

Albert Milton Cheverton

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Death of Mr. A.M. Cheverton of Newport

PROMINENT RACING CYCLIST AND BUSINESS MAN.

The death took place early yesterday (Friday) morning at his residence, Clovelly, Carisbrooke-road, Newport, after a short illness, of Mr. Albert Milton Cheverton, aged 75, for many years a prominent business man in the Island capital, who, in his younger days, was undoubtedly the finest racing cyclist the Island has produced.

Mr. Cheverton commenced his working life as a postman at Newport, but his keen interest in cycling, which started in the days of the wooden "boneshaker," led him to sever his connection with the Post Office and to go into business as a cycle agent. With the rapid development of cycling, leading to the pre-War boom in this mode of travel, he built up an extensive trade in premises in the High-Street, now occupied by the Medina Café Co., and was probably the first to introduce motor-cycles to the Island. This business failed a few years before the War, and after other ventures, notably as one of the proprietors of the old Rink Picture Palace, when it was first used as a roller skating rink and later as a cinema, he went into business on the mainland for a time. In 1910, while motor-cycling from London to the Island, he had the misfortune to lose his right leg in a motor cycling accident. Returning to Newport in 1920 he recommenced business as a cycle agent and wireless dealer in the High-street, just opposite the Town-hall, and continued there until quite recently, when he transferred the concern to premises in Holyrood-street. The pluck and determination which characterised his life, both in sport and business, was exemplified in the fact that although he had only one leg he continued to cycle almost to the last, with the aid of a special pedal arrangement for his artificial limb.

About half a century ago, when in his prime as a racing cyclist, Cheverton was a name well known in the cycle racing world in the South of England. He had phenomenal success on the track and was a local sports hero at the holiday athletic and cycling meetings at Carisbrooke Castle, the Shanklin County Ground, and around the Ryde Canoe-lake. He held almost every cycling championship of the Island from 1 to 10 miles, and was for several years the 10-mile champion of the South of England. In his first season on the track he won every race in which he entered, and in the second season 14 firsts and one second in 15 starts. Thereafter he was always heavily handicapped, but nevertheless he collected 316 prizes in all. Later he took the keenest interest in training a number of younger riders who kept the Island's reputation in the cycle racing world well to the fore and this interest he maintained to the last, having frequently acted as an official for cycle races.

His widow (his second wife) was the first lady in the Island to ride a motorcycle and some 40 years ago a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Cheverton and the family of three girls and three boys, ranging in age from 4 to 15 years, each with a cycle of appropriate size, was a popular advertising feature of his business and it has since been published in many newspapers.

Among Mr. Cheverton's numerous cycling pupils were members of Queen Victoria's household at Osborne, so he could claim at least a share in the honour of having introduced cycling to the Court.

Several of his six sons have followed in his footsteps, both in sport and in calling and are conducting cycle and wireless businesses in Newport. There are six children of his first wife and six of his second surviving.

The funeral will take place on Monday, service at the Quay-street Methodist Church at 2.45 p.m. It was deceased's wish that no mourning should be worn.