Henry Charles Muncey

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FOUND DEAD CLASPING A PICTURE OF HIS WIFE

A RETIRED naval petty officer found dead in bed at his Newport home on New Year's Day was clasping a picture of his late wife in his hands, an Island inquest heard on Tuesday.

Police Constable G. J. Penney said he went to the home of Mr. Henry Charles Muncey, 71, of Melbourne Street, and Mr. Muncey was dead on his back with the framed photograph in his hands.

There was an empty aspirin in the downstairs sitting room, three empty aspirin bottles in a wardrobe and another aspirin bottle in the kitchen, PC Penney said.

There were also notes in Mr. Muncey's handwriting in various places around the house.

DEPRESSED

Mrs. Mary Teresa Tiller, a neighbour of Mr. Muncey's, told the inquest she had looked after him since last March.

She took him an evening meal on New Year's Eve and found him dead in bed the following day when she called to collect his plate.

Mrs. Myrtle Joyce Muncey, of Guildford, Surrey, Mr. Muncey's daughter, said her mother had died in 1972 and her father had "missed her profoundly" since then. "Her death depressed him terribly," she said.

Mrs. Muncey said her father had lived with her in Guildford for a time. "My mother is buried in Carisbrooke cemetery and he came to the Island in 1979 to be near her," she said. "The family came from Ventnor."

OVERDOSE

Dr. P. D. Swinstead, pathologist, gave the cause of death as an aspirin overdose. He said the dead man had taken "a large intake" of aspirin tablets.

Mr. J. S. K. Chesterton, Island coroner, recorded a verdict that Mr. Muncey killed himself. The coroner said the various handwritten notes found at the house had all related to the loss of Mr, Muncey's wife.

Mr. Muncey had been "undoubtedly looked after very well" by his neighbour Mrs. Tiller on the Island and also by his daughter in Surrey, the coroner said.