

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 17th January 1959

**RYDE WIDOW'S TRAGIC DEATH
FOUND AT HOME WITH SEVERE BURNS**

An elderly Ryde widow was found dead with severe burns late on Monday night when the police broke into her home after neighbours became alarmed. The dead woman was Mrs. Gertrude FROUD aged 87, who lived alone at 8 Winton Street.

Mrs. FROUD, who was very deaf, was last seen by neighbours about 1 p.m. and when an electric fire was still burning in her front room at 10 p.m. and the radio turned full on they became alarmed as it was unusually late for her to be up. They called the police and P.C. R.D. BOXALL climbed into the house through the scullery window. He found Mrs. FROUD lying dead by the front door severely burned about her face and body. In the front room where the radio was still playing, the electric fire was on and an armchair in front of it was smouldering. The carpet and floorboards in the passage way leading to the front door had also been damaged by fire.

Station Officer L.G. WILLIAMS, in charge of Ryde Fire Brigade, was called by the police and inspected the house but the fire had burned itself out and the brigade was not summoned. It is believed that a possible explanation for Mrs. FROUD's tragic death was that as she sat dozing in front of the electric fire in the afternoon her scarf caught alight and set fire to her clothing and the chair she was sitting in. As she awoke she ran to the front door in flaming clothes to call for help but collapsed before she reached the door.

An inquest was held at Ryde Town Hall yesterday afternoon.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 29th January 1959

Re GERTRUDE CAROLINE ANN FROUD Deceased.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925.

Any person having any claim against or an interest in the estate of GERTRUDE CAROLINE ANN FROUD late of 8 Winton Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight, who died on the 12 January 1959, is required to send particulars thereof to LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT, COMMERCIAL ROAD, PORTSMOUTH the Executor of the said deceased or to the undermentioned solicitors on or before 1st April 1959 after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interest of which they have had notice.

WALTER GRAY & CO.,
Solicitors.

4 St. Thomas Street,
Ryde, I.W.
