



Bill & Bonnie Daniels Firefighters Hall & Museum – Minnesota Fire Museum

Line of Duty Death Honorarium

Assistant Chief Herbert Leo McLellan –Duluth Fire Department

Line of Duty Death #122 – March 5, 1955

Herbert Leo McClellan was born March 11, 1898 in Duluth, Minnesota to John (1865 -) and Christina Chesser (1870-1935). He had four brothers – brother Charles (1891 – 1958), brother Joseph born August 24, 1900 (1975) and brother Harold born March 28, 1903 (1964). He married Bernice Eugeneia Larson on June 6, 1925 in Lake Township, Minnesota. They welcomed their first daughter, Shirley Donna on June 8, 1928 and daughter nance date unknown. McClellan’s mother passed on April 10, 1935. The family lived at 5317 Medina Street in Duluth.



He served in WWI from June 26, 1917 until discharged on May 29, 1919. He was a private assigned to Battery “B” 112th FA (Field Artillery) 29th Division. On October 26, 1922, he applied for the position of “brakeman” to the Northern Pacific Railway. There is no evidence he secured that position. He joins the Duluth Fire Department in 1931. He registers for the WWII Draft in 1941 but is not called up. His application details his employers name as the “City of Duluth – Fire Captain.”



1936 Peter Pirsch & Sons Triple Combination Pumper – McClellan likely served on this or similar engine early in his career.

Fatal Incident: Saturday, March 5, 1955

HERALD

DAY, MARCH 5, 1955

Five Cents



Today's Chuckle

Boy—"Would you marry a man for his money?"
Girl—"Tell me first—is this a Gallup poll or a proposal?"

Assistant Chief Dies Fighting City Fire

McLellan was inside the Leman home, that filled rapidly with smoke, when he was seen tumbling towards the front entrance. He collapsed on the steps and fell into a drift of snow left by gusty winds that hampered the firemen in their battle against the blaze. He was reported dead on arrival at St. Mary's hospital, apparently from a heart attack. Note, all family members escaped from the home without injury.

Funeral: Tuesday, March 8, 1955

Services Tuesday 12:30 p.m. at Bell Brothers Funeral home, the Rev. Wayne L. Ireland officiating.



Interment: Tuesday March 8, 1955

Assistant Chief McLellan is buried in the Oneta Cemetery in Duluth, MN.



Timeline/Documents/Records/Articles:

- 1898 – March 11, Birth
- 1900 – August 24, Brother John Birth
- 1903 – March 28, Brother Harold Birth
- 1917 – WWI Draft Registration/enlistment
- 1919 – Discharge WWI
- 1925 – June 6, Marriage
- 1928 – June 8, Daughter Shirley Birth
- 1931 – Duluth Fire Employment
- 1955 – March 5, Death
- 1955 – March 8, Funeral and Interment

Chief of Department



Lorenzo Jones
1943-1957