

TRAGEDY AT QUORN BUS STOP

Dennis Marchant, with the help of the Loughborough Echo and the Quorn Parish Council Archives has put together this tale of a tragic accident that happened in June 1966.

Ethel Jackson had worked at One Ash, Quorn for twenty years, travelling by bus every day from Coalville. She was employed as a daily help and had worked for Mr. and Mrs. Deeming there, and for ten years before they moved to Quorn.

This particular Wednesday in June 1966 she had left work as usual at lunch time, to walk the short distance to the bus stop near the Woodhouse Road turn on the A6. It was raining heavily so luckily there was a bus shelter where she could wait for her bus.



One Ash, Quorn

At the same time David Westley, from Whitwick was driving his Parkin & Jones, Commer tipper lorry, ERB 284C back to Coalville. At the end of Barrow Road he stopped, before turning right on to the A6. It was raining hard as he approached the Woodhouse turn, should he turn left here or carry straight on through Loughborough he thought, when at that point the lorry skidded off the road and hit the bus shelter!

Mr. Clatworthy, from Nottingham was driving his van into Quorn along the A6 when he saw a man running into the middle of the road, and waving his arms, he noticed a lorry on the other side of the road in the hedge. The man asked him if he could call an ambulance as he had just hit the bus shelter and there was an injured woman.



A Commer tipper lorry similar to the one involved in the accident.

At the Loughborough inquest, PC Crow told the jury that he had arrived at the scene at 1.05 p.m. on 15th June and found a lorry, unladen weight 4 tons 5cwt partially through the hedge in a field. It had demolished a bus shelter and four concrete posts. Mr. Paul M Morgan, a Ministry of Transport vehicle examiner said he had examined the lorry on June 16th and found the steering, tyres, and springs in good order. The only defect he found was some lubricant on the outer edges of the rear nearside brake lining and brake drum.

Mr. Morgan said that in his opinion, if the affected brake had interfered with the progress of the lorry at all, it would have thrown it into the offside of the road. "However, it is most unlikely that the braking defect had any connection at all with the accident" he commented.

The Inquest Jury were informed that the woman was killed when a lorry left the road and demolished the bus shelter in which she was standing. Dr. Gillian Penton, casualty officer at Loughborough General Hospital, confirmed that Miss Ethel Mabel Johnson (70 years old) of 16,

Jackson Road, Coalville, was dead on arrival at hospital. Death was due to multiple injuries. Mr. Charles K. Deeming a Cinema proprietor of One Ash, Quorn gave evidence of identification. The lorry driver, Mr. David Ronald Westley (22 years old) of 4, Talbot Street, Whitwick, was shocked and had to be taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary. He told the jury that the road was 'very greasy', he was unable to find an independent witness.

The inquest jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". Mr Moss the coroner described it as a "Terribly sad case. This lady was standing by the side of the road when this sudden, violent death overtook her through no fault of her own".

Mrs. Deeming told the Loughborough Echo "This has come as a terrible shock. She never missed a day in all those twenty years. She always came, rain or shine, she was part of the family."

The bus shelter was owned by Quorn Parish Council, and after the accident they informed Royal Insurance that it was to be repaired, and that they would be making a claim. In September however, the clerk informed them that the damage was not repairable, and the shelter would have to be replaced. The Council then selected their previous supplier, Gregory Timber Buildings, and purchased at £63, a new Elm shelter to be installed by the local company G. Gamble & Son for £12-10s. There then developed a dispute, the Council were offered only £50 by the insurance company. So some four months later there was still no replacement shelter in place. There is no record of when or how the dispute was settled, but a new shelter was eventually installed.

