

1933 REGISTER OF ELECTORS:

MARVIN Alice M., 23 Strand, Ryde, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday June 18th 1859, page 3.

WIDOW TOOK LIFE WITH TABLETS –

Became worried over domestic problems

Although in a comfortable financial position, an 87 year-old Ryde widow became depressed about domestic problems. Eventually she took her own life with barbiturate tablets.

This tragic story was told at the inquest at Ryde on Monday on Mrs. **Alice Maud MARVIN**, of “The Top Flat,” “Lyonstone House,” Pellhurst-road, upon whom the Island Coroner, Mr. J. V. BULLEN, recorded a verdict that she “killed herself while the balance of her mind was temporarily disturbed.”

Mr. F. C. O. WALLIS, a solicitor’s managing clerk, of “Oakhurst,” Pellhurst-road, Ryde, said the deceased was his relative by marriage. She had been a widow since 1946 and lived alone. Latterly she had two domestic helpers but they left recently, one had to take up seasonal work and the other because of ill-health.

Although Mrs. MARVIN was very active he had tried to persuade her to enter a nursing home, but she refused. She was “very comfortably off“ financially.

Found in Bathroom

He last saw her alive on June 9 when her daughter, Mrs. CURRY, visited her, but when calling at the flat next day was unable to get a reply. Because the newspaper was still in the door, and milk bottles were untouched outside, with the light still on in the house, he became anxious. Upon gaining access he found Mrs. MARVIN lying unconscious in the bathroom in her nightdress. He immediately sent for a doctor.

In the deceased’s bedroom were two bottles of tablets, one of them unopened. A number of tablets from the opened bottle were nearby, and witness found a letter addressed to Mrs. CURRY.

It was stated later that the letter indicated that Mrs. MARVIN intended to take her own life.

Dr. G. M. K. CRAMPTON, of “Greymist”, High Park-road, Ryde, said he had treated Mrs. MARVIN since last August. She suffered from depression and anxiety, and when he visited her on June 1 she seemed worried about the question of accommodation. She refused psychiatric treatment or to enter a nursing home.

Saved Tablets

He identified the two bottles of tablets in the bedroom and said that the unopened one contained a tranquilising drug which he had prescribed for her. The other which

was opened, had evidently been saved from a prescription she obtained last year, but not one he had given her. “She might have stocked up tablets from previous prescriptions” he commented.

When called to the house on June 10 by Mr. WALLIS, he found Mrs. MARVIN unconscious and had her removed to hospital immediately. She died two days later without regaining consciousness.

Dr. P. D. SWINSTEAD, pathologist, said a post mortem examination revealed that Mrs. MARVIN took a lethal dose of tablets of the barbiturate group.

Coroner's Summing-Up

Recording the verdict, the Coroner said “Of course one appreciates the reluctance of old people to leave their homes and possibly lose their independence. However, one should stress the undesirability of very elderly people living alone, although it is clear that Mrs. MARVIN was very well cared for. Nevertheless, she became worried about domestic matters, refused suggestions to enter a hospital, and eventually took her life with those tablets.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday June 20th 1959, front page.

Death Announcement –

MARVIN .. On June 12th 1959, at Ryde, **Alice Maud**, aged 87, of Lyonstone House, Strand, Ryde, wife of the late Reginald MARVIN and dear stepmother of Joan CURRIE.

NB: A discrepancy was noted in the address of Mrs. MARVIN, it was given as “Pellhurst-road” in the inquest report and “Strand” in the death announcement.