

Driver Exonerated

Fatal Accident on Bosis Road.

How Cyclist Met His Death

De Anle Marriage-Power, Deputy Coroner, read the inquest at the City Hall, Limerick, on Saturday on William O'Donoghue, road ganger, Cratloe, who was killed at Caberdenra, near Cratloe, on the 27th July.

The Coroner said that medical evidence and evidence of identification was taken on the last occasion.

Wm. Malone, Medical, stated that at 11 a.m. on the 27th July he was standing at the entrance to Mr Ryan's house; he had a paper to give deceased and was waiting for him. While he was standing at the gate he noticed three cars coming from the Limerick direction; when he saw them first they were half a mile distant. There was no car on the road except deceased, who was cycling along towards witness.

Sergeant Dolan (who conducted the inquiry)—What part of the road was he travelling?

Witness—He was well on his own side!

The Sergeant—What did you notice then?

Witness—When he approached within 120 yards of me he moved out towards the centre of the road, and when he came to within fifteen yards he swerved to his left and then to his right again.

Sergeant—What occurred then?

Witness—I heard the boot of a car and saw O'Donoghue make a burst across the road. I saw a motor car from about five to ten yards behind deceased when he swerved to his right and heard the horn sounded; deceased swerved right across the road without giving any signal. The leading car, which was partly on the centre of the road, also swerved to the right.

The Sergeant—Did you see it hitting O'Donoghue?

Witness—No; I saw him landed into the side of the road, and then I heard brakes being applied.

Witness (continuing) said he saw deceased lying on the road about three feet from the left hand side, and he appeared to be dead. It was raining heavily at the time.

In reply to Mr O'Malley, solicitor (for Dr Frank Humphreys, T.O., Carlow, driver of the car)—Witness said if O'Donoghue had not swerved across the road the accident would not have occurred.

Mr O'Malley—Was the driver in any way to blame?

Witness—The only thing that I saw wrong was that he did not give the cyclist timely notice.

Did O'Donoghue look back on the road?

—No.

Mr P.G. Collins, solicitor (for next-of-kin)—The first indication that O'Donoghue had O'Donoghue had that there was a car behind him was when the horn was sounded?

—Yes.

Mr O'Malley, at this stage, said on his advice Dr Frank Humphreys had decided not to give evidence before the jury.

The Coroner said it was a matter entirely for Dr Humphreys.

Dr Louis Humphreys, B.M.O., City Hall and Hospital, Limerick, stated that he was travelling in the car with his brother, Dr Francis Humphreys, Carlow. They were travelling from Limerick to Bosis. Witness was sitting in the back left hand seat, and noticed a cyclist on the road as they approached Mallick. The cyclist was going in the same direction, and was travelling at about two yards from his correct side of the road, which was quite straight. The car was more or less on its own side going at about 20 miles per hour. When the car came within twenty yards of the cyclist, the latter moved out further on the road. Then the driver blew the horn, and the car swerved to the right, and the cyclist turned sharply to the right as the car was about to pass him. The car swerved sharply to avoid him, and in doing so the deceased hit against the side of the vehicle. Subsequently the car travelled six or ten yards on the extreme right of the road.

The Sergeant—Did the cyclist give any signal?—None whatever.

Sergeant D. Nolan, Ardara, gave evidence to the effect that he examined the scene of the accident; it was raining heavily and there were no traces on the road surface; the car driven by Dr Humphreys was examined and tested; the left front door was dented and the glass broken; the brakes, steering, etc. were in good order, and the general condition was very good.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and exonerated the driver of the car from all blame.