

**Thomas Miles Monkton Blackwell**

**Isle of Wight County Press — 20 May 1939**

**Newport Railwayman's Gallant Act.**

**STOPS DANGEROUS RUNAWAY.**

Mr. Thomas Blackwell, a railway employee, of 12 Ash-road, Newport, was the hero of an exciting episode in Lower High-street, Newport, on Sunday morning, when at considerable personal risk, he stopped a runaway horse attached to a milk delivery van. The van, a four wheeled vehicle, belonging to Mr. W. Stark, of Upper St. Cross Dairy, was being used by his son, Mr. Raymond Stark, in delivering milk at Fairlee-road near the Hillside Terrace turning. Mr Stark left the horse facing towards Ryde, while he made a delivery, and on coming from the house saw that the animal had turned towards Newport and was bolting in that direction, having apparently been frightened. He made a grab at the horse's head, but was jerked from his hold, and one of the wheels passed over him, injuring his leg.

The horse continued at a wild gallop down Snooks-hill, where Mr. Blackwell was out for a walk carrying his two-year-old son in his arms. Seeing the runaway approaching he rapidly took in the situation and handing his little boy to a passer-by, sprang for the horse's and secured a hold. The frightened animal continued its headlong career under Coppins-bridge, but Mr. Blackwell hung on grimly and gained some control in going up the High-street, where the horse found the effect of the gradient. Mr. Blackwell eventually brought the van to a standstill near the Medina Cinema.

Although the runaway had covered half a mile through what was normally one of the busiest stretches of road in the Island, the only damage done en route was the smashing of a bicycle belonging to a boy, Dennis Ward, of 22 Union-street, Newport, who had left his machine at the kerbside while he was inspecting the pictures outside the Medina Cinema. The fact that the damage was so slight was almost entirely due to the fact that there was very little traffic on the road, as usual on Sunday morning. Had the runaway taken place on any other day there would doubtless have been far more serious results.

**Isle of Wight County Press - 15 July 1939**

**NEWPORT**

A Courageous Action.—The National Safety-First Association has given a meritorious service award to Mr. Thomas Blackwell, of 12 Ash-road, for his gallantry in stopping a runaway horse in the High-street on Sunday May 14th. Mr. Blackwell handed his little boy to a passer-by, dashed at the head of the runaway, and brought it to a standstill, after being dragged for a considerable distance. The Chief Constable (Mr. R. G. B. Spicer, C.M.G.), in bringing his action to the notice of the Council, wrote: "He showed commendable courage and promptitude, and there is little doubt that injury to persons and damage to property would have occurred had he not so acted."

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