

Sunshine Advocate (Vic. : 1924 - 1954), Friday 6 October 1933, page 1

Fatal Burning Accident

In our report last week of the burning accident that befel James Henry Bunting, aged 11 years, the edition had gone to press before news was received of the boy's death, which occurred at the Children's Hospital, at 3.30 p.m. on Friday last. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon to the Footscray Cemetery, the Rev. G. R. Godbehear reading the burial service. The coffin bearers were: G. Davidson, W. and R. Batties(cousins), and C. Brabon, and the pallbearers were: Messrs. W. Trueman, J. Tribe, E. Silvey, L. James, A. Murray, H. Hands, H. M. Richards (uncle), and J. Richards (uncle). Much sympathy has been expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Bunting, who have nine other children.

At an inquest in the City Morgue, yesterday, evidence was given that with several other boys, Bunting prepared a fire in a hut and some petrol was thrown on it, which had been obtained from a tractor belonging to the contractor for sewerage works in the vicinity. It was stated that the tractor was left unattended after the deparure of the workmen. Bunting's clothes caught fire.

In recording a finding of accidental death, the Coroner (Mr. D. Grant) said it seemed probable that the petrol used was obtained from the tractor, but the evidence was not conclusive on the point and in the circumstances he did not feel justified in censoring the contractor.

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