



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## Inquest

Mr A L Forrester, Coroner for Mid-Wilts, resumed the inquest concerning the death of Mrs Gertrude Jones, a lady of Coventry, who was killed in an accident while in a motor car driven by her husband at Seend on August 22. Mr Jones was brought into Court in a wheel chair, and was obviously still suffering from shock. His niece, who was also in the car, was present, her arm, which was fractured, being in a sling.

Dr Spence, the first new witness, said when he reached the scene of the accident he found deceased lying semi-conscious on the side of the road. He ordered her removal to the Melksham Cottage Hospital, where death took place the same evening, due to haemorrhage caused by the fractured skull.

Dr Blair, of Richmond, ophthalmic surgeon, said he was being driven in a car from Devizes to Bath. At Seend, just at the corner of the hill, another car passed them almost too close to enable his driver to get by. The latter turned to his side as near as possible, and witness thought the other car had got clear. On looking round he saw the other car had overturned and was pointing in the direction from which it had come. The three occupants were injured, and the elderly lady seriously.

PC Matthews, of Seend, gave measurements, and from marks which were plainly visible gave it as his opinion that the sudden application of the brakes had caused the car first to shoot across the grass and then in a sharp turn to the right, where it eventually overturned.

Ellen Jones, of Peckham, niece, said her uncle who was driving was 71 years of age. The car was practically a new one this summer.

The Coroner emphasised the importance of motorists in turning corners keeping on their proper side. That was the lesson taught by this unfortunate accident.

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