

Arthur Jack Snow

Isle of Wight County Press - 16 July 1938

BRIGHSTONE CYCLING ACCIDENT

UNEXPLAINED AT INQUEST ON VICTIM

Exactly how Arthur Jack Snow, a plumber, aged 26, met with a cycling accident at Brighstone-shute on June 24th, which ended in his death at the County Hospital on Thursday week, was not revealed at the inquest at Ryde on Saturday. Poignancy is added to the sad circumstances by the fact that his mother (Nurse Snow, of Carisbrooke) was in the same hospital suffering from the effects of an auto-cycle accident and awaiting an operation when her son was admitted as a patient, and she was unaware of his misfortune until after his death.

The inquest was conducted by the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) in the High-street Methodist School. Mr. F. C. Watts was foreman of the jury and Inspector H. Rogers represented the police.

Tobias Snow, bricklayer, of Cremona, Gunville-road, Carisbrooke, father of the deceased, said his son had lived in lodgings at Coombe-cottages, Brighstone, for several months and was intending to get married in September. He had ridden a cycle ever since he was a schoolboy. Seven or eight weeks ago he purchased a new machine. On June 24th he met his son at about 10 p.m. and they had a drink together and arranged for the latter to go to the County Hospital on the following Sunday to see his mother, who had met with an accident. Before he left him his son told him that he had a slow puncture in the front tyre.

Alexander Gibson Boyd, licensee of the Waverley Hotel, Carisbrooke, said deceased came into the hotel on June 24th somewhere about 7 o'clock and remained until closing time. He was quite sober when he left.

Also Henry Downer, bricklayer, of the Green, Calbourne, deposed that at 6.30 a.m. on Saturday June 25th he was motor-cycling down Brighstone-shute. As he neared the bottom he saw a bicycle lying on the off side of the road about 5 ft. from the hedge. Some 20 yards farther on he saw a man in the off side ditch with his head facing down the hill. He was breathing normally, but unable to speak to witness, who went for a doctor. The bicycle would have obstructed traffic coming up the hill. The machine would be quite clear to people approaching and they would think something was wrong before they came to deceased.

P.C. Denham said when he arrived at 6.40 a.m. he found Dr. Way attending deceased, who was unconscious on the bank on the near side of the road. The cycle was lying practically in the centre of the road, the front wheel facing up the hill. He could find no trace of a collision with any other vehicle. To all appearance the cycle had not struck anything. There was a heavy skid mark 4ft. 6ins. from the bank on the near side for 18 ft., a light skid mark 8ft. from this mark, and another heavy skid mark about 13 ft. away. Deceased must have staggered about after the accident as there was a pool of blood and a tuft of human

hair 14ft. away from where he was found. The hill was very steep and very dangerous to cyclists. There were no loose stones about. The brakes of the cycle were in perfect order after the accident and the dynamo light was all right. Witness thought that a rabbit might have run into the wheel, but he found no marks.

Dr. Iris Mary Lamey, house surgeon at the County Hospital, said that on admission deceased was unconscious. He was suffering from a lacerated wound on the left eye and lip, and bleeding from the nose and ears. He never regained consciousness and his violence at intervals indicated brain damage. The cause of death was brain injury.

The Coroner said that it was evident that deceased was not in collision with any other vehicle and that no third party was involved. It was possible that a rabbit ran across deceased's path, but not in a high degree probable. He thought the deceased felt the cycle getting out of control and applied the brakes too violently.- The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

The father thanked the house surgeon and the staff at the County Hospital, saying they could not have done more than they did. He also acknowledged his indebtedness to Mr. Downer.- The Coroner told Mr. Snow he was sure the hospital authorities would appreciate his remarks. Both the Coroner and the jury expressed deep sympathy with the family in their tragic bereavement.

The funeral took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Monday, when the Vicar of Carisbrooke (the Rev. H. Ewbank) officiated. The mourners were Mr. T. Snow (father), Messrs A. P., E., and F. C. Snow (brothers), Messrs. A. and E. Snow (uncles), Mr. G. Saville, of Ryde (cousin), Mr. R. Tierney and Mr. A Boyd, Messrs. R. G. Drudge, G. Burton, H. Newbery, A. G. Phillips, E. Jones, and K. King (fellow employees), acted as bearers, and Mr. A. A. Westmore (employer) and other fellow employees also attended. Others attending included Mesdames Newberry, Leppard, W. Drudge, J. Wheeler, F. Pointer, and O. White. There were a number of beautiful floral tributes, including one from his employer and another from his fellow workmen. The arrangements were made by Mr. H. W. Parnell.

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