

Child's Death Due To Carelessness And Reckless Driving

Verdict of Coroner's Jury in Case of Death of Virginia Garrett—Jury Makes Recommendations

The coroner's jury which enquired into the death of Virginia G. Garrett, the eight-year-old daughter of Fred E. Garrett, who was fatally injured in a car accident at Renforth on Thursday night and died soon afterward, decided last evening that her death was due to being struck by an automobile, which was driven at an excessive rate of speed and in a careless manner. The coroner, Dr. O. R. Peters, convened the jury and held the inquest in the Renforth Outing Association club house and eleven witnesses were examined of whom four were among those in the car at the time of the accident. The evidence given by W. E. Gunter, owner of the car which struck the girl and that of Fred H. Trifts, who was driving towards the city at the time and whose lights were said to have blinded Harold Beverly, was slightly contradictory as regards the distance which a car takes to pull up when the gasoline is shut off and the hand brake applied. The former said that his car would take from seven to eight hundred feet to pull up and the latter said that he could pull up his car with the hand brake in about three lengths or about thirty or forty feet. The jury also brought in several recommendations, one limiting the speed of cars on the Rothesay road and the other advising that a policeman, on a motor cycle should patrol the road.

Dr. J. H. M. Baxter appeared for Harold Beverly and Kenneth MacLae appeared for Mr. Garrett.

The Verdict.

The verdict of the jury was as follows:

We, the jury empaneled to enquire into the death of Virginia G. Garrett, on the night of Thursday, April 23, after carefully considering the evidence, do find that she came to her death as the result of being struck by an automobile which was being driven at an excessive rate of speed and in a careless manner by Harold Beverly, who was accompanied by Ernest J. Wilkinson, Charles E. Ross, John Kennedy, Max Dean and Allan Currie. And, we do also recommend that the speed of motor vehicles on the Tarris road between the one mile house (so called), and Rothesay post office, be limited to twenty-five miles per hour slowing down to twelve miles per hour when passing through a village, and thickly populated parts of the road, and that it be necessary for all cars to use prism or colored lenses instead of dimmers.

And we also recommend that all culverts and dangerous parts of the road shall be fenced, the fences to be painted white and that a motor-cycle police patrol be provided to prevent exceeding the speed limit.

Signed,
Harold E. Ellis (foreman), Alexander Fowler, James Kennedy, W. E. Flewelling, John McIntyre, L. Fairweather and J. H. Ferguson.

The Evidence.

The first witness was Miss Ada Finlay. She said that with the three children, she was walking down the road when she saw the light of the car coming from town and she also noticed a team and an automobile coming from the direction of Rothesay. She and the children crossed the road and went to Colby's store. The automobile from the direction of the city first put out the right hand light and then the left hand one and then both and she was not sure but they might have been put on again. She placed Margaret, one of the little girls, with her back to the door and she said to the children, "We will stand here until the car goes by." The next thing she heard was a whir and then she found one of the girls (Margaret) at her feet and then one of the boys in the car, Charles Ross, came over and asked if anything was wrong. She thought he was under the influence of liquor. Mr. Garrett then came down the road and she told him to go inside and see what was wrong. She did not see Virginia in the ditch, but Mr. Colby picked up Margaret and carried her into the store, and Virginia was found in the culvert. When questioned by a jurymen she said that the car seemed to be acting peculiarly, especially the lights. The car from Rothesay stopped in front of the store and she recognized Mr. Trifts as the driver.

Photographs of the scene were shown

and the spot where the accident had taken place was pointed out to the jurors by the witness.

Was in the Car.

Charles Ross was then called and he said that he was in the car which belonged to W. E. Gunter and there were five others in it. He was in the front seat. He could drive a car and knew a little about an Overland. He had changed seats at Brookville with Beverly and had also changed taking the wheel from Dean. He was not under the influence of liquor and had had nothing to drink at all. He did not think that the car was travelling more than twenty miles an hour. He saw the lights of the other car which were on full and they had not been dimmed. Their own lights were dimmed. After the accident the car was just about in front of the store. He thought that the rear end of the car had hit the building. He was not sure whether there was a spot light on the other car and he did not see the children. He had not had any liquor.

Dr. Baxter asked, if he had been around the store the next day and if he had noticed whether the door was in the same position, but he said he did not know.

Continuing witness said he thought his car was going about twenty to twenty-five miles an hour at the time. Dean, Beverly and he had taken the car and picked the others up at the head of King street.

In answer to Mr. MacLae, he said that Beverly had suggested taking the car.

The Automobile.

Harold Beverly said that he had not suggested taking the car, someone of them had suggested it but he could not say which. He recognized Gunter's car and decided to take it. He had driven a car for years. He thought that they were coming along as far as Brookville at upwards of forty miles an hour but he had not driven it more than twenty-five miles an hour. He had not been drinking and he seldom took a drink and it was the first time he had ever figured in a stolen car escapade. He said that there were three big lights on the car coming from Rothesay, one of which was a spotlight. He saw the children and blew his horn several times and dimmed his lights as soon as he saw the children but the lights of the other car were so powerful that they blinded him. He thought the rear of the car hit the building and the impact threw the car around hitting the children. When asked why he did not stop, he said that he could not because he was blinded. He had asked the other driver to leave his car in the position in front of the store but he would not. He had put on the foot brake and shut off the gasoline when nearing the other car but the brake had acted well. When asked by one of the jurors if a car should not stop in the distance measured, (200 yards), he said that he thought it should, but he could not say how far the car had gone after he had applied the brake. After returning to the city he went to the theatre and told Mr. Gunter what had happened.

John Kennedy, also said that he had not been drinking and he gave corroborative evidence, but he could not remember saying anything about the speed of the car and he said that he knew nothing about cars and could not judge the speed of them. He did not remember anything after they hit the store as he was stunned.

A Bright Light.

Jack Wilkinson, said he knew nothing about the car. He had not been drinking and had not had a drink since he left England. The light had dazzled him also. His other evidence corroborated that given by the others. Detective Biddiscombe was called and he said that in consequence of a telephone message he had gone to the General Public Hospital and found Currie there, who was apparently perfectly sober. He then went around to the homes of Beverly and Ross and brought them to the police station. Wilkinson and Kennedy had given themselves up. He had known Dean before and there had been some trouble with him but there had never been any trouble with the others. Questioned, he said that he did not believe anyone of the five had

a drink and that they certainly were well able to take care of themselves. Detective Donahue gave corroborative evidence.

The Automobile Owner.

William E. Gunter said that he had his car overhauled only two weeks ago and it was in perfect running order. He did not think his car would stop when going at twenty miles an hour by merely applying the hand brake in 200 yards, but thought it would take about seven or eight hundred feet. It was not a high speed car and to get thirty-eight miles an hour they would have to put on the accelerator. Beverly had been the first person to tell him of the accident.

Fred H. Trifts said that he was returning to the city from Rothesay in his large McLaughlin car. He had a spotlight on his car, and his headlights were bright, but he had dimmed them when he saw the other car. When asked he said that the other car looked as if it might be going from fifteen to twenty miles an hour and he thought the car was being driven recklessly. He had noticed the dimmers being put on and off and this might happen with a man who was not sure of the switches. A car going anything more than fifteen miles an hour, he did not think was under perfect control. When questioned by Dr. Baxter he said that there was about four and a half or five feet between his car and the other when they passed, and he was well over to his side of the road, but Dr. Baxter said that he could not have been and had that much space between them. The only thing to do when one got the full glare of other lights was to stop.

H. Williston Dalton told of taking the car number and measuring the distance, 202 feet, from where the car left the macadam to the store. The tread of the tire was in a straight line. He had also examined the car afterwards. He had only been close to one of the occupants but he certainly had not been drinking.

B. A. Dennison, told of picking up the little girl after she had been struck, saying that he was assisted by another man. He thought that Trifts' car had been on his own side of the road.

The coroner charged the jury saying that it was a very vital and important question and that they had many reckless drivers along that road because it was so good, and that the children had as much right to the road as the cars, and especially the joy-riders.

WOLFVILLE ENJOYS A BUILDING BOOM

Wolfville, April 30.—Building operations promise to be very brisk in Wolfville this summer, and houses are already under way. Work has been commenced on residences for George Munro, of the Bank of Montreal, and Dr. Elliott. A. G. Cowie has purchased a lot on the Randall property and will begin the erection of a house immediately. The college gymnasium on the campus, a fine stone building which will cost \$120,000, is rapidly progressing. Real estate in the town is in keen demand and prices have at least doubled in the last two years. Wolfville apparently promises to become the favorite residential town of the province.

Acadia College and its kindred institutions will soon close by all odds the most prosperous year in their history. The total attendance at the university, academy and seminary now considerably exceeds 800. The college itself has now 350 students and this number will be largely increased next autumn. The university now possesses a large and well equipped girls' residence, common dining hall, where the "boys and girls" sit down together, a thoroughly up-to-date

library, science building, men's residence and technical school. All these buildings are of brick or stone. The gymnasium, it is expected, will be ready for use in the fall. The girls' seminary, under the management of Rev. Dr. DeWolfe, is crammed to its utmost capacity, and has now a number of girls

boarding out, and the academy, which has so greatly flourished under Rev. Dr. Archibald, is completely filled up. Of Dr. Cullen's splendid work for the college it is needless here to speak in detail. And it is just a beginning. In whatever direction you look a bright future seems to await Acadia.

ROBBED OF \$1,500 IN GEMS.

(Montreal Star)

Jacome Schneider, of 402 Clarke street, was held up and robbed of \$1,500 worth of diamonds in a Chinese restaurant in Lagache street at noon today. The victim had left the dining room

to proceed to the basement and while there was stopped by two men with loaded revolvers who forced him to hold up his hands while they took from him the gems which he was carrying upon his person for safe keeping. The thieves made a clear getaway and no arrests have yet been made.

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Every country has its national customs and habits.

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English homes, stores, offices, factories, work shops, hotels and tea rooms serve afternoon tea. It is part of the national life of England.

Our soldiers poked fun at it, but were not long in acquiring the habit.

And they are not giving it up now that they are back home.

They are influencing a more general adoption of afternoon tea in Canada.

To-day this English custom is quite common in Canadian homes.

It is spreading. New tea rooms are opening all over Canada. Hotels are making a specialty of afternoon tea. The habit is invading offices, stores and work shops.

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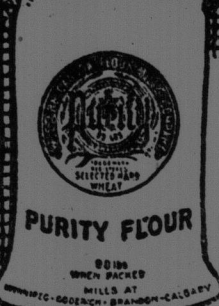


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