

Percy John Croucher

**Isle of Wight County Press
20 November 1948**

**DEATH OF MR. P. J. CROUCHER
OF NEWPORT**

Long Association With Coastal Shipping

The little ships of the Hunt class, which ply between Newport Quay and the mainland, flew their flags at half-mast on Wednesday when it was learned that Mr. Percy John Croucher had died in the Home Hospital, Ryde, at the age of 81. Mr. Croucher, still affectionately referred to by the crews as "The Guv'nor", although his active association with the business ceased some six years ago, spent his life in helping to build up the firm of Crouchers, Ltd., which he and his two brothers inherited on the death of their father. During his long association with the firm, of which he was managing director, there were notable developments, in which he took a leading part. In his early days sailing ships were used in the trade between the Island, London, and France, but when the firm was absorbed by Messrs. Pickfords some nine years ago they owned a modern fleet of coastal motor ships, known affectionately locally as "Croucher's liners". He had the misfortune to lose his only son nine years ago, and his wife died five years ago. He retained an interest in Pickfords for a short time after the transfer, but finally retired in 1942. He had been in failing health for about four years, and for over two and a half years had been cared for at the Home Hospital, Ryde. At one time he resided in Fairlee Road, but later lived with his only daughter, Mrs. W. H. Sheath, at 44 Carisbrooke Road. For a period he was a member of the Newport Town Council, and had been a lifelong member of the Quay Street Methodist Church. In his younger days he was secretary of the Sunday-school for many years, and he faithfully served it as a trustee. Prior to Methodist Union he acted as circuit steward. He was a keen supporter of the Newport Football Club and was one of the original trustees who purchased the present Church Litten ground for the club. He was a member of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows. The funeral to-day (Saturday) at 2.30 will be conducted by the Rev. H. Harrison, assisted by the Rev. J. L. Stafford.

**Isle of Wight County Press
27 November 1948**

NEWPORT

The Late Mr. P. J. Croucher.—The funeral service was held in the Quay Street Methodist Church on Saturday, the Rev. H. Harrison officiating, assisted by the Rev. J. L. Stafford. Mr. W. G. Bartlett (organist) accompanied the hymns "In Heavenly Love Abiding" and "Abide with me". The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Sheath (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. S. Croucher (nephew, also representing Mr. E. Croucher, brother), Mrs. S. Croucher (also representing Mr. M. Croucher), Mr. W. G. Buckett (brother-in-law), Messrs. P., G., H., M. H., F., and G. Croucher, C. and G. Forrest, E. Buckett, F. and E. Norris, and S. Smith (nephews), Mesdames C. Forrest, B. Croucher, J. Chalk, M. Taylor, Edwards, and E. Smith, and the Misses M. and A. Croucher and A. Chalk (nieces), Messrs. G. and C. Croucher and J. Brett (cousins), Mrs. F. Croucher (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Biddlecombe (nephew and niece), Mr. and Mrs. G. Baker, Mr. C. Odell, Nurse Skeats, and Mr. A. T. Sheath (also representing Mrs. C. J. Sheath and family). Others present included Mesdames E. F. Rice, E. Ablitt, E. Appelton, H. M. Lane, O. E. Long, C. Newnham, A. E. Day, S. Sheath, K. N. Pratchett, E. Ashby, A. Odell, F. Attrill, E. M. Sheaf (also representing Capt. A. Sheaf), H. Morris, C. H. New., F. H. Adams, A. E. Richards, E. Sexton, A. Woodford, and L. Bailey, the Misses K. Sheath, F. M. Urry, J. M. Hurry, E. Sheath, G. Ashby, Gill

Martin, and Mr. M. L. F. Gray, Captains J. R. Carter and J. Cooper, Messrs. H. F. Pitman, W. G. B. Weeks, G. Ryall, J. A. Chambers, M. Cheek, F. Cooper, G. P. Ray, R. T. Hann, E. R. Dore, W. H. Margham, H. Morris, F. Attrill, J. D. Truscott, W. L. Bright, J. H. Diffey, E. Matthews, C. V. Cheverton, G. E. Tomlinson, L. W. Downer (also representing Mrs. Downer), W. Woodford, W. J. Lower, A. G. Harrison, S. W. Layley, F. E. Cheek, G. Norman, C.C., P. Whiston, J. F. Launder, T.C., F. R. Gracey, A. A. Lewis, and R. Buckett, Mr. and Mrs. T. Appleton, Mr. and Mrs. P. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Philpott, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dore, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. P. Jackman, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Downer, and Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hodges. Former employees present included Messrs. T. H. Thornton (area manager, Pickfords), W. Norris, J. West, A. E. Linington, W. Reynolds, H. Sanders, W. G. Hayter, F. Stay, F. Ryall, C. Bradley, E. Shackleton, J. A. Gray, H. W. Knight, B. Shepard, R. C. Wherrey, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Morgan. The Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows was represented by Messrs. A. D. Callaway and B. C. Morris; Messrs. Upward and Rich by Mr. F. Chiverton; Messrs. Joseph Rank, Ltd., by Mr. P. H. Hole; and the Newport Football Club by Mr. G. H. Arthur. The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Mr. W. W. Wells.

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