

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 25 July 1964

## RYDE HEADMASTER'S SUDDEN DEATH

### ----- MR. R. H. BAGWELL

The sudden death at his home, Ridgeway, Pellhurst Road, Ryde, on Wednesday, of Mr. Reginald Harry BAGWELL, headmaster of Ryde County Secondary School, came as a profound shock to many people. In the morning Mr. BAGWELL had been helping with the preparation of the school fete to be held that afternoon, but felt ill on returning home at lunch time. A doctor was summoned, but Mr. BAGWELL died soon after 2 p.m. The facts were reported to the coroner, and a post mortem examination was ordered. The funeral has been arranged to take place privately on Monday, a service at his home to precede interment at Ryde Cemetery. Mr. BAGWELL was 54. He leaves a widow.

A Devon man, he attended school at Colyton, and from 1927 to 1930 was at the Borough Road Training College, London. In 1930 he was awarded a second class honours degree in geography by London University. His first teaching appointment was at the Midway Place Senior Boys' School, London, from September 1930, to December 1932. In January 1933, he came to Ryde County Secondary School as geography master and remained on the staff ever since, except for war service from 1941 to 1945. He was appointed senior master in April 1945, deputy headmaster in 1954, and headmaster in January 1955.

During his war service he was seconded to the R.A.F. with the rank of flight-lieutenant but with civilian status, teaching cadets at an initial training wing in navigation, meteorology, engines, physics and flight.

September last year saw the fulfilment of his hopes when his school moved from the old premises in St. John's Road to the new building at Pell Lane embodying the latest ideas in education. He had worked unostentatiously but with the unremitting zeal that characterised his whole scholastic career for the smooth and successful transition. It must have been a proud moment for him when Mr. H. S. MAGNAY, director of education for Liverpool, opened the new school on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. BAGWELL took a keen interest in education in the Island. He was a member of the Island Examinations Board and the Island branch of the Head Teachers' Association, and was at one time president of the Island branch of the National Union of Teachers. Despite his devotion to his school and kindred work, he found time to take a kindly interest in the life of Ryde generally, and for many years was an enthusiastic worker for Ryde Carnival, taking a particular pleasure in organising sports.

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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 1 August 1964

**Schoolmaster's Funeral.** – The funeral service for Mr. Reginald Harry BAGWELL, headmaster of the County Secondary School, took place privately at his home, Ridgeway, Pellhurst Road, on Monday. The Rev. G. W. RUMBLE officiated. The mourners were Mrs. R. H. BAGWELL (widow), Mr. and Mrs. A. BAGWELL and Mr. M. BAGWELL (brothers and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. S. BLYTH, Mr and Mrs. S. BOOCOCK, Mr. J. V. WADHAM (deputy headmaster, County Secondary School) and the matron of Ryde Nursing Home. Interment was at Ryde Cemetery.

Floral tributes included those from the Education Committee; the education officer, deputy education officer and members of the education department; Ryde County Secondary School; the governors of Ryde C.S. School; the staff of Ryde C.S. School; all the pupils of Ryde C.S. School; the sixth form of Ryde C.S. School; the cleaning staff of Ryde C.S. School; Ryde C.S. Parent-Teacher Association; I.W. Head Teachers' Association; County Teachers' Association; the staff of Bishop Lovett Secondary School; staff and children of Ryde County Junior School; staff of Ryde C.E. Junior School; former pupils now at Sandown Grammar School; headmaster and staff of Cowes Secondary School; I.W. Schools Football Association; Ryde Carnival Association; Ryde Harriers; Ryde Youth Club and Ryde Nursing Home. The education officer (Mr. A. K. HUTCHINSON) attended a memorial service conducted at the school by deputy headmaster (Mr. J. V. WADHAM) on Thursday week.

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