

Norman Horatio Wright

Isle of Wight County Press 29 November 1958

NEWPORT LICENSEE'S SUDDEN DEATH

The sudden death of Mr. Norman Horatio Wright, popular licensee of the Freemasons' Tavern, Newport, which occurred yesterday at the age of 59, came as a shock to his many friends throughout the Island. On Thursday afternoon he was making a business call on the way to his duties as a Southern Vectis Omnibus driver when he collapsed. After medical attention throughout the night he was taken to the Royal I.W. County Hospital yesterday morning and died in the ambulance.

Isle of Wight County Press 6 December 1958

THE LATE MR. NORMAN WRIGHT

POPULAR LICENSEE AND BUS DRIVER

The funeral took place at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, on Wednesday, of Mr. Norman Horatio Wright, licensee of the Freemason's Tavern, whose sudden death at the age of 59 was recorded in our last issue. The popularity and esteem which he gained throughout the Island in a comparatively short period was evidenced by the large and representative attendance.

Mr. Wright, who was a native of Birmingham, was apprenticed as a carpenter, but was later employed as a driver and did a great deal of long-distance work. He was a driver in the Army in the first world war, and in the last was a bus driver for the Birmingham Corporation. In 1952 he commenced employment with the Southern Vectis Omnibus Company as a seasonal driver, and moved to the Island in 1956 when he took up permanent duties. He took a house in York Avenue, East Cowes, which his wife and daughter, Mrs. M. E. Tingle, maintained as a guest house until he moved to the Freemason's Tavern the following year. He continued as a bus driver, and his wife helped in the management of the inn.

Mr. Wright was a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, his mother lodge being the Charles Dickens, Birmingham, G.L.E., and he was an affiliated member of the Sir Edward Riley (Newport), Carisbrooke, Sir Francis Templeman (Arreton), and Shamblers (Cowes) lodges. He was a member of the I.W. Licensed Victuallers' Society and the Freshwater and Totland branch of the British Legion. He showed a keen interest in the Island Operatic Company and possessed a fine baritone voice, and as an amateur often performed at charity concerts. Among his other interests was the Warwickshire County Cricket Club, on whose behalf he conducted a weekly football competition – the only agent for the club on the Island.

THE FUNERAL

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. P. Lumley) and the hymns were "The day Thou gavest" and "Abide with me." The mourners were Mrs. E. M. Wright (widow), Mr. and Mrs. R. Court and Mrs. M. E. Tingle (son-in-law and daughters), Mr. D. H. Wright (brother), Mrs. W. Collins, Mr. S. Slater, and Mr. H. Howell. Drivers employed by the Southern Vectis Omnibus Co. acted as bearers and representatives of the company attended. Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton and Co., Ltd., the Licensed

Victuallers' Society, the Freshwater and Totland branch of the British Legion, and the R.A.O.B. were also represented. The Rev. C. E. Paterson (R.A.O.B. chaplain) conducted the service at Newport Cemetery, where there was an impressive ceremony, when over 50 members of the R.A.O.B. performed the last rites. The floral tributes included those from the directors of Mew, Langton, the Southern Vectis Co. and the Social Club, the Southern Vectis canteen, the Licensed Victuallers' Society, the Mew, Langton, Newport, and Cowes Ladies' Darts League, the social club of the Robin Hood, the Prince Regent darts club, the Freemasons Tavern, the Plough, the Three Crowns (Cowes), the Union Inn (Cowes), the Barley Mow Social Club, the Lamb Tavern, and the Charles Dickens, Sir Edward Riley, Beatrice, Shamblers, Carisbrooke, and Upique (Colwell Bay) lodges. There was also a floral tribute from Gerry Barton, a National Serviceman in Cyprus, who was a customer of the Freemasons Tavern. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

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