



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Knook

Newspaper Reports

Herbert Doughty 1st January 1935

“MUMMY, DADDY’S GONE INTO THE WALL”

Pathetic Story at Wilts Inquest

“Accidental death” was the verdict returned at the inquest at Warminster on Herbert Doughty (46), a farm labourer, of Knook, Warminster who died at Warminster Hospital following a crash into a wall on his bicycle on Boxing Day. He died at Warminster Hospital on New Year’s Day. Mr A. L. Forrester, the Wilts coroner sat with a jury.

Evidence of identification was given by Doughty’s widow, Mary Jane Doughty, who said she saw her husband from the dining room window riding his new bicycle down Knook Hill. She did not see the accident, but her little girl, who had been waiting on the doorstep for her father, came rushing in crying, “Oh, mummy, daddy’s gone into the wall.”

She told the coroner her husband had ridden a bicycle for some years, and on the day of the accident he went out “for a spin” before dinner.

Walter Henry Bray, of Knook, said he heard a crash as he was leaving his house and saw Doughty lying on his back on top of the bicycle.

Dr H. L. Blackley said there had been dozens of accidents on Knook Hill. Doughty’s death was due to a fracture of the base of the skull.

P.C. Clayton described the damage to the bicycle, and told the coroner the handlebars were not locked and moved freely without moving the front wheel.

The coroner suggested that the handlebars might have loosened with the impact, but the constable said that as the bicycle was new he was of the opinion the bars had never been properly tightened.

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