

Arthur Ernest Wyatt

Isle of Wight County Press 25 July 1970

NEWPORT UNDERTAKER'S DEATH

INQUEST OPENED AND ADJOURNED

Two months before he was due to retire, Mr. Arthur Ernest Wyatt, aged 65, of 96 Upper St. James's Street, Newport, a well-known Newport undertaker, was killed on Tuesday morning when he was involved in a collision with a van at Scarrots Lane, Newport.

Born in Newport, Mr. Wyatt was a life-long resident of the town. After having worked in an undertaker's business since 1914, he took over the management in 1948 from his employer and bought it three years later. Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt moved from Caesars Road to a flat above the business in 1960.

Mr. Wyatt joined the boy scouts in Newport around the age of 11 and continued in the movement until 1948 when pressure of work interfered, having held the position of assistant scout master with the Carisbrooke troop. During his years with the scouts he regularly took the boys camping.

A keep-fit enthusiast, Mr. Wyatt was a member of the now defunct Trojans Athletic Club, specialising in gymnastics. He also did a great deal of walking with his wife.

A member of Newport Businessmen's Association, he served on the committee. A life-long member of Quay Street Methodist Church he regularly attended services. Among his other interests were the physically handicapped of Newport. He and his wife were honorary members of the I.W. Society for the Aid of the Physically Handicapped. Mr. Wyatt was also a keen amateur photographer. He is survived by his wife.

Due to retire at the end of September, he planned to form his business into a small company and continue in an advisory capacity. The business is at present temporarily suspended.

An inquest was opened by Mr. J. V. Bullin, coroner, yesterday, and adjourned.

Cremation will take place at 2 p.m. on Monday. Interment of the ashes will follow in his parents' grave at Carisbooke.

Isle of Wight County Press 1 August 1970

NEWPORT

The Late Mr. A. E. Wyatt.--Cremation took place on Monday of Mr. Arthur Ernest Wyatt, aged 65, of 96, Upper St. James Street, Newport, who died the previous Tuesday after being involved in a collision with a van at Scarrots Lane, Newport. The Rev. W. H. Read (Newport Methodist minister) officiated. The principal mourners were, Mrs. Wyatt (widow), Mr. E. G. Morris (nephew), Mr. and Mrs. E. Bartlett (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Morris (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Miss C. Ringer (great-niece), Masters P. and M. Morris and G. Ringer (great-nephews), Mr. and Mrs. L. Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. H. Sheath (cousins), Miss J. Bailey (god-daughter), Mr. and Mrs. D. Radcliffe, Miss V. Gorringer and Miss S. Watson. The many floral tributes included one from Newport Methodist church, of which Mr. Wyatt was a life-long member, and representatives included those

from the Newport Business Men's Association, the I.W. Society for the Aid of the Physically Handicapped and the Newport and Carisbrooke group of the society, funeral directors from many parts of the Island and members of businesses and professions in the town, many of whom also sent wreaths. Messrs. A. A. and R. J. Westmore made the arrangements.

Isle of Wight County Press 22 August 1970

SCARROTS LANE—DEATH TRAP

UNDERTAKER'S ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Scarrots Lane, Newport, was described as a "death trap" at an inquest on Friday week on Mr. Arthur Ernest Wyatt, aged 65, a well-known Newport undertaker, of 96, Upper St. James's Street, who was killed in the lane on July 21st when he was run over by a van.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and recommended that more safety precautions should be taken in the lane. Their remarks were endorsed by Mr. J. V. Bullin, coroner, who said he would draw the attention of the local authority to the matter.

The inquest had been opened and adjourned on July 24th, when Dr. P. D. Swinstead (pathologist) said that death was due to a fractured base of the skull.

Graham Michael John Williams, of 25, Nelson Road, Newport, said that he was working in Mr. Wyatt's business on July 21st. Mr. Wyatt was backing out of a door leading into Scarrots Lane pulling a pair of trucks when the van hit him. Mr. Wyatt looked left and was about to look right when the accident happened. The van, which was reversing, carried him up the lane for a little way. It was going about 10-15 m.p.h. and witness did not hear any warning signal.

Walter John Hayden, of 160, Whitepit Lane, Newport, said that he was in the Scarrots Lane car park on July 21st when he saw the incident. If the van had been going slower he did not think the accident would have resulted in Mr. Wyatt being killed. He did not think the van was going over fast. He did not see Mr. Wyatt turn his head to see if anything was coming.

Gary William Shilton, of 39, Albert Street, Cowes, said that on July 21st he was driving a lorry into Scarrots Lane from the St. James's Street entrance. There was a van coming in the opposite direction. The van started to back up and he stopped his lorry. He saw Mr. Wyatt come out of his premises but did not see the van hit him. The van was not going faster than 8 m.p.h. He had his own lorry in such a gear that he could not go any faster and he was catching the van up, so he stopped. Scarrots Lane was a death trap. It was dangerous for anybody who used it and he suggested that there should be a one-way system.

John Douglas Carter, of 71, Longfleet Road, Poole, Dorset, said he was driving the van which struck Mr. Wyatt. He had come from the mainland and had never used the lane before. When he saw the lorry coming towards him he realised that he could not get past, so began to reverse. He could see behind him by two wing mirrors, but could not see in the inside mirror as the van was loaded. He was reversing at a speed of about 5-6 m.p.h. He felt a bump against his van but he still did not know what he had hit until someone came up and told him to pull forward, and he got out and saw Mr. Wyatt lying in the road. He was quite surprised to see a lorry coming towards him in Scarrots Lane.

P.C. J. Rice said the van was over 13cwt. heavier than it should have been. The van was in good working order.

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