

INJURIES PROVED FATAL

Accident On Ennis Road Scenes And Incidents Of The

SAD OCCURRENCE DESCRIBED AT INQUEST

Charles Roesten, Elm Park, Limerick, who was struck by a motor van on Ennis Road on Thursday evening, 26th December, died from his injuries in Barrington's Hospital on Saturday night. Deceased, who was for a number of years chef at Cruise's Hotel, was going home when the accident occurred.

At the City Courthouse, yesterday, Mr. J. S. McNeice, solicitor, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest touching the circumstances of the death of the deceased.

Supt. Coleran conducted the inquiry.

Mr. M. Tynan, solicitor, appeared for the next-of-kin, and Mr. P. G. Collins, solicitor, for the driver of the van, Joseph Flynn, 11 Parnell Street, attached to the Limerick Fire Brigade, said that the deceased was his brother-in-law. On the 27th December he saw Mr. Roesten alive in Barrington's Hospital. On the 28th Mr. Roesten died, and witness identified the body.

INJURIES DESCRIBED.

Dr. Francis Crowe, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, said that the deceased was admitted to the Hospital at 9.45 p.m. on the 26th December, 1946. He died about 9.30 p.m. on the 28th December, 1946. Witness carried out a post-mortem examination and he found a compound fracture of the left leg. There was some dirt on the road. This abrasion on the forehead and both hands. There was an incised wound on the scalp, multiple bowel haemorrhage without any marks on the abdomen. Death, in his opinion, was due to shock and haemorrhage.

Mary Roesten said she lived with her husband at their residence. He was 57 years of age last October, and was employed as chef at Cruise's Hotel. She gave evidence of identification.

HEARD A CRASH.

Michael Allen, 6 Upper William Street, Limerick, said he was a book-keeper. He left the city on the 26th on the 9.30 p.m. bus to go to the Ennis Road. He got off the bus at the Union Cross stop. It was raining and blowing, and witness took shelter near Mr. Corbys. At about that time he saw a van coming in the Ennis Road. Its lights were on and it was on its correct side of the road. He would estimate the speed of the car as being between 15 and 20 miles per hour. As the van passed witness was looking towards Limerick direction. He subsequently heard a crash and as he looked round he observed a body falling to the side at which he was standing. As he saw the body fall the van turned in towards the left and pulled up immediately. Witness ran down to where the man was lying on the road and the driver of the van reached the spot before him. The deceased was then conscious and witness asked him if his leg was broken, and he replied in the affirmative. He also remarked that his teeth were missing. He did not say how the accident occurred. Witness recognised him as Mr. Roesten. With the assistance of two men they put the injured man in Mr. O'Leary's van and conveyed him to Barrington's Hospital.

LIGHTING SYSTEM.

To Mr. Tynan, witness said that the lighting system was satisfactory. The rain was being blown straight in front of the driver. Witness was not a driver and could not say if the lighting system at the point of the accident would be of any help to a driver. The driver of the van had all his regulation lights on, numbering four, and appeared to slow approaching the cross. There was nothing about the speed of the van to attract his attention. Prior to the crash he did not hear any brakes being applied. The injured man was lying in the centre of the road. He would say the van was midway between the left-hand side and the centre of the road. Prior to the crash witness had not observed the deceased.

Miss Catherine Egan, 4 Wellington Terrace, said that on the night of the 26th she travelled on the 9.30 p.m. bus to the Union Cross, where she got off. It was a very wet night, and the wind was blowing, as a result of which she took shelter in Mr. Corbys gate. At this time the bus must have gone on. After some time she heard a crash and looked in the direction of the crash but did not observe anything. She later saw a small van pull up on the opposite side of the road from where she was standing.

MAN LYING ON HIS BACK.

A man came out of the van and rushed over to the centre of the road. Witness followed and then recognised Mr. O'Leary. There was a man lying on his back on the centre of the road and Mr. O'Leary was trying to lift him. After witness heard the crash another car passed in towards Limerick. Mr. O'Leary's van was pulled up at the time. She could not say at which side of the injured man the car passed.

To Mr. Collins, witness said that a possibility did exist that the second car which passed could have struck the deceased or gone over him.

In further cross-examination by Mr. Collins, witness said that the lighting at and around the point of the collision was very bad. Deceased was wearing a dark coat and when she approached him he had no hat.

Peter O'Dwyer, Deanery Lodge, Ennis Road, said he was a bus conductor. On the evening of the 26th he conducted the 9.20 p.m. bus out to the Ennis Road. The deceased, Charles Roesten, was on the bus but did not get off at the Union Cross. He did not appear to have any bus.

BUS DRIVER'S EVIDENCE.

Christopher Horgan, 2 Lower Glentworth Street, said he drove the bus on the night in question out to Rose's Avenue. After stopping at the Union Cross the deceased left the bus in the direction of Mr. Corbys gate. Witness prior to this, observed a lady standing at Mr. Corbys gate. As far as he could recollect he met three cars between Corbys gate and Lansdowne Park on the night in question at between 18 and 20 m.p.h.

As he approached the Union Cross it was raining. The bus which he had previously observed pulling up dimmed the lights and he dimmed his lights, as he had full head lights on at the time. There was a motor car outside the house, "Baaba," unlighted; that would be on his left driving in. Just as he passed the car a black object like a man, with his head down, came walking across the road at an angle and hit right into the radiator.

JURY'S VERDICT.

After a lengthy absence, the jury found that death was due to shock and haemorrhage resulting from injuries received by being knocked down by a motor van driven by John J. O'Leary, which accident was caused by the failure of the driver to see the deceased, due to poor visibility and lighting. Deceased was negligent in crossing the road with his head down.

SYMPATHY.

At the end of the proceedings, the Coroner, on his own behalf and on that of the jury, extended deep sympathy to the wife and family of the deceased, who, he said, was a most esteemed citizen.

FEALESIDE MEMORIES

Scenes And Incidents Of The

Past

HEROISM OF FATHER CASEY RECALLED

Days Of Evictions And Moonlighting

(By J. D. H.)

That period of reaction in Irish national and political affairs in the early part of the last century, when most of the people in Abbeyfeale and nearby Kerry districts were, for the most part, conversant with our national language and were not ashamed to use it; when many of O'Connell's triumphs in the law courts and the British Parliament were still quoted and scenes and incidents were recalled of the days when the Liberator's Coach pulled up in the Main Street of Abbeyfeale for interchange of horses and lunch before again taking the road to Limerick for some historic trial or to meet the mail boat at Dun Laoghaire in time for some Parliamentary Session in the British Commons; it is at this period I again find in the diary kept by the late Captain Wm. Clarke, R.N., retired, records of dates and incidents carefully recorded by him which are otherwise lost in the mists of the past. It was on Monday, the 6th of October, 1870, when another war was disturbing the peace of France and Germany, that we find Father Connery, C.C., had lent the use of the old schoolhouse, now vanished, for an entertainment by "Du Val," who was a personator of various characters. This Du Val was a poet, too, who composed and sang some beautiful Irish songs, seldom heard now, and which included, "The Green Shores of Ireland." It was in 1883, while returning from a tour in South Africa, that he lost his life in the Red Sea.

FOUNDING OF LOCAL CONVENT.

On Sunday, 24th of September, 1870, Bishop Moriarty, of Kerry, arrived at Abbeyfeale with some Sisters of Mercy from Killarney to found a Branch Convent there. He was met by Bishop Butler, of Limerick, and Dean O'Brien, V.G., of Newcastle West, who founded the C.Y.M.S., and who preached the introduction sermon on the occasion. Dr. Michael Coughlan, P.P.D.D., was Pastor of Abbeyfeale, and was the means of establishing the local Community, who have since accomplished such meritorious and useful educational work for West Limerick and adjoining Kerry.

Capt. William Oliver was a convert to more than Catholicity, of which his diary shows he was a faithful member. Although born in the City of London, he soon saw, shortly after his retirement into the routine of a country gentleman farmer, how contemptuously this country was treated under the administration of a foreign government, and never lost an opportunity of drawing attention to its wrongs and the tyranny of its rulers. He has many references to the establishment and progress of the Land League movement under Davitt and Purnell.

On Sunday, the 8th of December, 1872, he writes, there were rain and storm and great floods. Following these, there appears to have been great excitement in Abbeyfeale, arising from a rumour that somewhere down the Fete, a number of young men were reported to be surrounded by a great rising flood in the river.

GREAT PRIEST'S HEROIC ACT.

Father Casey, then a young curate, having heard what was happening, rushed at once to the scene, and borrowing a horse from a farmer, John P. Broderick, he rode into the rising flood, at great risk and physical effort, brought each of the five young fellows to safety. They had been rabbling in the inches below the Moynihan road and found themselves enveloped with the flood, with no means of escape from it.

Under date of the 14th March, 1873, there are notes of Captain Oliver's correspondence with H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. He trained the Duke in marine engineering, and often corresponded with him subsequently. On the 14th of January, 1874, he observes, there were lively scenes in Abbeyfeale, when W. H. O'Sullivan, M.P., of Killmallock, held an election meeting in the town. The Magistrates ordered all public houses in the town to close at 3.30 p.m. The rival sections were kept apart, after a man was injured. On the 22nd of January, 1874, the Captain and the late Wm. P. Broderick went sureties with three men who had been charged with some violence on the election day.

On Tuesday, 17th of February, he wrote:— "My wife and daughter, Ellie, went to a wedding at Buckley's, at the Cross, with William Dan's family. Mrs. James W. Harnett and myself went down there in the evening, getting a good wetting on the way. The wedding was certainly a novelty; lashings of eating and drinking. We came home at 10.30 p.m., the others remaining until morning. The drinking was moderate, at least until we left, although enough."

On the 6th of January, 1875,

HIRING OF FARM SERVANTS TWO OCTOGENARIANS PASS AWAY

Farmers in the Killmallock district looking ahead are already hiring farm servants for the 1947 work on the land (writes our Killmallock correspondent). There is very little bargaining, as the wages offered are never below the Board's set standard, and in a large number of cases, according to the ability of the servant to do general work, which would include ploughing, a high figure is reached away and beyond that of the Wages Board.

Mr. P. G. Collins, solicitor, also associated himself with the Coroner's remarks on behalf of himself and Mr. J. O'Leary.

Supt. P. Coleran sympathised on behalf of the Garda Siochana.

Thanking those who tendered their sympathy, Mr. Martin Tynan, solicitor, said he would convey their very kind remarks to the family of the deceased.

CIMERICK LEADER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1947.

Things That Matter

Practically all the New Year resolutions are made by this. It is not impossible that even at this early stage some of them are already broken! Be this as it may, a good deal is to be said for an annual framing of good intentions for the future. The very fact of deciding to amend one's ways acts as an urge towards improvement, and even if the urge be only temporary it has some beneficial effect by creating an uplifting trend.

According to a Spanish proverb, the road to a very warm quarter is paved with pious resolves. It is foolish, no doubt, to be laying too many fanciful plans for leading absolutely ideal and blameless lives for the rest of our days. In matters of this kind, as in everything else, the middle of the road, is the safer one. By attempting the impossible we are courting failure and a certain weakening of character that cannot but be harmful.

Everyone, however, has both the need and the opportunity for a change of heart, outlook, disposition or habit. Big faults can be removed if they are attacked in a proper and sufficiently persistent way by the person afflicted with them. In smaller matters of minor concern very much can be done to bring about reform that will be a keen inner satisfaction to oneself and radiate pleasure to others. Here is where social as well as personal responsibilities come in, and it must never be forgotten that we owe something to the community as well as to ourselves.

In a variety of ways that many look upon as mere details most people have it in their power, and owe it as a duty, to eliminate traits that are calculated to make themselves unhappy and render them more or less obnoxious to fellow-sojourners in life. The tendency to indiscriminate grumbling, for instance, is something that it ought not be very difficult to debunk, provided that the heart is not soured too much to respond to more Christian and genial sentiments. Our mundane existence is not intended as a Heaven on earth and there is no true philosophy in acting and grousing as if it were.

Another direction in which an amendment of attitude and disposition is widely called for is that in relation to the letter and spirit of the Eighth Commandment. The practice of lacerating the characters of others is deplorably widespread amongst us, and in curbing this habit no great sacrifice is called for on the part of the individual addicted to such a horrible and uncharitable custom. The late Professor Tom Kettle, a very brilliant figure, once wrote that in Ireland everybody seems to be busy confessing the sins of everybody else." A journey in any bus or train

and it need not be a very long one—generally affords proof in the conversations to be overheard that he was largely right in his comment.

What never seems to strike those who specialise in tearing the characters of their neighbours to pieces is that they are thus manifesting their own unworthy composition. The person who finds fault with everyone else is by that very fact proving that he or she is by no means a model of rectitude, decency or charity. It is amazing, and sometimes amusing, to observe how people who readily see the mote in the eyes of others never become conscious of the beam in their own. Those in glass houses are always advised not to throw stones, and backbiters and calumniators, for a similar reason, should realise that their proneness to rep up and blemish the characters of others is a strong evidence that there must be something very unworthy in their own.

