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RYDE YOUTH'S HOLIDAY DEATH – *“Boat owners should warn of risks”* – Coroner

The Norwich City coroner (Mr. Bernard PRIOR) on Tuesday recorded a verdict of accidental death on **Michael William Jack TRUMAN**, 19, an apprentice plumber, of Lower Bettesworth-road, Ryde. Truman was drowned in the River Yare at Brundall, Norfolk, on Saturday, after falling from a cruiser which he shared with three other youths from Ryde.

Remarking that an enormous responsibility rested with those connected with the Broads holiday industry, the coroner urged boat owners to do their utmost to inform visitors of the risks and to show that life jackets were aboard river craft for their safety. The mere presence of life jackets was not enough.

Douglas SAUNDERS (19) of Bettesworth-road, Ryde, one of the cruiser party, told the coroner that they were returning to the boat station at the end of their week's holiday on the Broads. TRUMAN was on the back of the cruiser. SAUNDERS said he heard a splash and ran round to see who it was. He took most of his clothes off and jumped in, but TRUMAN had gone. His hat was still on the side of the boat. TRUMAN used to be able to swim fairly well. The others were all swimmers.

Dr. C.Morgan HALL, senior consultant pathologist at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, said there was no evidence of TRUMAN having hit his head, but this was possible.

P.C. J.HUTCHINSON said the deck covering on the boat was of a non-slip material and he found nothing that might have caused TRUMAN to fall. TRUMAN's body was recovered from 14ft. of water nearly four hours after the accident.

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FUNERAL OF DROWNING VICTIM –

The funeral of Mr. **Michael William Jack TRUMAN**, of 11a Lower Bettesworth-road, Ryde, whose tragic death in Norfolk was reported in our last issue, took place on Thursday week. The service at Zion Chapel was conducted by Mrs. J.D.PACK, B.Sc., of Freshwater, and Mrs. B.SHACKLETON was organist. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. T.TRUMAN (parents), Mr. and Mrs. D.TRUMAN (brother and sister-in-law), Messrs. W., James, Jack, and G, DIBBENS, Mrs. Jack DIBBENS, and Messrs. A., S., and R.TRUMAN (uncles and aunt), Messrs. W. and A. DIBBENS (cousins), Mrs. S.ISAAC (representing uncles and aunts of Westwood, Wilts.), Mr. and Mrs. WRIGHT, Mrs. CHALK, Mrs. PARROTT, Mr. D.SAUNDERS, Messrs. H. and K. BROUGHAM, M.JAMES, P.WILLIAMS, J.WALLS and B.BEANEY and Miss P.BROWNE. Also represented were Messrs. Frank BATTY and SMITH, Binstead Sports Club, Kingston Gas Works, Zion Chapel, neighbours of Lower Bettesworth-road, and his workmates, all of whom sent floral tributes. The interment was at Ryde Cemetery. Messrs. H.V.TAYLOR and Son made the funeral arrangements.
