Edgar Cham

Isle of Wight County Press - 9 March 1935

Death of a Royal Mail Driver

The death occurred on Wednesday of Mr. Edgar Cham, aged 62, of The Bays, Bowcombe, who had the splendid record of having been a driver of the Royal mails in the Island for the long period of 40 years. He retired in May, 1933, having held mail carrying contracts under the post-office for 43 years. His retirement was only brought about by the decision to dispense with private contracts and to do the work with Government motor vehicles driven by postmen. Following the change the deceased had been employed as a postman, but had been in failing health since November. He was a familiar figure in the Island, and appreciation of services by fellow workers in the postal service was happily shown by the presentation to him of a silver half-hunter watch and chain suitably inscribed. On that occasion the postmaster of Newport (Mr. W. C. Bailey), who made the presentation, paid a high tribute to the work done by the deceased, saying he had preserved a truly remarkable reputation for punctuality and won the esteem of everyone by his cheery and obliging ways. The deceased, who was born at Newtown 62 years ago, was the son of a coastguard there, and he commenced mail van driving between Freshwater and Newport at the age of 17. He continued on this route for several years until the mails were sent by rail; then followed a period of several years on the Newport-Ryde route. For over 30 years Mr. Cham and his wife were responsible for the conveyance of mails between Newport and Brighstone. His experiences on the road were fully narrated in the *County Press* at the time of transition from horse to motor vehicle, and form a link with the history of the Island dating back to the old coaching days. One notable experience was when the route was blocked by a snow drift at Bouldnor 40 years ago and the mail bags had to be carried on foot, the journey from Newport to Yarmouth occupying five hours.

Isle of Wight County Press – 16 March 1935

CARISBROOKE

POSTMAN'S FUNERAL.--The funeral of Mr. Edgar Cham, of The Bays, Bowcombe, whose death was reported last week, took place on Saturday, the first part of the service being held in the Parish Church. The Rev. H. Ewbank (vicar) officiated. The chief mourners were the widow, Mr. J. Cham (son), Mr. and Mrs. J. Kemp and Mr. and Mrs. B. Sibbick (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs. Blow, Mrs. J. Bradley, Mrs. C. Morris, Mrs. Graham and the Misses B. and J. Cham (daughters), Mr. H. Cham (brother), Mr. R. Reed and Mr. W. Dear (brothers-in-law), and Messrs C. and F. Reed (nephews). A party of some 20 fellow postmen in uniform formed a guard of honour at the Lych-gate and followed the cortege into the church. Those also present included Mr. W. G. Bailey (head postmaster, Newport), Messrs. H. I. Digby and C. J. Guy (overseers), Mr. H. Webb (sub-postmaster, Carisbrooke), Messrs. H. E. Croucher, S. O. Feben, A. Punch, E. E. Carpenter, and F. Small (Newport staff), W. W. Watson (ex-inspector), E. Caplehorn and A. E. Huck (ex-postmen), Ald. B. Sanders, and Messrs. A. J. S. and H. C. Russell (Westcourt). Those who followed the coffin were Messrs. W. Reynolds (Inspector), S. Baker, J. Beggs, A. Brown, W. Buckett, S. Carter, J. Clark, F. Cooper, W. Earley, R. Edmonds, A. Geary, A. Hardy, P. and W. Hayles, J. Hill, F. Hitchman, H. Westmore, and Messenger-boy Turner. The interment followed at the Cemetery, and among the choice floral tributes was a wreath from the head-postmaster and staffs at Newport, Brighstone, and Shorwell Offices.

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