

Evelyn Todd

Isle of Wight County Press – 20 April 1963

Carisbrooke murder charge

Farm worker again remanded

William Alfred Roach (45), farm worker of Apesdown Cottage, Carisbrooke, charged with murdering Evelyn Todd (48), licensee of the Blacksmith's Arms, Carisbrooke, on April 10th or 11th, made a 30-second appearance before the county magistrates at the Guildhall, Newport, yesterday, and was again remanded in custody to Winchester Prison for seven days.

D.S. G.V. Goff said papers were being prepared for submission to the Director of Public Prosecutions and by April 26th it was hoped they would have a date on which the prosecution case could be heard.

Roach, represented by Mr. P.N. Giles, did not speak during the hearing. He stood quietly in the dock, neatly dressed in a black blazer and grey sports trousers and a fancy sports shirt.

Evidence of arrest, given at the previous remand by D.S. Goff, was that at 7 a.m. on April 11th Roach went to Newport Police Station and reported the death. Witness accompanied him to the Blacksmith's Arms and there saw a woman, dead in bed in an upstairs room. The detective-sergeant said to Roach "You told a police constable that you killed your alleged wife?"

Roach replied that she had been getting on at him for some time about various things, particularly the decoration of the inn. He went to a shed, took a piece of wood, returned upstairs and hit her with it.

INQUEST ADJOURNED

An inquest was opened by Mr. J. V. Bullin (coroner) at the Guildhall, Newport, on Tuesday.

Evidence of identification was given by Oscar Bolmeer, shop manager, of Rose Cottage, Yarbridge, Brading, who said that the dead woman was his sister-in-law.

D.S. G.V. Goff said that on April 11th he went to the Blacksmith's Arms, Carisbrooke, where he saw the body of a woman lying in bed. The head was covered by a pillow. A man had been charged with the murder of the woman.

Reporting on the results of a post mortem examination, Dr. P.D. Swinstead (pathologist) said the cause of death was intra-cranial haemorrhage due to a fractured skull.

Chief Inspector P.W. Baldwin stated that William Alfred Roach had been charged with murder.

IWCP 4 January 1964, in summary of 1963 news records:

May 1963 William Alfred Roach, farm worker, was found not guilty of the murder of Evelyn Todd, but guilty of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

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