

Charles Herbert Bennett

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 23 April 1960

TRAGEDY FOLLOWS ILL-HEALTH

NEWPORT MAN FOUND GASSED

The Coroner (Mr. J. Vernon Bullin) held an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on Thursday, on Charles Herbert Bennett, aged 49, of 75 Castle Road, Newport, who was found dead in the gas-filled kitchen of his home on Tuesday.

Georgina Violet Bennett said an attack of influenza in March of last year affected her husband's health. In June he had an operation, after which he went back to his work as a lorry driver for a short time, but his legs troubled him, and in October he went into hospital again. When he came home five weeks later he was unable to go to work, and had since been treated for a nervous complaint. He had never threatened to take his life. On Tuesday morning he refused a cup of tea, mentioned that he had an appointment with a doctor, and said "I will never go into hospital again." She left home at 8.30 a.m., when her husband was still in bed, telling her 11-year-old daughter Jill to look after him. She returned just before noon and found a note inside the locked front door and her husband lying on the kitchenette floor.

Dr A.A. Heathcote said a cushion was propped behind Mr. Bennett's head, which was inside a bucket-type shopping bag, and a piece of hose led to a gas tap by the cooking stove. The gas was still on and the windows shut. He gave a heart and breathing stimulant and applied artificial respiration, but there was no sign of life. Mr. Bennett's nerves had been in a shocking state for a long time.

P.C. P.R. Thompson said the daughter told him that at 10.30 a.m. her father told her to leave and not return until lunch-time as he wished to take a bath.

Dr. P.D. Swinstead (pathologist) said death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Coroner said it was a tragic case of a man in the prime of life suffering illness which presumably produced an anxiety complex. The note made it clear that he was extremely worried about his health and felt he would never get better. It referred in terms of great endearment to his wife and child. He recorded the verdict that Mr. Bennett took his own life while the balance of his mind was disturbed by ill-health.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 30 April 1960

The Late Mr. C.H. Bennett

The funeral took place on Saturday of Mr. Charles Herbert Bennett, aged 49, of 75 Castle Road, whose death was recorded in our last issue. The service in St. John's Church was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. S.F. Cooper). The hymn "Lead us Heavenly Father" was sung. The mourners were Mrs. C.H. Bennett (widow), Messrs. W.G., R.J., and J.H. Bennett (brothers), Mrs. J. Hastelow (sister), Mr. and Mrs. G. Barton (brother-in-law and sister) and Mr. A.J. Bennett (nephew).

The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery and the floral tributes included those from Messrs. Sharp and Co. Mrs. Bennett and the family wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the beautiful floral tributes, messages of sympathy and kindness and help; also Dr. Heathcote for his help and kindness. Please accept this as the only intimation.

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