

## **George Snow**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 24th September 1960**

### **"FATHER" OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **DEATH OF ALD. GEORGE SNOW. B.E.M., J.P.**

A pioneer in championing the cause of the working classes, particularly in the sphere of agriculture, and a respected public figure, Mr. George Snow, B.E.M., J.P., C.A., died early on Thursday, at 17 Coppins Bridge, Newport, the home of Mr. And Mrs. Snow (son and daughter-in-law), aged 84.

Mr. Snow's public life, which spanned well over half a century, began as a member of Whippingham Parish Council, on which he served for 20 years. In 1928 he was elected for North-east division to the County Council of which latterly he had been the "father." Although his service on the County Council was unbroken, he was in fact defeated in the 1946 election in the Fairlee division by Mr. J. J. Simmonds, but such was esteem in which he was held that his services were retained as he was immediately elevated to the aldermanic bench. At various times he served on all the main committees of the council and was specially prominent in the work of the Roads and Small Holdings committee. He was a member of the former I.W. Board of Guardians and when the County Council took over the functions of the public assistance authority in 1930 he became a leading member of the supervisory committee. Despite his advancing age, he had attended council meetings until a short time ago.

#### **FARM WORKERS' FRIEND**

As valued as his services on the County Council were, it was his connection with the movement for obtaining a better standard of living for the working classes for which Mr. Snow will be best remembered. He had personal experience of the comparative poverty which existed at the turn of this century as before the age of 10 he was working an 80-hour week in a brickyard for a wage of 6s. He gained a reputation as a fearless speaker, but no matter how bitter the controversy, he always held the respect of his opponents. For 30 years he was the Whippingham branch secretary and later county secretary and chairman of the National Union of Agriculture Workers' representative on the Local Agricultural Wages Committee from 1917 until the early 1950s. In 1939, in recognition of his work for the N.U.A.W., he was presented with a long-service medallion by Mr. W. Homes (the then chairman of the Trade Union Congress and general secretary of the N.U.A.W.). The same year he was appointed a workers' representative on the I.W. War Agricultural Executive Committee—a position which he held until 1950 when he reached the retiring age. In 1955 New Year's honours Mr. Snow was awarded the B.E.M. for his services to agriculture, and the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire (the Duke of Wellington, K.G.) made a special journey to the Island to present the medal. He was also a member of the former I.W. Hospital Visiting Committee, and with the introduction of the National Health Service joined the house committee of St. Mary's and Whitecroft hospitals, and was a member of the latter at the time of his death.

## **LABOUR PARTY STALWART AND METHODIST LAY PREACHER**

A life-long Socialist, Mr. Snow was a founder member of the I.W. Divisional Labour Party, and for a period covering the late 1920s and the early 30s was its president. He was also chairman of the Newport branch of the Island Labour Party, and at one time held the presidency of the Cowes and Newport Co-operative Society. He followed a family tradition of Methodism, and in his younger days was a local preacher much in demand. To take a service he thought nothing of walking from his home at Whippingham to Chale and back, and his cheerful witness to his faith made him a popular visitor to country chapels. Since residing at Newport Mr. Snow had worshipped at the Quay Street Methodist Church. The last service he attended there was that at which the Rev. W. H. Mildon recently ended his local ministry.

## **FORMER ROYAL SERVANT**

For 34 years Mr. Snow was an agricultural worker on the Osborne and Barton Estates and he was among employees allowed to view Queen Victoria's lying-in-state in 1901. On leaving the estate he became curator of St. Paul's Cemetery, Barton, where his floricultural skill was always in evidence in the care with which he kept the graves and grounds. He held this position for 25 years until the death of his wife in 1944, when he went to live at 17 Coppins Bridge<sup>1</sup>, he had received every care and attention from his son and daughter-in-law. His was a very active retirement, however, as he tilled a smallholding at Halberry, where he also kept pigs and poultry. He disposed of the pigs two years ago, but as recently as a month ago was planning to buy more poultry. His health had shown a gradual deterioration since June and his condition had been critical for the last fortnight. He is survived by four sons and two daughters. The funeral service takes place at the Quay Street Methodist Church, Newport, on Monday, at 2 p.m.

**Isle of Wight County Press - 1st October 1960**

## **TRIBUTES TO ALD. SNOW**

### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES AT NEWPORT FUNERAL**

Representatives of public life with which he had been associated attended the funeral service of Mr. George Snow, B.E.M., J.P., C.A., which took place at the Quay Street Newport, Methodist Church on Monday. Mr. Snow, who was 86, died the previous Thursday at 17 Coppins Bridge, Newport, the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Snow (son and daughter-in-law).

The service was conducted by the Rev. G. L. W. Ridge (superintendent West Wight Circuit). Mr. G. W. Bartlett (organist) accompanied the singing of the hymns "The Lord's my Shepherd" and "I am so glad that our Father in heaven" (one of Mr. Snow's favourite hymns) and played Walford Davies' "Solemn melody" as a voluntary.

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<sup>1</sup> When George stood for election to the County Council in 1946, his address given in the IW County Press was Rawalpindi, Fairlee Road (near Mews Lane), so this reference to George Snow moving to Coppins Bridge, may be in error.

### **A RICH AND FULL LIFE**

Mr. Ridge said there must be many people present better equipped than he to pay tribute to their departed friend. His tribute would supplement their own knowledge and memory running over so many years. This was not a sad occasion. They were mourning, but not with the sorrow they would show at a young life full of promise cut off in its prime. Their sorrow was tempered with gratitude to God and with something of a simple, homely, friendly pride — not in the promise but in the fulfilment. They had reason to thank God for one whose life was so full, so rich, so interesting, positive, and kindly. To some present he was “Father.” Their sympathy extended to members of the family, to whom all their lives he had been a father. Others thought of him as Brother Snow, one-time active but still in fact a Methodist local preacher who as a young man, and then in the prime of his life also, gave so much time and love to the proclamation of the Gospel to large and small companies in and about the Island. He came on the Methodist plan in 1903, and his name was still on the list.

### **A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN**

Others would remember Mr. Snow as trade union worker, championing the needy and the poor, and then as a civic figure in the life of the county. In all these respects he was honoured, and men had done their best to show how much he was regarded. Mr Ridge referred to Mr. Snow’s services as a Justice of the Peace and to the Board of Guardian and the County Council. He started his working life without the advantages which we are inclined to put first to-day in preparing a young man for his place in the world. He began at the age of 10 on what must have been a 12-hour day for a limited wage, but rather than allow this to break his spirit, he met life with a force of character which earned their rich respect. He had a love of flowers—with wonderful results in his work and his hobby—and a love of his fellow men. Although many of his contemporaries had gone ahead, he still preserved his ability to make friends. They thanked God for one who left behind in so many ways marks upon the life of the community, as well as the memories of a man who loved God and his fellow men, and lived as a Christian gentleman.

The family mourners were Messrs C., A. G., A. F., and E. A. Snow (sons, also representing their wives), Mr. G. Attrill (grandson, also representing his wife), Mr. A. J. Snow (cousin), Mr. J. Arber, and Mr. W. Horsford.

Among those present were the chairman of the County Council (Captain H. J. Ward, D.L., J.P., C.A.), together with aldermen, members, and senior officials, the Mayor of Newport (Mr. E. W. G. Hands) and members of the corporation, and county and Newport magistrates. There were also representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, I.W. Group Hospital Management Committee, and the house committee of Whitecroft and St Mary’s hospitals, I.W. Joint Road Safety Committee, I.W. Labour Party, Newport branch and women’s section of the I.W. Labour Party, management board of the I.W. Co-operative Society, I.W. branch of the National Farmers’ Union, I.W. branch of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, I.W. Horticultural Association, Cowes branch of the National Union of Foundry Workers, West Wight Circuit Methodist lay preachers, trustees of the Quay Street and Pyle Street Methodist churches, Newport Congregational Church P.S.A., and Bethany Hall.

The floral tributes included those from organisation and societies with which Mr. Snow had been connected. The interment was at St. Paul's Cemetery, Barton. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL TRIBUTES.**

At the meeting of the County Council on Wednesday, Ald. Captain H. J. Ward, D.L., J.P. (chairman), said that during his 32 years' membership of the council, Ald. Snow had served on all the committees. Ald. Snow disliked the policies of certain political parties, yet he was always prepared to be friendly with the individual, irrespective of politics. Captain Ward concluded: "I was glad to count him among my friends. I deeply regret his passing."

Tribute was also paid by Mr. F. F. Hollis, C.A., who made particular reference to Ald. Snow's work in the sphere of public assistances.

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