

**Pauline Phyllis Ferguson**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 30 December 1961**

**NEWPORT GIRL'S TRAGIC DEATH**

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A 19 year-old Newport girl, who had suffered from epilepsy since the age of 10, was found dead on arrival at St. Mary's Hospital, on Saturday, after being found in a collapsed state in the bath at her home. She was Miss Pauline Phyllis Ferguson, the second of the five children of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ferguson, of 15 St. John's Road.

Pauline was heard singing in the bathroom by her mother. Suddenly, the singing stopped and Mrs. Ferguson rushed into the bathroom, and found that her daughter had collapsed. Before being transported to St. Mary's Hospital, Pauline was seen by a doctor.

Since leaving the Priory Secondary Girls' School, Miss Ferguson had been employed as an invoice clerk by Messrs. W. J. Rugg and Co.

An inquest was opened at St. Mary's Hospital yesterday.

**Isle of Wight County Press - 6 January 1962**

**NEWPORT**

**The Late Miss P. P. Ferguson.**—The funeral took place on Friday week of Miss Pauline Phyllis Ferguson, the 19 year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ferguson, of 15 St. John's Road, whose tragic death occurred the previous Saturday. The service at St. John's Church was conducted by the vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper). The hymns "Jesu, Lover of my soul" and "Abide with me" were sung.

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson (father and mother), Mr. and Mrs. H. Leppard (brother-in-law and sister), Messrs. W. Harris, F. O'Hanlan, and G. Lines (uncles), Mr. J. Beggs, Mrs. G. Paddock, and Miss S. Gates. Representatives of the management and staff of Messrs. W. J. Rugg and Co. were also present. The floral tributes included those from neighbours and friends of St. John's Road, and the management and staff of Messrs. Rugg.

Interment took place at the Fairlee Road Cemetery. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements. The inquest on Miss Ferguson, which was opened for evidence of identification on Friday week, will be resumed on Tuesday.

**Isle of Wight County Press - 13 January 1962**

**NEWPORT GIRL'S TRAGIC DEATH**

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**Drowned in a Bath**

At an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on Tuesday, the Assistant Deputy Coroner (Mr. H. H. Johnson) recorded a verdict of accidental death on Miss Pauline Ferguson (19), of 15 St. John's Road, Newport, who died on December 23rd.

Marjorie Phyllis Ferguson said that her daughter began to suffer from epilepsy about the age of nine. In recent months she had more fits than usual; some were major ones, about once a week, and there were many smaller ones. When Pauline took a bath they had an arrangement that she should sing to let her mother know she was alright. This was the case on December 23rd. Witness heard the singing, then the baby cried and she went to see what was the matter. The singing stopped. She called out to her daughter and receiving no reply went to the bathroom. Pauline was lying in the bath, her head above the water.

Witness let the water run away, and banged on the wall for her neighbour, Mrs. Smith. He came in and helped to lift Pauline out of the bath on to the floor, where she was wrapped in a blanket and cushions placed under her head. Mrs. Smith went to find her husband, and he tried artificial respiration until the doctor arrived. Dr. Heckford attempted a breathing-by-mouth form of respiration. Pauline was taken by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital.

Dr. D. G. McCann said he had treated Pauline since the epilepsy began, and she had been seeing a neurologist regularly. It was a difficult form of epilepsy; control was not easy. Witness had seen her on the morning in question, when she seemed brighter.

Dr. N. R. Garden (pathologist), of the Central Pathological Laboratory, Portsmouth, said he carried out a post mortem examination. The cause of death was drowning, due to loss of consciousness, which was due to epilepsy.

The Coroner said that Mrs. Ferguson should in no way reproach herself for what had happened. She did all that could possibly be done by a mother in such circumstances.

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