



REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

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EXAMINATION REPORT

CASE: 19-25-1980

NAME: Jerry McConnell

DATE: 6/17/2025

ADDRESS: 13800 Metcalf Ave, SR 419, Overland Park, KS 66223

TIME: 0908 hours

81- year - old female

PERSONS PRESENT AT EXAMINATION:

Forensic Assistant: Christina Phelan, Paul Schauner, Kinsey Carroll, Rose Whiteker

PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES

- I. Undetermined
 - A. Advanced state of decomposition
 - 1. Skeletonization with minimal skin and soft tissue remaining
 - 2. Postmortem animal activity, mild
 - B. Bilateral antemortem rib 1 fractures, and left wing of manubrium fracture
 - 1. Some remodeling of left rib 1 fracture
 - 2. See separate Forensic Anthropology Report
 - C. Identification by dental comparison

CAUSE OF DEATH: Undetermined

MANNER: Undetermined

Harley Schainost, MD

Harley Schainost, M.D.

Deputy Coroner-Medical Examiner

6/28/2025

Date signed

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH

According to reports, Jerry McConnell was last seen by her family on May 14, 2025 when she left to run an errand, she was subsequently reported missing by her son. A rancher in the vicinity of Ferguson Ranch in Cowley County, observed her alive, from a distance on May 15, 2025. Ms. McConnell's vehicle was subsequently located by law enforcement near this ranch. A search was initiated in the area, ultimately resulting in locating the skeletal remains in a field, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from her vehicle on June 11, 2025. Items of clothing and her personal property were also found with and near the skeletal remains.

Ms. McConnell has a history of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, a myocardial infarction with stent placement in 2024, chronic kidney disease, and prediabetes. She has also recently had at least one syncopal episodes and palpitations, and was recently wearing a holter monitor for evaluation.

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION

An external examination is performed on the body, identified by dental comparison, as Jerry McConnell, at the Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center, Wichita, Kansas on June 17, 2025.

CLOTHING

The body is received partially clad, accompanied by: see chain of custody documents.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is received in a body bag. Body identification includes an identification band around the right ankle. The body is photographed.

The body is largely skeletonized, with minimal residual skin and soft tissue, but appears to be consistent with that of a well-developed, adult female, with a residual weight of 35 pounds, an approximate height of 66 inches, and a reported age of 81 years.

The unembalmed body is cool to touch. Rigor mortis has receded. Livor mortis is absent due to the skeletal nature of the remains. Minimal attached and some detached gray-white scalp hair is present. The teeth are in a good state of repair, with veneers and dental reconstruction present. The genitalia consist of a vulva, without abnormality. The extremities are well-developed and symmetrical. Silicone breast implants are present with the remains.

Prominent postmortem animal predation is present on the bones of the right heel and foot.

IDENTIFYING MARKS AND SCARS

There are no identifiable marks or scars.

MEDICAL INTERVENTION

There is no evidence of medical intervention.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There are fractures of the bilateral first ribs and the left side of the manubrium, with some evidence of healing of the left first rib. (See Separate Forensic Anthropology Report for further details.)

EVIDENCE

The following items are collected and preserved: see chain of custody documents.

POSTMORTEM RADIOGRAPHY

Postmortem full body X-Rays reveal postmortem decompositional changes, and fractures of the bilateral first ribs, and the left side of the upper sternum (manubrium).

ANTHROPOLOGY EXAMINATION

The skeletal remains were examined by a Forensic Anthropologist, Dr. Peer H. Moore-Jansen from Wichita State University.

Summary:

- A human skeleton including a complete skull and mandible with extensively restored dentition; a complete vertebral column, shoulder girdle, pelvic girdle; both upper and lower appendages. Both right and left hands and feet are present except for two carpals and misc. phalanges.
- Condition: Evidence of postmortem animal activity. Tooth marks and gnawing on bone and tissue
- Age: Older adult, Age Range 33-76 (Mean: 51.9), 6th decade or older based on rib-ends, suture closure
- Skeletal Sex: Female size and shape (skull, mandible, os coxae and overall robusticity)
- Affinity: "White"
- Manner of Death: Possible thoracic trauma and exposure associated with antemortem accident to upper chest region. Base on the limited healing to antemortem traumatic injuries observed to the upper chest wall, manifested by fractures (bilaterally) to rib 1, and to the left wing of the manubrium.
- Time since death: 3-4 weeks based on the extent of remodeling (healing) in the left rib 1 fracture, and extent of exposure of remains to changing dry, hot, cold and rainy local area weather conditions of recent

Please see separate Forensic Anthropology Report for further details.

TOXICOLOGY

Toxicology testing is unable to be performed in this case, due to the skeletal nature of the remains.

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OPINION

In my opinion Jerry McConnell died as a result of undetermined causes.

The manner of death is undetermined.

The examination is severely limited by the skeletal nature of the remains. The anthropology examination indicates that there is some antemortem trauma to the first ribs and a portion of the sternum, indicating some level of injury before death, with some evidence of healing in one of the fractures. However, the timeline of these injuries is unclear, and the nature of the observable injuries themselves are not lethal, and injuries to underlying organs cannot be assessed due to the skeletal nature of the remains. Given the circumstances and medical history in this case, it cannot be distinguished if the death occurred due to a medical event, exposure to the elements, an injury, or some combination of the above, and therefore, the cause and manner of death are best classified as undetermined. If more information becomes available, the cause and manner may be revisited.