

Paul Dennis Snow

Isle of Wight County Press - 14 April 1956

NEWPORT CHILD'S DEATH AFTER OPERATION

INQUEST ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY

An inquest was opened on Monday, at his office at Ryde, by the Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) on Paul Dennis Snow, of 9 Pan Lane, Newport, who died on April 4th in the Royal I.W. County Hospital after an operation.

Evidence of identification was given by the father, Dennis Albert Snow, a railway fireman, who said the child would have been five on November 20th, and the inquest was then adjourned for a week.

Isle of Wight County Press 21 April 1956

NEWPORT CHILD'S DEATH BY MISADVENTURE

DOCTOR'S FIGHT TO SAVE LIFE

The Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) held an inquest at Ryde Town Hall on Monday on 4-years old Paul Dennis Frank Snow, of 9 Pan Lane, Newport, who died on April 4th in the Royal I.W. County Hospital after an operation for acute appendicitis.

Frances Lillian Cooper, of 20 Gort Road, East Cowes, said that the child was her grandson and had been staying with her for six weeks. Paul's health was very good until April 4th. The night before he was not feeling very well and she slept with him. He woke in the early morning and complained of pains in the stomach and was sick. She thought it was a bilious attack. Early in the evening he said that his side hurt and her daughter went for the doctor. Dr. Kelly told witness that the child had appendicitis and an ambulance was there within half an hour.

OPERATION ESSENTIAL

Dr. W. E. MacKinnon, house surgeon at the hospital, said that the child was admitted at about 7.45 p.m. in a fretful and toxic condition. He had symptoms of acute appendicitis and generalised peritonitis. Mr. Wilson Harlow examined the child at 8.30 p.m. and said that an immediate operation was essential.

Dr. Phoebe N. Harvey, of The Boynes, Shanklin, said that she was the anaesthetist. The child started to vomit about five minutes after the dressing had been applied. They applied all the restorative procedures they could, including bronchial suction, artificial respiration, and cardiac stimulants, but the child died about 10.20 p.m.

NO ONE TO BLAME

Mr. F. Wilson Harlow, of Lynwood, St. John's Park, Ryde, senior surgeon of the I.W. Hospitals, said that he decided that an immediate operation was essential. There was no

fault on the part of anyone when the child was brought to the hospital. The parents could not have known that the condition was so lethal. There was nothing abnormal about the operation and he agreed with the opinions of previous medical witnesses. He agreed with the post mortem examination report and added that people were often inclined to treat appendicitis as a trivial disease.

Dr. P. D. H. Swinstead (pathologist) said that death was due to inhalation of vomit caused by a combination of the operation, the anaesthetic, and the child's toxic condition. It was impossible to say which was the main factor.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

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