down an elevator shaft in a dormitory of the College of New Rochelle. Although Miss McDonough suffered a fractured skull and internal injuries, latest reports are that she will recover.

Both girls were freshmen, they rooming with other freshmen on the fourth and top floor of the dormitory, known as Maura Hall. Miss Covey had only returned to college the previous Tuesday after spending the holidays with her parents here.

The accident occurred shortly after the dinner hour. Opening off the main corridor on the floor is a small hallway leading to the elevator shaft. The two girls, playing hide and seek with other girls, saw the door at the end of this hallway and evidently mistook it for the door of a closet in which they could hide. For some unknown reason the door was unlocked.

Miss Covey's room was near the elevator shaft, and her roommate, Miss Francis Rourke, of Worcester, Mass., happened to leave it almost at the same instant she heard the girls' scream. Looking toward the shaft, she was horrified to see both girls plunge down.

Miss Covey was dead when found. Her chest was crushed, and she also suffered a broken left arm and right leg. Her hands were badly burned, indicating that

she evidently grabbed at a rope in a frantic effort to save herself. Miss McDonough suffered a fractured skull and internal injuries. She was taken to New Rochelle hospital.

An investigation was made by Dr. Amos O. Squire, Westchester county medical examiner, following which he announced that he would not hold any individual responsible for the tragedy. He stated, however, that he would advise the school authorities that students be directed to keep away from the shaft, and that the doors to the shaft be locked and keys kept from all students.

Miss Covey was born in Malone, December 5, 1909, daughter of Elmer H. and Clara Wood Covey. The family moved to Massena nine years ago. Miss Covey was graduated from St. Joseph's Academy, Malone, last June as valedictorian of her class, she having attended that institution for the past nine years. She was an only child.

A prayer service was held from the home Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock, the body arriving here Monday night, accompanied by a cousin, Miss Katherine Gill, of New York, Rev. J. M. Bellamy, of St. Mary's church, officiating. The body was then taken to Malone. The funeral will be held from Notre Dame church this, Thursday, morning at 10:00 o'clock, with pupils in St. Joseph's Academy taking an active part. The bearers will be six young men, three members of the girl's graduating class, the others being in the school. Burial will be made at Malone.