

OFFICIAL EVIDENCE CHANCE HARBOR AUTO ACCIDENT

The following is the official evidence taken at the inquest on Sunday the 18th on the auto accident at Chance Harbor on Saturday the 17th.

The inquest was before Dr. Kennedy and the following jury: S. Gammon (Foreman) Jas. D. McKenzie John Chord A. C. Fraser John Rogers Jas. McGillyray Fred Johnson M. Horton S. Gordon A. Allard L. McFadden.

DR. M. R. McDONALD Sworn—

Examined by Dr. Kennedy:

Q. You practice in New Glasgow?

A. I do.

Q. Did you know the deceased?

A. No I did not.

Q. Tell me what you know about the case?

A. I was called a little after 4 o'clock and I got there as soon as I possibly could.

Q. What did you find when you got there?

A. I found two ladies. They were dead on the ground one of them was five feet towards the road from the automobile.

Q. Where was the automobile?

A. On its side below the road.

Q. Where was the other lady?

A. The other one was behind the automobile and she was also dead but I found her body quite warm and I listened to her heart with stethoscope so I could not find her heart and I pronounced her dead very shortly before my arrival.

Q. She must have been living for sometime after the accident?

A. Yes I think she was living for sometime.

Q. What about the other lady?

A. The other one was perfectly cold as showed there was some rupture of the stomach because what she had eaten some time before then was coming out of her mouth. She died as the result of internal injuries.

Q. What would cause that?

A. It might be caused by the auto tumbling over her. Of course it was caused by coming in contact with some foreign body and I concluded more than likely it was the automobile on account of being alongside of the dead woman.

Q. Before coming to the conclusion as to the cause of death did you make any enquiries of anybody?

A. I enquired of the parties that were standing around they gave me all the information I asked they explained to me how the thing happened.

Q. Did the car skid?

A. Yes one was underneath the hind part of the car her head as it were and they pulled her out. That was the one that lived for a while.

Cross examined by Mr. Doull:

Q. We want particularly the case of Mrs. Warren Ogilvie's death.

A. That is the one I concluded got the internal injuries. Mrs. Warren Ogilvie.

Q. Confine your answers to Mrs. Warren Ogilvie. When you examined her body and found no fractures both limbs and arms were apparently all right.

A. There were no cuts that I saw of course I did not take her clothes off and evidently there was nothing only bruises.

Q. What was your conclusion?

A. My conclusion was possibly she died almost instantaneously from the weight of the car.

LOUIS LANCE Sworn;

Examined by Dr. Kennedy

Q. Your name is Louis Lance?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What is your business?

A. Chauffeur.

Q. Where do you live?

A. Truro N. S.

Q. How long have you been employed as a Chauffeur?

A. Employed for period of 11 years previous to the war.

Cross examined by Mr. MacDonald:

Q. Have you a license?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you consider yourself thoroughly qualified to run a car?

A. Yes sir.

Q. When did you leave Truro?

A. Left Truro Friday afternoon.

Q. Who accompanied you?

A. Mrs. Warren Ogilvie Mrs. Bonnell Mrs. Sponagle Mrs. Moxon Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Cameron.

Q. Do you own the car?

A. No sir.

Q. Who owns the car?

A. Mrs. Warren Ogilvie.

Q. What time did you leave Truro?

A. Approximately 2.30 on Friday.

Q. Where did you go to?

A. Pughwash.

Q. And where did you go to from there?

A. From there to New Glasgow.

Q. What time did you get to New Glasgow?

A. Approximately 11.45 on Friday night.

Q. From New Glasgow where did you go?

A. We stayed in New Glasgow until the next day.

Q. What time.

A. I should judge about 2 o'clock.

Q. Where did you go from there?

A. To Little Harbor.

Q. What road did you go by?

A. I went out along the main street I do not know the name of it until we got to Little Harbor road.

Q. What part of Little Harbor did you go to?

A. I cannot say where most of the cottages are there.

Q. Name one cottage?

A. I cannot do it.

Q. From the cottage where did you go?

A. Came back and started for Truro.

Q. What road did you go?

A. We were making for Pictou Landing.

Q. What happened on the way?

A. Nothing happened only some of the ladies wanted to put on their coats and I stopped the car and we just started again and started around the turn and as soon as I got around the turn I saw a car about 10 feet ahead of me.

Q. Was it standing still?

A. No sir it was moving.

Q. What rate of speed were you going at at this time?

A. Not over 15 miles an hour.

Q. What happened when you saw the other car ahead of you?

A. I tried to give him half the road that was due him he made no move to get out of the road. I had to give more I gave more the car skidded and went over the bank.

Examined by Mr. Doull:

Q. Was everything in working order?

A. Nothing wrong with any part of it.

Q. Brakes all right.

A. Yes sir.

Q. What about your horn?

A. My horn was in good order could be heard at least a quarter of a mile I sounded it at every turn. I sounded it not over two minutes before coming to the turn when I got down on the hill and started up the hill and started the car again I sounded it.

Q. Did you hear any sound from the other car?

A. No Sir.

Q. Was there anything by which you can tell how fast the car was going.

A. Yes just as soon as I started the car I looked to see how many miles I had gone and one of the ladies asked and wanted to know how far we were from Pictou Landing. I looked at my speedometer then and it registered only 10 miles.

Q. What gear were you in at the time the accident occurred?

A. I never sprunkled enough to cover my wind shield.

Q. Then you do not think the skidding of the car was due to any rain-what about sand?

A. I do not think it was due to that as I did not have speed enough to throw it over the bank.

Q. Your car skidded on the rear wheel when you applied the brake?

A. Yes.

Q. Which end of your car went over first?

A. I do not know.

Q. Did you hear the other horn blow?

A. No sir.

Q. Did the other car stop to let you pass?

A. No Sir.

Q. You cannot judge how fast he was going?

A. No sir.

Mr. Gammon:

Q. Mr. Lance how many feet would you need to stop still?

A. 30 feet.

Q. Answer me this if those horns were blowing simultaneously could you hear it?

A. I do not think I could.

Q. Do you think 15 miles an hour is a fair rate of speed to go round a curve?

A. As a general rule it is a slow rate of speed for a car.

Q. Travelling pretty fast it ought to be going 50 miles an hour.

A. A car 15 miles an hour and through sand pulling up that way is very slow.

Mr. Gammon:

Q. If you met a woman with a horse and wagon what would you have done?

A. I would have stopped the car. She would not be going near as fast as I would and I would have lots of time.

Cross examined by Mr. MacDonald:

Q. What kind of a car was it?

A. McLaughlin 27 horse power 7 passenger.

Q. Who did you see in this other car?

A. I saw two gentlemen in the front seat I think I saw some children in the back seat but not positive.

Q. You did not know who was driving?

A. No sir.

Q. When you came around this curve did you swing to the right or to the left?

A. To the left.

Q. Were you going up hill or down hill?

A. I think I was going up a hill.

Q. I gather from what Mr. Doull says when you came around the curve you were going down a hill you cannot tell?

A. No sir.

Q. Were you injured by the accident?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You said it was not more than two minutes before you came to the curve that you sounded your horn?

A. Yes sir it was two minutes before I came to the turn I sounded my horn.

Q. Not over?

A. No sir.

Q. You were some distance away then?

A. I was probably 50, 60 or 70 yards.

Q. Did you sound the horn?

A. I sounded the horn when I started the car.

Q. I am taking your own statement made by yourself that it was about two minutes before you came to the curve that you sounded the horn?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You were travelling 15 miles an hour?

A. I do not think I was I could not have been going 15 miles an hour when I looked at my speedometer last it registered 10 miles an hour.

Q. You said you stopped the car and started the car around the turn you saw a car about 10 feet ahead of you and you also stated you were not going over 15 miles an hour.

A. Yes sir.

Q. If you were going 15 miles an hour you were going a mile in 4 minutes.

Q. When did you get your license?

A. Last May.

Q. When did you first see the other car were you seated on the right or left?

A. On the left.

Q. Therefore you would not see the other car as soon as if you were seated on the right?

A. I think I would see it quicker.

Q. Did you swing from left to right?

A. I swung from left to right.

Q. Did you apply the brakes at once?

A. Yes sir just as soon as I saw the other car I applied the brakes.

Q. Had it been raining yesterday?

A. A little.

Q. Did you find it made the road very slippery?

A. No sir?

Q. I came up today from Pictou with a good Chauffeur and we had to slow down several times because my car skidded on the road.

A. We hadn't enough rain even to put up the top.

Q. Did it rain several times?

A. It never sprinkled enough to cover my wind shield.

Q. Then you do not think the skidding of the car was due to any rain-what about sand?

A. I do not think it was due to that as I did not have speed enough to throw it over the bank.

Q. Your car skidded on the rear wheel when you applied the brake?

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Mr. Gammon:

Q. Mr. Lance how many feet would you need to stop still?

A. 30 feet.

Q. Answer me this if those horns were blowing simultaneously could you hear it?

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A. As a general rule it is a slow rate of speed for a car.

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A. A car 15 miles an hour and through sand pulling up that way is very slow.

Mr. Gammon:

Q. If you met a woman with a horse and wagon what would you have done?

A. I would have stopped the car. She would not be going near as fast as I would and I would have lots of time.

Cross examined by Mr. MacDonald:

Q. What is the width of the road at that point.

A. The road is 12 feet wide.

Dr. Kennedy:

Q. Did you measure that road?

A. No sir it is about 12 feet wide?

Q. Did anyone else measure it?

Mr. MacDonald:

Q. Did you speak to the men that were in the car?

A. Yes sir.

Q. There was a chauffeur and another gentleman and a little boy.

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you tell the other gentleman whose car it was it wasn't over 20 miles you were going?

A. No sir.

Q. What did you tell him?

Q. You did not tell him you were going at any speed?

A. I am pretty positive I did not. I know what I did.

Q. You were excited naturally when this accident occurred over the ladies that were in the car and the other two being killed. You know you had a conversation with Mr. Notebaert?

A. I said nothing about the speed. I said something about his blowing his horn. That was the conversation we had.

Q. It wasn't Mr. Notebaert that was blowing his horn it was the man that was running his car.

Q. Did you say anything to Mr. McNaughton the man who was driving the car about blowing the horn?

A. No I did not.

Mr. McConid—He is the man who ought to have blown the horn.)

Examined by Dr. Kennedy—

Q. Considering the rate of speed you were going at and the rate of speed the other car was going was there plenty of room to pass to safety?

A. Not plenty of room there was room but not plenty.

Q. If you were quite slow enough both of you you could have passed in safety.

A. If he had been on the left side of the road, there would have been room enough to pass to safety.

Mr. Gammon:

Q. Do you think Mr. Lance, that two cars coming 15 miles an hour could pass to safety?

A. I think they could.

Mr. Gammon:

The road measure 12 feet from bank to bank, a bank on the high side and gulch on the low side, there is only 12 foot of road.

Q. Do you know the width of your car?

A. 6 feet 9.

Q. That would leave less than 6 feet for the other car.

Q. You do not know what the other car was?

A. McLaughlin.

Q. Same size?

A. No sir, it was a smaller model.

Examined by Mr. Doull:

Q. Do you remember passing a school house?

A. No, I do not.

MRS. CAMERON, Sworn, Examined by Mr. MacDonald:

Q. You were one of the parties coming from Truro and landing at Little Harbor, were you not.

A. Yes sir.

Q. Your chauffeur was Mr. Louis Lance?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You were coming from Truro and landing at Little Harbor, were you not.

A. Yes sir.

Q. You were coming from Truro and landing at Little Harbor, were you not.

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