

RYDE MACHINIST'S TRAGIC DEATH

WORK PREYED ON HIS MIND

The Coroner (Mr. J.V. BULLIN) held an inquest at Ryde Town Hall on Wednesday on Mr. **Bertram Victor RANN**, aged 58, a machinist employed at Saunders-Roe Limited, who was found dead at his home, 28 Abingdon Road, by his wife when she returned from church on Sunday.

Dr. P. VENABLES, of 2 John Street, said that he received a call to Mr. RANN's house on Sunday at 11.30 a.m. and went there immediately. He found Mr. RANN lying on the kitchen floor dead. A bottle of insecticide, and used cup and a note indicating that he had taken his life were nearby. He had been dead about an hour.

Kate Phyllis RANN, the widow, said that they had been married nearly 33 years and during that time her husband's health had been very good and he was fairly cheerful. Nearly three years ago he had a nervous breakdown and was unable to work for 15 weeks. He was a voluntary patient for eight weeks at Whitecroft Hospital. He returned to work in April, 1953, and seemed to be all right. Recently he could not get on so well with his work. He was very conscientious and his work worried him. He had thrombosis of the legs. He complained of sleeplessness and Dr. Sim gave him some sleeping tablets. On Saturday, he returned home at the usual time and said that the work did not seem to go right that afternoon. On Sunday morning she gave him his breakfast in bed. He said he would have gone with her to church but he had not shaved and he asked her if he could do anything for her. She went to church and on returning at 11.10 a.m. opened the kitchen door and saw her husband lying on the floor. She fetched a neighbour who called the doctor. Her husband had no financial worries and had never threatened to take his life.

P.C. G. WATMORE said that he went to 28 Abingdon Road. On the kitchen draining board was a bottle of insecticide with a cup and a note which read "Dear Kittie, I can't go on. I am going queer. You will be better off without me. Don't use this cup. Bert".

Dr. P.D. SWINSTEAD (pathologist) said that he carried out a post mortem examination on February 20th and found that the organs were in a healthy condition. There was a fluid in the stomach similar to that in the cup and bottle. Death was due to nicotine poisoning.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of suicide while the balance of the mind was disturbed.

Mr. A.E. LOCK (security officer, Saunders-Roe Limited) expressed the sympathy of the firm with the widow and said that they regarded Mr. RANN with the highest respect and as far as his work was concerned he had nothing to worry about. He was a most satisfactory worker.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 3rd March 1956

Funeral of Mr. B.V. RANN. – The funeral of Mr. Bernard Victor RANN took place at St. John's Church on Thursday week. The Vicar (the Rev. A.J. PEARMAN) officiated, and the hymns "Jesu, Lover of my soul," and "At even ere the sun was set" were sung. The mourners were Mrs. B.V. RANN (widow), Mr. and Mrs. C.G. PERRETT and Mr. and Mrs. A.H. SQUIRE (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr. H. RANN (brother, also representing Mrs. H. RANN, sister-in-law), Mr. Albert YOUNG (brother-in-law), Mrs. Arthur YOUNG (sister-in-law, also representing Mr. Arthur YOUNG, (brother-in-law), Mr. R. RANN (nephew), and Mr. G. YATES, Mesdames F. LESLIE and A. HOWELL (sisters) were unable to be present through indisposition. Saunders-Roe Ltd., his workmates, and the Amalgamated Engineering Union were represented.

The interment was at Ryde Cemetery. The numerous wreaths included those from the directors and management of Messrs. Saunders-Roe, his workmates in the general store, and the A.E.U.
