Charles Eldridge

Isle of Wight County Press - 8 March 1952

A "COUNTY PRESS" VETERAN

DEATH OF MR. C. ELDRIDGE, OF NEWPORT

We regret to record the death at his home, 49 Lugley Street, Newport, on Saturday, in his 90th year, of Mr. Charles Eldridge, an original member of the staff of the "County Press." Mr. Eldridge, who was a native of Ventnor, joined the paper on its foundation in 1884 as a compositor, and was actively associated with its production for 54 years, for a long period as foreman of the news composing department. He relinquished this responsible position some years before his retirement, but continued to work in the department until well over 70 years of age, a notable example of conscientious service to one firm.

Mr. Eldridge was well known in many spheres of activity in the Island, particularly because of his long association with the Ancient Order of Foresters, of which he was a Past District Chief Ranger as well as a Past Chief Ranger of Court 1821 (Newport), of which he was the senior trustee, having been in office for 52 years. He was a popular member of the Newport Conservative Club and formerly served on the committee. For many years Mr. Eldridge was a keen and skilful bowler, being a member of the Conservative Bowling Club, whose green was behind the former club premises in the Upper High Street; and he later played for the Newport and Rookwood clubs. As a youth at Ventnor he was a member of the very successful Ventnor Rowing Club four-oar galley crew, who won many races at South Coast regattas.

In June, 1947, he and Mrs. Eldridge celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, and in 1937, on the occasion of their golden wedding, they received a presentation of a chiming clock subscribed for by their many friends. Sincere sympathy is expressed with Mrs. Eldridge, who has been associated with her husband in many of his interests, particularly Forestry, in which she has also taken an active part. Their elder son died in Turkish captivity after the fall of Kut, in the first world war, and they also lost a daughter, Mrs. Pierce, some 30 years ago. Their surviving son and daughter are both living away from the Island.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place on Wednesday, a service being held at the Newport Parish Church. The Vicar (the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth) officiated. The family mourners were Mrs. J. F. Eldridge (widow), Mr. and Mrs. L. Eldridge (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Willson (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. W. J. Pierce, Miss B. Willson, and Miss G. Eldridge (grandchildren), Miss M. V. Randall, and Mrs. Denness.

The "County Press" was represented by Lieut.-Col. C. W. Brannon M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P. (manager and director), and Miss H. R. Brannon, Capt. H. A. Drudge (secretary and director), Messrs. W. G. Sibbick, J.P. (editor), C. W. Blee (accountant), E. Melhuish, R. T. Lawn, and P. Appel (department foremen), R. Allen, B. P. R. Smith (also representing the I.W. Conservative Clubs' Association), R. T. Lawn, Junior, R. Hannam, J. R. Montgomery, A. L. Conyers and K. Lawn, and two retired members of the staff, Messrs. W. H. Baker and P. U. Morgan. The Foresters were represented by Messrs. E. E. Fuller (district chief ranger), J. Clark (district secretary), W. Spanner (secretary), A. J. Williams (treasurer), H. Way and J. C. Williams (trustees), G. Matthews, and W. H. Fuller, of Court 1821 (Newport), and Miss C. R. Mytton (trustee), and Mrs. H. Buckler (treasurer), of the Newport Ladies' Court 5396. The Newport Conservative Club, where the flag was flown at half-mast, was represented by Ald. J. J. Simmonds (president), and Mr. C. Pragnell. Mr. E. J. Bartlett represented the Rookwood Bowling Club.

The floral tributes included wreaths from the directors of the "County Press" and the staff; Newport Conservative Club; I.W. District Foresters, Court 1821 (Newport); and the Old Volunteers Club, Doncaster.

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