

Open Verdict Is Given In Austin Death Probe

An open verdict was last night returned by the coroner's jury which held in City Hall and presided over by Coroner Dr. C.A. Coady.

They said that John David Austin of Bedford, came to his death in the Charlottetown Hospital on Sunday, Nov. 28, 1958, "as the result of chest injuries received when involved in an accident to a 1950 Pontiac car driven by James Angus McInnis of Tracadie, P.E.I. on the St. Peter's road, approximately one half mile east of Belfast at a spot known as Foster's Hill".

The accident occurred on Nov. 26, 1959.

Dr. John Craig, provincial pathologist, said there were a number of broken ribs and the breast bone was fractured. Considerable damage was caused to the chest walls which in turn caused lacerations of the lungs.

It was this damage to the lungs which eventually caused death, the witness said.

Dr. Frank Burge who attended the injured man at the scene, said that on his arrival he found Austin sitting in the back seat of the car. The victim had complained of terrific pains in the left side of the chest.

He had ordered Mr. Austin taken to the hospital where a detailed examination was conducted. For the first few hours the patient appeared to be rallying he said, but on Sunday morning he became very restless and distressed and eventually died at between 3 and 5.30 Sunday morning, Nov. 29.

Sgt. Robert MacKenzie, RCMP, described a number of photographs and a diagram he had made of the scene shortly after the injured man had been removed to hospital. The distance from the spot where the car first left the road until it finally came to rest was 141 feet, he said.

Two hitchhikers David Gerald Lewis and John Richard Flynn, both students at SPU, told of being picked up by the driver of the car about two miles from where the accident took place. Neither of the witnesses noticed anything wrong with the driver in his handling of the vehicle and both McInnis and Austin appeared to be sober, they said.

They said the car seemed to go slightly onto the shoulder of the road on the right hand side and then slewed fairly sharply across to the left. Neither could be certain as to whether or not the car rolled over.

Both witnesses said they saw no signs of liquor either before or after the accident happened. McInnis's driving they said appeared to be good all the time.

After the accident the two youths said they had both gone up to a farmhouse to phone for a doctor and to clean up. McInnis came to the house as they were about to leave, they said. Flynn told Gerald Foster, who assisted the coroner, that all this time Mr. Austin had been left alone in the wrecked vehicle.

Edward James Fitzpatrick, Ten Mile House, said that he had seen the car turn over, and he had immediately gone down to the scene of the accident where he saw McInnis standing alongside the car. He said he saw or smelled no signs of liquor on the driver.

James Angus McInnis, Tracadie, told of coming to the city and arriving in the late forenoon of the 26th, he had purchased a pint bottle of liquor which he said he gave to Austin to carry. The latter had put it in his inside pants pocket.

FAULTY STEERING The witness stated that he had had an accident with the car on a previous occasion and since that time had noticed that there appeared to be something wrong with the steering. When the brakes were applied the car would pull to the left.

When the car hit the gravelled shoulder on the right hand side of the road, McInnis said the rear end seemed to swerve further to the right and then the car headed anglewise across the road into the ditch on the left side.

He said that as soon as the car came to a stop he opened the door on his side and jumped out. He couldn't remember if the car had rolled over or not.

After the accident, McInnis said he took the bottle of liquor from the pocket of the injured man and then went up to the Fitzpatrick house, where he had later taken a drink from the bottle.

Mrs. Joan Fitzpatrick, said she did not know about the accident until the two boys came to the house to use the phone and to clean up. The next person to arrive she said, was an RCMP officer who wanted to know if McInnis was in the house, but the latter had not arrived at that time. He came after the mounie had left she said.

APPEARED SOBER The witness testified that when he came to the house McInnis appeared to be sober. But after cleaning up she said that he had gone into the pantry and she had heard the water running. Just before supper Mr. Fitzpatrick said she had gone into the pantry and discovered a part bottle of rum behind the breadbox. Neither she nor her husband were in possession of any liquor at the time she said.

John Edward McAssey, Bedford garage worker, said McInnis did not appear to be in any way under the effects of liquor.

Leonard John Fitzpatrick, Ten Mile House, said he first knew of the accident when he was told by his brother Edward, and when he arrived at the scene only McInnis and Austin were there, the two hitchhikers having left.

McInnis, he said, appeared to be quite sober although a few minutes later he did see a bottle of liquor in his hand but the witness said he did not see McInnis open the bottle neither did he know what was subsequently done with it.

Mrs. Lucy O'Connell, Ten Mile House, said the accident occurred across the road from her home, and from her window she had seen the car travelling along the ditch and it appeared to be partly on its side.

She had later seen McInnis walking around the car and he did not appear to stagger but walked normally. She could see no evidence of any person being under the influence of liquor, she said, and didn't see any bottles.

Harry W. MacDonald, Charlottetown garage operator, who examined the wrecked vehicle, stated that all steering mechanism appeared to be OK. The brakes on three of the wheels were in good order, he said, but the brake cylinder on the left front wheel was seized and appeared to have been that way for several days, perhaps weeks.

Cst. Frederick Connolly, RCMP, who investigated the incident, said that when he arrived at the scene Mr. Austin was the only person in or near the vehicle out of those who had been his original occupants.

CAR SEARCHED A search of the vehicle, he said, after the injured man had been removed to hospital, failed to reveal any signs of liquor or beer bottles.

The witness said he later went to the Fitzpatrick home where he saw McInnis sitting in a chair in the kitchen. When the police officer questioned McInnis, he said he could detect an odor of liquor coming from his breath and he definitely appeared to be under the influence of liquor.

He stated that McInnis did admit that he had taken some drinks after the accident in order to calm his nerves.

Members of the jury were: foreman, Douglas B. Durbar, Southport; Emer L. Johnson; Les'or E. Johnston; Raymond L. Blakeley; Arthur M. Horne; George D. Carson; and Edward D. Michael, all of Parkdale.

Hillsboro Bridge Open To Traffic

Normal automobile traffic to and from the city via the Hillsboro bridge was resumed yesterday. The only restrictions still in effect are those that were placed on heavily loaded trucks by the provincial public works department a few weeks ago.

A brief interruption in the flow of traffic took place at one period during the day in order to permit County Construction Company workmen time to cut the pavement down, by about four inches where it joins the new decking.

Norman Stewart the company engineer on the project revealed yesterday that his company completed the laying of the decking at about 5.45 Saturday afternoon.

All that remains to be done now is approximately 300 feet of curbing timbers on each side of the bridge. This work will in no way affect the flow of traffic, he said, and with favorable weather it is hoped to have this portion of the project completed by this evening.

Moore & McLeod Ltd. Christmas Enchantment by Elizabeth Arden

NEW COMMUNIST LEADER NEW YORK (AP) — The Communist party of the United States elected Gus Hall as its new leader Monday. Hall, replaced the ailing Eugene Dennis as general secretary in the windup of the party's 17th national convention.

Take a few feet off your Christmas list with SLIPPERS For All The Family LePage's The Home of Good Shoes Since 1920.

Terrific TV DINNER CHICKEN IN THE ROUGH INC. PHONE 4955 FREE DELIVERY Daily from 5 p.m. Rendezvous Restaurant Charlottetown

CLOVER CLUB DANCE for holiday season! Information now posted on bulletin board in Legion Home.

Ch'town Chorale Sings For City Rotary Club

The Charlottetown Chorale of 20 female voices with Mrs. G. Elliott Full as director and pianist, provided a delightful period of music at its best, at the weekly luncheon meeting of Rotary in the Charlottetown Hotel yesterday.

The four-group program designed to include several rare Christmas carols along with the more familiar numbers provided ample scope for this group of well-trained singers.

Miss Barbara Rogers was particularly pleasing in her soprano solo, "Virgin's Slumber Song" and Jeanette Carson as Narrator added interest as she described the origin and musical structure of the various numbers.

Rotary luncheon yesterday in the Charlottetown Hotel, was conducted by Mrs. G. Elliott Full, (centre) with Mrs. H. H. Carson, (left) as narrator and Barbara Rogers, soloist. Co-chairmen were Fulton Pierce (left) and Walter Cox, on the far right.

The program concluded with "Jingle Bells" and a new little jingle "We wish you a Merry Christmas", in which the Rotarians joined after some coaching.

Charlottetown Chorale members are: Mrs. G. Elliott Full, director and pianist; Jeanette Carson, Barbara Rogers, Pauline Haslam, Dorothy Profit, Lillian Duchemin, Ruth Enman, Thelma Teed, Verna Anderson, Pat Johnston, Lillian Scales, Shirley Wood, Joyce Goodspeed, June Proutie, Nan Kirby, Jean Parker, Lois MacLaren, Alice Sutherland, Shirley Sterns and Dorothy Laird.

Other guests of Rotary were: H. W. Lea, Montreal; G. Green, Glasgow, Scotland and visiting Rotarians were, L. Wayne Emory, Everett, Wash. and Harry Bartlett, Truro, N.S.

President Gerry Hartlen expressed deep appreciation to Mrs. Full and her associates for the great pleasure derived through their carol singing. He also announced that Brian Cudmore and his youth committee had completed plans for the annual Christmas party at the Sanatorium next Monday night.

Co-chairman Walter Cox, celebrating his birthday, was presented with the traditional birthday cake while a miniature of the same went to Clive Currie and Art Love both of whom celebrate a day later.



SHOWN ABOVE following the meeting of the Presbyterian Men of Zion last night are the guest speaker, Brig W. W. Reid, deputy minister of welfare and labor; W. Blair MacDonald, past president congratulating J. Stanley, newly-elected president; and John A. MacLeod, vice-president.

City Churches Challenged To Support Welfare Bureau

Brigadier W.W. Reid had words of praise for the splendid work being done by the two welfare organizations, Catholic and Protestant, of the city and the Prince County bureau in Summerside and challenged the Protestant churches of the city to provide leadership and the necessary funds to carry on the work of the Protestant Welfare Bureau.

Brigadier Reid spoke at the regular monthly meeting of the Presbyterian Men of Zion, held last evening at the church hall.

The meeting was opened with a sing-song, followed by the scripture lesson of the Christmas story read by J. Malcolm MacKenzie and a prayer offered by J. Stanley Stavert.

A new slate of officers was elected for the 1960 year and are as follows: Rev. D.A. Campbell, honorary president; W. Blair MacDonald, past president; J. Stanley Stavert, president; John MacLeod, vice-president; John Middleton secretary and Elmer MacRae, treasurer.

The guest speaker of the evening, Brig Reid, was introduced by R.C. Parent, who spoke of Brig. Reid as a distinguished soldier, a leader of many youth organizations and a prominent figure in the service of the provincial government.

Brig. Reid outlined the work of the welfare services of Prince Edward Island and spoke on other subjects, juvenile delinquency being the first of these. He said that our record in this respect was comparatively good in P.E.I. but unfortunately it is necessary to send some to corrective institutions in other provinces and emphasized the need for youth organizations.

He also mentioned old age assistance, disabled and blind persons allowances and mothers allowances, the last is given to widows and deserted mothers with children under 16 years of age. The allowances are moderate but helpful he stated. He also mentioned the home for the aged at Beech Grove where accommodation for 164 men and women is provided.

The meeting was chaired by Blair MacDonald.

Wardroom Receives Gift From Council

Members of the Wardroom Officers' Mess at HMCS Queen Charlotte are the proud owners of a new high fidelity record player presented to them last night by Mayor Johnstone and members of the City Council.

Lieutenant - Commander W. N. Black, president of the Wardroom Officers' Mess accepted the gift from Mayor Johnstone on behalf of all the officers and members.

Upon presenting the set, Mayor Johnstone said that the presentation was intended for the opening of the new barracks but unfortunately was a bit late. He said that the beauty of the building, its contribution to city prestige, the fine organization that it housed, not to mention the taxes it paid to the city, all merited it a gift that he hopes will be appreciated by everyone in the officers' mess.

TIPSY COWS MORPETH, England (CP) — A farmer from this Northumberland town spotted 16 cows staggering drunkenly around a field. It was discovered they had eaten large amounts of fermented barley.

BUTTER PRODUCTION SLIPS OTTAWA (CP) — Creamery butter production declined but margarine output increased in November and in the first 11 months of 1959 from corresponding periods last year, the bureau of statistics said. Butter output fell in November to 19,457,000 pounds from 18,898,000 while margarine production rose in the month to 13,688,000 pounds from 13,362,000.

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City Man Named To Labor Board

Fred DeCoste of this city has been named a member of the Labor Relations Board succeeding George Chandler, also of this city. Mr. Chandler, one of two management representatives on the board, said he was unable to adequately serve due to heavy commitments caused by other activities, particularly his duties as a vice president of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council.

Charles McQuaid, Charlottetown lawyer, is chairman of the board.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "BATTLE CRY" ROBERT MITCHUM THE ANGRY HILLS STANLEY BAKER ELISABETH MUELLER GIA SCALA Shows 3:30 - 7 - 9 CAPITOL

COMING - WED. and THURS. HE WAS ALMOST ABOVE SUSPICION ... BUT NOW HE WAS BEYOND HELP!

THE SPY ON WILHELMSTRASSE JACK HAWKINS GIA SCALA

Buoy Lifting Is In Progress

The lifting of buoys in Northumberland Straits, Magdalen Islands, west coast Cape Breton and north coast of P.E.I. has commenced. These buoys will be brought to the Marine Wharf, Charlottetown, it was stated.

The CGS Wolfe is engaged in lifting the Magdalen Islands and west coast Cape Breton buoys and the CGS Lady Laurier is lifting the north coast P.E.I. and western end of Northumberland Strait buoys.

The CGS Brant is occupied in lifting the smaller harbor buoys of Northumberland Strait and most of these have now been lifted with the exception of Caribou Harbor, N.S. which will be lifted on Dec. 15th. The Charlottetown harbor buoys are still in place and will be lifted very shortly said K. MacNutt, district marine agent.

LOCAL BRIEFS

HOSPITAL PATIENT Dr. J. E. E. Robins is a patient in the Prince Edward Island hospital where he underwent surgery.

GALLANT FUNERAL — The funeral for Vincent Gallant was held Monday morning from the Charlottetown Funeral Home to St. Dunstan's Basilica where Rev. High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Dennis Gallant, who also conducted the service at the grave. Rt. Rev. J.A. Sullivan and Rev. Joseph LeClair were present in the sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Bernard Gillis assisted in the choir. The pupils of grades 2, Birchwood High School, and grade Queen Square, attended in a body. Pallbearers were Felix Lutz, George Power, Jerome McCarron, Alphonse McCarron, Larry MacDonalid, Seymour Lutz. Interment was in the Catholic cemetery.

Gift Sweaters. Personally, she prefers a sweater gift... the newest bulkies, the classic dressmakers and cardigans... and loads and loads of them! See our fine selection soon. Gift Skirts. You can't go wrong if you choose her gift from our fine array of skirts... tartans (including the P.E.I.), giant plaids and plain colors in wool and mohair and plain straight styles. All sizes. island furriers. 79 Grafton St. Dial 6923

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