

Harold Stephen John Jolliffe

Isle of Wight County Press

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NEWPORT MAN'S SUICIDE

FOUND IN FORMER HOME BY PROSPECTIVE TENANT

The Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) held an inquest at the police headquarters, Newport, yesterday on Harold Stephen John Jolliffe (42), of 18 Field Place, Newport, who was found hanged in a shed at the rear of his former home in Caesar's Road. The discovery was made on April 4th by a prospective tenant of the house, Mr. Spencer George Shotter, of 115 Hunnyhill, Newport, a master upholsterer.

Mary Olive Jolliffe said that she was formerly her husband's housekeeper and married in December 1955. There were three children of his former marriage, all boys, aged 14, 10, and 8, and she had a child. Their marriage was not a happy one. They had been happy when she was his housekeeper. He was always on about his dead wife and crying. She told him that he must forget the dead and live for his children's sake. At times he seemed mentally affected and would not recognise her as his wife. They had never actually lived as man and wife.

ATTACKS ON WIFE

Witness added that he attacked her twice, going for her throat, because he thought she had sent for the police and was trying to get the children put into a home. Before their marriage, not long after his first wife's death, he threatened to take his own life. He often complained of dreams in which his dead wife figured. He was dismissed in March, seven days before his death, from his job as a dustman with the Rural District Council. Debts for clothes and furniture were incurred before their marriage. He told her that he owned a house in Caesar's Road. She knew he had a mortgage on it and was not able to keep up the payments. She last saw him alive on Monday evening he was then asleep on a chair in the kitchen waiting for his elder son to return from the cinema. The following morning she went downstairs to find out the time, as he had sold his watch to buy cigarettes. He was not in the house. She thought he had gone to look for a job. He left 5s. 1½ d. on the table and had left a pot of tea. She did not think he would have committed suicide had he not lost his job.

A GRUESOME DISCOVERY

Spencer George Shotter said that at 5.10 p.m. on Wednesday he visited the vacant house with a view to purchase, accompanied by his wife. Having looked at the ground floor, they looked into a shed at the rear. The body was hanging but almost touching the floor.

Dr. H. H. Broadhead, of Cypress Road, Newport, said that deceased was a patient of his partner, Dr. A. A. Heathcote. The body was hanging from a beam, and had been dead for more than 12 hours. Death was from asphyxia, due to strangulation.

Recording a verdict of suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed, the Coroner expressed sympathy with the relatives.

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