

Bicycle Fatality at Ballysimon

Informations Refused

Mr J M Flood, District Justice, adjourned at a special court on Monday when Miss E Cleere, Counsel, was charged with causing the death of Theresa Ray, aged 19 years, Edward street, Limerick, by knocking her down with a motor car at Ballysimon on the 1st August last.

Mr J J Power, State Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr Henry Shannon, solicitor, Counsel, defended.

Mr W Ryan, Architect, produced a map of the site of the occurrence. He had taken measurements, accompanied by Civil Guard Byrne. Travelling from Limerick to Tipperary one would want to be almost up to the bye-road leading to St Patrick's Well before he would be aware of the existence of the road, which had a fall of one in fifteen to the main road. Coming down the bye-road on a free-wheel bicycle a person would have to apply his brakes to negotiate the turn.

Mr Shannon said as the Justice had visited the place he would not ask witness any questions.

To the Justice, witness said a cyclist approaching from St Patrick's bye-road would not have a view of a motor car on the main road on account of an obscuring wall.

Annie Doran, aged 17 years, of Fair View Terrace, Garryowen, stated deceased called for her on the evening of the 1st ult. After having tea they went cycling, and arrived at St Patrick's Road about 9.30 o'clock. Deceased made a call at a house in the place, and they then turned and cycled towards the main Limerick-Tipperary road. The night was quite bright, and although the main road was damp the bye-road was dry. They cycled abreast until they reached Singleton's shop when deceased went in front. They were on their proper side, and not cycling fast. Approaching the cross the deceased was a few yards in front. Witness had her brakes applied and the deceased was travelling at about the same speed as she coming up to the main road. She did not hear the sound of a motor horn. When deceased came to the cross she took a wide turn to get to her own side of the road. She was about three-quarters way across when a motor car travelling from the direction of the city crashed into her. At the time deceased was on the left hand side of the road having crossed there apparently to avoid the car. The deceased was taken a few yards in front of the car which occupied a bank on the right hand side facing Tipperary. The driver of the car was trying to avoid colliding with deceased, and was travelling fairly fast. When the car pulled up Miss Cleere and a Mr O'Brien, who was with her in the car, asked witness the name of the deceased and where the nearest hospital was situated.

To Mr Shannon—Mr O'Brien immediately turned the car around and with Miss Cleere conveyed the girl to the County Infirmary within ten minutes of the accident. I was about ten yards from the cross when I applied the brakes. Miss Ray remained on her left hand side to the corner and had a maximum view of the road.

Witness said the main road carried a good deal of traffic, but deceased, who was a stranger and had not been on the road before, was not aware probably of this.

I suggest Miss Cleere answered simply to give Miss Ray time to get out of the way. Yes; her right hand was nearest Limerick, but she swerved back and was more or less facing up the side road; she was struck on the left side.

Mr Shannon—I want to get this more