

CITY NEWS PAGE

TELEPHONE 8506 — ASK FOR NEWS DESK

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., July 24, 1959. 5

Better Warning System Is Asked

Elmdale sisters Alfreda and Edna O'Brien came to their death as a result of injuries received when a car driven by Alfreda came in collision with CNR train No. 40 at the Belvedere Avenue intersection at approximately 8:50 p.m. on July 15.

Such was the finding handed in by the coroner's jury at City Hall last night. The inquiry was conducted by Dr. Harold P. Stewart assisted by crown prosecutor John P. Nicholson representing the Attorney-General's department.

The jurors also declared that no blame should be attached to any of the persons involved and recommended the installation of an improved type of warning system at the Belvedere crossing.

WITNESSES HEARD

Evidence was given by Dr. John Craig, the provincial pathologist; Dr. Paul Cudmore of Charlottetown, who was called to the scene and conductor Merrill Graham, brakeman Theodore Lavers, and engineer Gordon MacPherson all of Charlottetown and all members of the train crew operating No. 40 at the time of the mishap.

Also heard were Mrs. Linda Worth of Charlottetown at whose home the two victims had been residing in the nine days prior to the accident; mechanic Walter Burdick, who examined the car involved following the accident, and Cpl. Gordon Humphrey and Sgt. William Wilson, both members of the Charlottetown detachment of the RCMP.

A ruptured aorta in the case of Alfreda and a fractured skull in the case of Edna were the immediate causes of death, Dr. Craig stated. The autopsy also revealed many other less serious injuries. Alfreda might have lived 10 minutes but Edna must have died instantly the pathologist stated.

Dr. Cudmore said that both girls, one in the car and the other on the ground to the left of the vehicle were dead when he arrived. NO PULSE

Conductor Graham said that he was unable to find a pulse in the girl in the vehicle's passenger seat when he arrived on the scene. The other girl was still breathing and lying on the floor with her head hanging out the car door. He held her head upright and stayed by until the police arrived.

He had heard the whistle blow the proper signal but did not hear the train bell. Conductor Graham added. They had registered at Royalty Junction and left that station at 8:42. The train stopped at exactly 8:50.

There were no lights in the two box and baggage cars in position behind the engine, but lights were showing on the engine itself and the remaining five cars of the train. There were no running lights on the sides.

Witness Lavers said he saw the car approaching the crossing while the train was still one-quarter mile away. It appeared to be closer to the crossing than the train. No other cars were visible at the time.

SHOUTED TO DRIVER

When it became apparent that the car was not going to stop he yelled to the engineer to apply

the emergency braking system. The train was possibly 100 feet from the crossing at the time.

Railroad routine called for him to travel in the engine from Royalty Junction. He sat on the left of the cab, the same side as the fireman, he added. It was part of his job to keep the engineer posted on what was going on to his left, he said.

He had seen the car and engine collide and the car carry down over the ditch into the field. He jumped off the engine and ran back to the crossing, stopped a passing vehicle and asked them to summon the RCMP.

Questioned by the jury foreman, Mr. Lavers said that the car did not appear to make any effort to stop. From his position he could not see who was in it at the time of the impact.

300 FT. DISTANT

Fireman MacPherson said the car appeared to be about 300 feet east of the intersection, Constable Wilson remarked.

Other than the train crew he was unable to discover any other witness to the accident.

581 FT. LONG

Cpl. Humphrey introduced a sketch of the accident scene and several photos, some taken the night of the occurrence and others next day.

He said the train was 321 feet long, the rear portion having stopped at a point 342 feet from the point of impact.

Mrs. Worth stated that the young victims behaved in a most exemplary manner during the time they roomed with her. They had left home at approximately 7:00 p.m. the evening the accident occurred.

Mr. Burdick said that so far as he could determine the car was in good working order. With the windows closed such cars had a pronounced rumble inside, he

said.

Members of the jury were: J. Spurgeon Jenkins, foreman; Eugene Lewis, Edward Michael, Horace V. Smith, Ronald J. Greenan, Harold Sydney Stead.

These seven gentlemen plus at least 200 excited children were present at the official opening of the Kinsmen DesBrisay Crescent playgrounds last evening. They

ONE SAID 'THANK YOU'

Mayor Officially Opens New Kinsmen Playground

Among the excited shouts of the large group of youngsters who gathered for the opening of the Kinsmen DesBrisay Crescent playgrounds last evening could be heard the sound of a little girl's voice uttering the words "Thanks for the playground, Mr. Johnston."

The owner of the voice was Betty Doyle, who was only one of over 200 excited small fry who would hardly wait for the playground to be opened so they could personally test every piece of equipment in it.

The playground was officially opened by His Worship Mayor Edwin C. Johnston, to whom Betty personally expressed her appreciation, on behalf of herself and the other children, for the fine work the members of the City Council and the Kinsmen Club are doing.

This morning a large, engraved fry will be presented to Robert L. Cotton, who donated the land for the playground, by Clive Cudmore, representing the Kinsmen Club and Deputy Mayor A. Walthen Gaudet, representing the City of Charlottetown.

LOCAL BRIEFS

RETURNS TO TORONTO

Miss Jeanne Moore returned to Toronto by plane on Tuesday after spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Moore, City.

FOURTH BRIDGE FIRE

City firemen were called out last night, for about the fourth time this week, to deal with a night fire in the planks on the Hillsboro Bridge. Minor damage resulted. The alarm was turned in at 8 p.m.

CASE ADJOURNED

A charge of driving while intoxicated was adjourned in city police court yesterday after the accused pleaded not guilty. He will appear again this morning on the charge. Allison Gillis appeared for the accused while Police Chief MacArthur conducted the case for the Crown.

FROM HALIFAX

Mr. and Mrs. Karl J. Cameron of Halifax, accompanied by their two children Paula and Agnes, are spending their vacation in the province, the guests of Mrs. Cameron's mother, Mrs. Louise Douglas, Georgetown and Mr. Cameron's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cameron, City.

FROM ST. JOHN'S

Miss Margo Strang has returned to Grace Hospital at St. John's, Nfld., after spending a vacation visiting her mother, Mrs. Marjorie Strang, and aunt, Mrs. J. E. Riggs, at the summer home of the latter at Rocky Point.

CARS COLLIDE

Two cars were in collision at the intersection of Prince and Sydney streets this morning and damage is estimated in the hundreds of dollars. It's reported one car was making a turn from Prince street into Sydney and collided with a car travelling on Sydney street.

MacLEAN FUNERAL — The funeral for Mrs. J. William MacLean was held yesterday afternoon July 23, from the cutcliffe Funeral Home. Funeral service was conducted by Rev. H. L. Milton, assisted by Rev. V. E. Jackson. The solo, "The Christian's Goodnight" was rendered by Edward Sellick. Pallbearers were Harry Newman, Wallace Mallett and Charles Kirkpatrick. The interment was in Union Road Cemetery, Queens County.

are, left to right, Russell St. John, chairman of the playground commission; Deputy Mayor A. Walthen Gaudet, Mayor Edwin C. Johnston, Olive Cudmore, president of the Kinsmen Club;

Thursday Was Hottest Day

The high temperature so far for the summer was recorded at the department of transport's meteorological station yesterday when the mercury climbed to 84.4. That was more than a degree higher than Wednesday's high.

Out in the sun, and on the downtown streets it was much hotter. However it's expected to be a little cooler tomorrow with temperatures around 75.

Band music was provided by Smith Sound System.

This large playground, which is enclosed by a fence, has games for adults as well as children such as shuffle board and horse shoes.

Other equipment which is used day after day by the children includes swings, slides, fireman's ladders, saw boxes, hills and flying ropes.

Jack "Sp" Ready is the chief supervisor of the playground and is assisted by Marion Gillan and Janet Dowling.

Curiously enough a bottle was picked up on the beach near Murray Harbor North, on Prince Edward Island's southeast shore a few days ago. Two of the three names found on the slip of paper inside were those of Island men, since deceased, and the bottle had been dropped overboard from a troopship 16 years ago.

Picked up by William Graham of Cambridge, the well-preserved note read:

"Aboard the SS Alexander bound for the Mediterranean, Oct. 23, 1943 — W. A. Chandler, Charlottetown and Andrew McGraw, Whitehead, Sask."

The men were members of the 2nd Medium Battery, the first Island unit to be drafted overseas in the Second World War. J. B. Shelton, Charlottetown, former BSM of the unit, confirmed that the three were aboard the troopship at the time. He is going to ask Mr. Graham to present the bottle to the local regimental association.

The bottle is estimated to have travelled more than 3,000 miles from where it was dropped in the Atlantic 16 years ago, and it probably travelled many thousands of unrecorded and unknown miles in the ocean currents before washing ashore on the Island.

Members of the jury were Dixon Cousins, foreman; Joseph Macdonald, Arnold Easton, Harold MacRae, Arthur Lightfoot, all members of the RCMP, Arthur Prait and George Wotton, both of Summerside.

FOR RENT

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CHANDLER BROS.
1 Plywood Place

Honor Guard To Rehearse

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The Guard commander is F. L. D. F. MacGrath, and commanding officer of the station is Group Capt. J. E. Creeper, DFC, ED.

The band, also from the Summerside Air Station, is under the direction of Sergeant W. F. Conkey.

Pool Dunking Does No Harm

One of the older generation, perhaps the victim of inebriation, found one sure way to beat the heat last evening, when he lost his balance and fell fully clothed into the Kiwanis swimming pool, at Victoria Park.

His little swim didn't last too long, for within minutes two or three of the young lads who had been in the pool came to his rescue and succeeded in pulling him out.

Last seen the "nocturnal wanderer" was continuing on his way around the park, looking a little wet perhaps but none the worse for having taken his little swim.

side of the town planning commission. Mr. Cudmore is holding an engraved tray which will be presented this morning to Robert L. Cotton, who donated the land for the playground.

Coroner's

(Continued from page 3)

The witness had taken possession of the truck for examination at the RCMP barracks garage, and Morrison had called at the RCMP office later that evening before entering hospital for treatment for shock.

A few days later he had seen Morrison and received a statement from him.

The final witness at the inquest was George Morrison, driver of the truck involved in the fatality. He said his age was 59, and that he had been proceeding north on Central Street in connection with his work as foreman of the street department when the accident occurred.

He said he was not a fast driver and had been proceeding at moderate speed when he felt the truck strike home object. On looking back he saw a child lying on the road and had stopped the truck and run back to the child, and on observing his condition and appearance had driven away with the intention of summoning aid and reporting the incident to the police, and had proceeded out the Pope Road and down Duke Street and directly to the Summerside police office.

He said he was bewildered by the sight of the child on the roadway, and had no recollection of seeing any of the children that had been accompanying the child that was fatally injured.

The autopsy report read to the jury, by the coroner revealed that death had been caused almost instantaneously by injuries which included extensive fractures to the skull, a fracture of the right upper leg, fractured ribs, and other injuries.

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