

**INQUEST ON RYDE BOY CYCLIST
LORRY DRIVER EXONERATED**

The Coroner (Mr. J.V. BULLLIN) held an inquest at the Town Hall, Ryde, on Wednesday, into the death of a 12-years-old cyclist, Roy Edward HAYWARD, of 53 Alfred Street, Ryde, who was involved in a collision with a lorry on Coach Lane, Brading, at the entrance to the Nunwell Estate. After hearing the evidence of the driver the boy's stepfather said he was satisfied that the boy was to blame. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and exonerated the driver. Mr. A.R. LIGHTFOOT appeared for the driver and his employers.

Charles Ernest TRUEMAN (56), a labourer of 53 Alfred Street, Ryde (stepfather) said he last saw his son alive at about 9.20 a.m. on Saturday, when the boy said he was going for a short cycle ride. The bicycle was brand new and witness had tested the brakes. The boy had had about 18 months' experience with an older machine, before having the new one about two weeks previously and rode as well as boys of his age. At about 3.30 p.m. witness received a call from the police and was very surprised when he realised how far his stepson had travelled.

P.C. M. Morris said the lorry was stationary opposite the entrance to Nunwell Estate, facing towards Brading with both nearside wheels close to the nearside grass bank. The boy's body was lying underneath the rear offside tailboard about two feet behind the rear offside twin wheels, which had crushed his head. Tyre marks extended 37ft. 5 in. at the rear. The cycle with its front wheel buckled, lay 10ft. away. Because of a wall on either side of the entrance, a driver coming from the estate would need to exercise extreme caution. The rear brake of the bicycle worked perfectly; the front brake was damaged in the collision. The brakes of the lorry were in very good condition. – Replying to Mr. LIGHTFOOT, witness agreed that if the boy, coming from the estate, intended to go to Ryde, there would be ample room to turn between the lorry and his nearside.

Arthur Cecil LIESCHING, consultant surgeon, of Highfield, Queen's Road, Ryde, said he was passing in his car about noon and was asked to examine the body. There was severe injury to the skull and brain, death – which was instantaneous – being due to severe laceration of the brain.

William George PARKER, of 42 Hill Street, Ryde, a lorry driver employed by the Westridge Construction Company, of High Street, Ryde, said he was travelling along Coach Lane, towards Shanklin, through Brading. He had previously slowed to 20 m.p.h., to take a sharp bend and at the approach to the estate entrance his speed was 20 to 25 m.p.h. He knew the vicinity well. Just before he reached the entrance, a boy cyclist shot out into the road, fairly fast, turning to his (the boy's) left in a wide arc, towards the lorry. Witness braked hard and stopped. He had been driving for 11 years and considered there was nothing more he could have done. He imagined the boy struck the middle of the lorry in front of the rear offside wheels.

The Coroner said it was a tragic case. Although there were no independent witnesses, there was no reason to doubt the lorry driver, who had given his evidence very fairly, and the stepfather had also been fair in accepting it. Sympathy was expressed with the family.

Boy Cyclist's Funeral. – The Funeral took place at Ryde Cemetery on Saturday of Roy Edward HAYWARD, son of Mr. and C.E. TRUEMAN, of 53 Alfred Street, the boy victim of last week's cycling tragedy at Brading. The service was conducted by the Rev. H.M. WILDE, M.B.E., M.C. The mourners were Mr. C.E. TRUEMAN (step-father), Charles and Colin HAYWARD (brothers), Mr. R. TRUEMAN (step-brother), Mrs. J. READ, Mr. and Mrs. C. HILL, Mr. B. RATCLIFFE, and Messrs. V.P. EVANS (head-master) and E. NICKERSON, K. WATTS and E. MATTHEWS (teachers at Ryde C.E. Secondary Modern School). There were many beautiful floral tributes, including those from the staff and pupils of the C.E. Secondary Modern School; his classmates at St. John's House; and the Westridge Construction Co., Ltd.
