

KILLED CROSSING STREET

Fatal Motoring Accident

JURY EXONERATES DRIVER

Evidence At The Inquest

How a fatal accident occurred on Sunday night, 9th November, at the junction of O'Connell Street-Mallow Street, involving the death of Miss Helena Collins, 41, Windmill Street, Limerick, was told at an inquest held on Wednesday evening in Barrington's Hall by the Deputy City Coroner, Mr. J. S. McNeill, with a jury.

The proceedings were conducted by Supt. P. Collieran, and Mr. T. E. O'Donnell, solicitor, appeared for Mr. Sean Purtill, 46, Shandon Drive, Phibsboro', Dublin, the driver of the car involved in the accident.

Dr. Francis Crowe gave evidence that the deceased was dead on admission to hospital at 12.5 a.m. On the same day he carried out a post-mortem examination of the body, and found a fracture of the left tibia and fibula, right tibia and fibula, right radius and ulna, incised wound over right eye. The left eye was defective due to a keratitis. Death was, in his opinion, due to shock following multiple fractures. The injuries were consistent with deceased being struck by a motor car.

To Mr. O'Donnell, witness said that the defect in the left eye would be consistent with deceased not having a proper vision of anything approaching from the left side.

Cecil Simpson, 69, Henry Street, gave evidence of identification of the deceased, who was over 60 years of age, and did not wear glasses except when reading. He never heard her say anything about her sight. One brown shoe in possession of the Guards, he considered was her property.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

To Mr. O'Donnell—I would not dispute the doctor's evidence as to the defect in her left eye. The deceased usually carried a scarf in her hand, but when it rained she put on her head, and on these occasions the scarf would come over her eyes.

Mrs. Agnes Enright, 1, O'Doherty Terrace, Sandmall, said she knew deceased, who was aged about 63. She was in witness's house on Sunday, 9th November, and left to go home at 11.20 p.m., and had been playing cards that night and was in good health. Her sight and hearing, as far as witness knew, were perfect.

To Mr. O'Donnell, witness said that she heard Dr. Crowe's evidence as regards the deceased's vision.

Brendan Madigan, 30, Clare St., said that he was at 10, Verona Esplanade on the night of the fatality. Sean Purtill came there at about 11 p.m. and both left at about 11.45 p.m. in a Morris car. Coming down O'Connell Street, the speed of the car was about 25 to 30 m.p.h., and the night was wet and the "wiper" on Mr. Purtill's side was working. The lights of the car were perfect. After passing Mallow Street crossing Mr. Purtill said: "Oh, my God! I struck something." Witness did not see anything himself, though he heard a sound as if it were a bicycle which struck the car. The car pulled over to the left hand side and then stopped some way down and turned. It had been on its correct side more to the crown of the road. After turning witness saw the lady on the road near to the Provincial Bank side and near the crossing. Witness went for the priest and at the time there was a woman holding the injured lady, who seemed to be in a bad way. The usual public lighting was there at the time. He pointed out the point of impact to Sergt. Morgan.

To Mr. O'Donnell—the car was in its own half of the road nearer to the crown than the kerb on the left.

Mr. O'Donnell—As regards pulling up, did the driver, realising after he struck something, proceed on in order to turn back?

Witness—Yes.

STANDING AT CROSSING.

Donal Fitzgerald, St. Gerard Street, said that he was standing at the crossing on the night in question at about 11.30. As he was about to go up towards the Crescent he saw a car coming down at between 25 and 30 m.p.h. It was more on the crown of the road a little to its proper side. As the car was about to pass the Provincial Bank he heard a thud but did not see the car strike her. The woman was about eight feet out from the kerb, on the Provincial Bank side, and was dying. He did not see the woman before the accident, and he did not notice if there was much traffic on the road. Witness noticed that the car slowed up at about Christy's Garage after he had heard the thud. Witness shouted to the driver to go for a priest, and the driver went off towards the Jesuits.

Mr. O'Donnell—Can you recollect hearing a horn?

Witness—I could not say. It could have been sounded.

Bernard Carolan, c/o Park View House, St. Joseph Street, said that he was walking up the left footpath towards O'Connell Monument when, within 10 yards of the corner of Glentworth Street, he saw a woman on the footpath and then leave it to go across the street towards Lower Mallow Street. The woman continued to walk across the street and was struck by the right mudguard of the car, and was thrown back towards the bank side. The car maintained its pace for a few seconds before it slowed down. The car was travelling on its own side.

Mr. O'Donnell—Did you notice the head-guard this deceased lady was wearing?

Witness—No.

Mr. O'Donnell—And if you had been in this deceased lady's position, would you have stopped to let this car pass?

Witness—I probably would.

HEARD A CRASH.

Michael Lynch, Avoca House, Glentworth Street, said that he was walking up towards the monument, at the Transport Union Office side, and his attention was directed to the crossing as a result of hearing a crash and the breaking thud of glass. The driver seemed to have lost control of the car (after that, as he swerved to his (witness's) side, but had the car under control immediately. Witness next saw a woman lying on her face and hands on the road and she appeared to be dead. Witness recited an Act of Contrition and he sent for a priest and doctor. While the priest was

administering to the woman he observed a shoe over near the kerb at the side at which he had been walking. He also noticed that a shoe was missing from the deceased's foot. It was a drizzly night and there was very little traffic on the road at the time. The lights of the car, he thought, were dimmed.

To Mr. O'Donnell—Witness said that the lights of the car were good but not dazzling.

Guard Eugene O'Donnell, Edward Street, who was on duty on the night in question, said that when he got to the scene he saw that the woman was unconscious but was still alive. Mr. Purtill, the driver of the car, was quite sober, and the street was wet.

Sergeant Morgan, in evidence, said that he could find no traces of marks at the scene of the impact. He found portions of glass of the headlamps on the road, and Mr. Brendan Madigan pointed out to him what he considered was the point of impact. Witness measured the scene as shown by sketch (produced). The lady's shoe was between Mallow Street crossing and the bus stop, and was six feet out on the road, and a hand-bag was on the opposite side of the street. There was no blood on the road. It had been raining before the accident and the street being wet the public lighting caused a mirror reflection of the street. The distance between each public light from the crossing to Hartstonge Street was 110 yards, and these lights threw a kind of fading light.

Mr. O'Donnell—You will agree, Sergeant, that the light at the crossing fades out?

Witness—On a wet night it is unfavourable and on a dry night it is alright.

CONDITION OF CAR.

Sergeant Connolly gave evidence of testing Mr. Purtill's car and finding that there was a slight deficiency in the hand brake. By holding at the wheels, the brakes were uneven; the right front and right rear wheels were better adjusted, the result being that when the brakes were applied the vehicle swung to the incorrect side, but this action was capable of being checked by the steering. All the lights were in order, with the exception of the right head lamp, which was damaged as a result of the accident. The car, generally, was perfect. The car was involved in another accident after the fatal impact. There was a dint on the right front wing and the right head lamp was bent out of focus. This was some of the damage done to the car as a result of the fatal collision.

To Mr. O'Donnell—They were good brakes, generally speaking, though they were unevenly balanced.

Mr. O'Donnell—I take it that the members of the jury know that this car was involved in another accident later.

Coroner—I intend to acquaint them of that fact.

Sean Purtill, 46, Shandon Drive, Phibsboro', Dublin, said that he would be 25 years of age next April, and his business brought him to Limerick City as well as other cities. He had at least two years experience of driving. He remembered visiting his aunt, Mrs. Higgins, at Verona Esplanade, on the night in question and left at about 11.35. He put on his head lamp and blew the horn after passing the Jesuit Church. As he went over the corner at Hartstonge Street he dimmed his lights, as there was a car coming up the street which went up a side street.

IT WAS RAINING.

It was raining at the time, and witness had on the wiper. His speed was about 25 m.p.h. to 28 m.p.h. but he was not going fast as he had his foot off the accelerator. As he went over the corner he had blown his horn and had seen the corner well, and then saw a kind of a blank spot for a second. He saw a heather plaid coat but saw no face or head one yard from the right wheel. He could not avoid the figure though he swerved to the left and heard the thud of glass. He was very excited after this and he went back to the corner where he saw that it was a woman and she was very bad, and he went to the Jesuits for a priest. As a result of a subsequent accident he was conveyed to Barrington's Hospital. His insurance was in order; so was his driving licence.

Supt. Collieran—What speed were you going at?

Witness—I was doing between, I'd say, 25 and 30 m.p.h. I could not be sure, though I know it was not more, because I had not the light on the speedometer.

Superintendent—Do you think it was a reasonable speed to do with your head-lamps dimmed?

Witness—Yes; I dimmed out of courtesy to the driver of the car coming up O'Connell Street, and which went into the side street.

Superintendent—You actually did not see this woman at all?

Witness—No, except I saw a coat and it seemed to fall on to the car.

In the course of addressing the jury, the Deputy City Coroner said that the question of drink did not arise in the case, and the Garda authorities had informed him of that fact.

FINDING OF THE JURY.

Without retiring, the foreman of the jury said that it was the unanimous opinion of the members of the jury that the deceased died from shock following multiple fractures accidentally sustained when knocked down in O'Connell Street on the night of the 9th November by a motor car driven by Sean Purtill. They were satisfied that the accident was unavoidable and exonerated Mr. Purtill from all blame.

The foreman of the jury referred to the public lighting system in O'Connell Street, and said that there was slight darkness during the night. In view of the accident and of the evidence tendered, he considered that the lights should be put on more fully. He sympathized with the relatives of the deceased, and also sympathized with those involved in the second accident and wished them a speedy recovery.

The Deputy Coroner also associated himself with the remarks of the foreman of the jury as regards the public lighting system and the

VOCATIONAL COUNTY COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCES AT CLASSES

Mr. Sean Hartney, Chairman, presided at the November monthly meeting of the Co. Limerick Vocational Education Committee on yesterday. Other members present were:—Very Rev. J. Canon Wall, P.P., Croom; Rev. P. Walsh, C.C., Cappamore; Messrs. J. Lillis, Co.C.; M. O'Donnell, Co.C.; P. T. McCarthy, Co.C.; D. McAuliffe, Co.C.; P. Maguire, Co.C.; and T. O'Connell, Co.C.

Mr. Michael Moran, Chief Executive Officer, was also in attendance.

FEILE LUIMNIGHE.

The C.E.O. said that the Executive of Feile Luimnighe had written requesting the Committee to make available to the Feile a grant out of which two scholarships could be awarded, under the auspices of the Feile, to candidates competing in an oral Irish test.

The C.E.O. added that the Committee had granted a similar application last year, and, being under the impression that the Committee would act similarly this year, he had made provision in the financial scheme for next year, which would be before the meeting at a later stage, for the payment of the required grant to the Feile.

The Chairman said he felt the Committee had no objection to the granting of the required grant to the Feile.

There was no suggestion contrary to that of the Chairman, and the matter was not further discussed.

CARETAKERS' APPLICATION.

An application was received from the caretakers employed in the Committee's seven schools, asking for an increase in their wages from the present £2 8s. a week to £4.

The letter mentioned that the applicants' hours were long and that they had very little free time. It also contained the suggestion that cleaners and other attendants should be paid separately from caretakers.

Canon Wall said he thought the last suggestion a good one, which should have the deep consideration of the Committee. He believed the attendants should be paid independently.

On the suggestion of the C.E.O., it was decided to postpone discussion on the matter until the next meeting.

ATTENDANCES AT CLASSES.

In his monthly report, the C.E.O. said that the attendances at the full-time day classes and at the evening courses, respectively, in the Committee's seven schools were as follows:—Cappamore, 33 and 45; Croom, 15 and 27; Dromcollogher, 27 and 124; Hospital, 37 and 38; Killfinane, 28 and 46; Newcastle West, 77 and 61; Shanagolden, 34 and 86.

Irish classes, continued the C.E.O., were held in twenty-seven centres during the month and attendances were unusually high. Counting the classes held in the Committee's schools, there were 34 Irish classes functioning at the moment and the average attendance over the whole month was 21 at each class. That was higher than the average attendance over a long number of years.

The special course for motor apprentices in the Newcastle West area would be re-opened in the near future.

Without discussion, the Committee unanimously adopted the report of the C.E.O.

FINANCIAL SCHEME.

The financial scheme for the coming year, submitted by the C.E.O., provided for a total estimated expenditure of £36,891, which included £15,000 for the erection of a new school at Abbeyfeale. The other items of expenditure were: Administration, £1,875; Instruction, £14,812; maintenance of schools and classes, £4,084; scholarships and prizes, £700; travelling and maintenance of teachers on summer courses, £150; and miscellaneous items, £270. Estimated receipts, amounting to £36,779, were made up as follows:—Departmental grants, £11,185; contribution from the local rating authority, £10,184; tuition fees, £220; sundries, £190; grant applied for to local authority, for the proposed erection of a school at Abbeyfeale, £15,000.

HIGHER GRANTS.

The C.E.O. observed that although the proposed expenditure was about £1,000 over that of the present year, there would be no necessity to increase the demand on the local rating authority, since the Department intended giving higher grants. The main increase, he said, was under the heading of salaries and wages.

On the proposition of Mr. McAuliffe, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, the Committee adopted the scheme without discussion.

ASKEATON No Permitting

LICENSING

At Askeaton Court before Mr. C. S. F. Michael McCann, 16 New Terraces, prosecuted by the Industry and Commerce Department for selling cigarettes at the maximum price, failing to display a list; for purchasing a retailer's price and for offering without a retailer's price, Mrs. M. McCann, first defendant, jointly with her husband, Michael McCann, second defendant, appeared for the M. F. Noonan (Morton and Co.) defendants.

Inspector Michael A. Hickey, of the Department of Industry and Commerce, August 12th last, Mr. McCarthy's shop, McCarthy, who was time, to give him a Woodbine, for a charged 1/-. On witness a receipt paid. Witness not two-lb. fancy loaf, subsequent inquiries, by Michael McCann, a statement, that these for 9d. applied people in Limerick, so stated to witness purchased some Limerick outside, invariably bought at retail prices with profit. He also at the price which them, to ordinary. The men from whom the loaves told him ration.

In statements to Mrs. McCann's wife said that loaves mentioned at 1/- each.

Pleading for Noonan said the defendant was a young man who spent some years during the emergence of his service a quota for cigarettes such small commodes made out a living for himself in their smoky was also employed Chemicals Ltd. This was a severe lesson for the future, warn him of the jaws of the law.

The Justice dismissed the Probation of Offences for the defendant, fined the other defendant respect of each charge.

UNLICENSED

Cornelius Enright, Fitzsimons, both of Clough, Askeaton, by the Minister for having had unlicensed possession of motor cars, Mr. J. J. Power a Minister, and Enright, sent by Mr. F. Fitzsimons, was a professional, and offence.

In the case against Cornelius O'Driscoll, D. speaker, said that when he inspected the defendant, he young, unlicensed defendant explaining that he had bought short time previous was his intention operated on as so the bulls were no cows, in fact, the no cows.

The defendant along these lines. chased the four bulls Listowel, Newcastle Rathkeale, and into them operated on this immediately after the defendant's visit.

In the case against Inspector O'Driscoll when he visited his one young bull. The de-horned this animal witness that, after he was afraid to perform this and operation together.

Replying to questions, Fitzsimons said the offence and explanation he had given.

The Justice fined respect of each of fined Fitzsimons 10/- each defendant's penses.

BAKERS OBTAIN INCREASE

At a sitting of the Labour Court held in Limerick recently (writes our Bruree correspondent), an application for a wages order for workers employed in the bakery industry in County Limerick was heard. Those concerned in the application included the bakers employed by the Bruree Co-operative Creamery Bakery, and as a result of the Labour Court's award, which has now been made known, following the hearing in Limerick, an increase of 25/1 net has been granted to table hands employed in the county. The award, which covers the whole County of Limerick, is based on a 48-hour week, and, as a result of it, the table hands employed by the Bruree Creamery Bakery and foreman have had their wages increased by the sum of 25/1 per week, their wages now being £4 11s. 6d. per week for table hands and £5 1s. 6d. per week for the foreman, the increase to take effect as from the 16th November.

FIRE IN CITY SCHOOL

In the early hours of this morning the Fire Brigade was called to quell an outbreak in a school conducted by the Christian Brothers in John's Street. On their arrival they found one classroom ablaze, but the fire was got under control before any serious damage was done to adjoining classrooms, which are separated from each other by timber partitions. Some desks, tables, presses and other furniture were destroyed.

Messages of sympathy extended. Now that the emergency was over, he would like to see proper lighting facilities in the street.

Supt. Collieran, on behalf of the Garda Authorities, tendered sympathy to the relatives of the deceased; while Mr. T. E. O'Donnell, solicitor, on behalf of his client, also joined in the sympathetic references.

YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Mr. Kevin Bell, farmer, Central, was the County of Cl... by Mr. Sean O'Byrne Killaloe on Sunday Killaloe correspondent Scariff established the first in the county ten clubs formed. The matter appealed to every young farmer expected that in the club will be established.