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St. Albans house fire, 16 Winifred St

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Highway deaths, man in trial

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HIGHWAY DEATHS —

Man on Trial

For two days a criminal court jury has been hearing charges against Edward Clarence Leahy, 37, of Williamstown Road, West Footscray.

The hearing was continued today:

Leahy has pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of James Robert King, 35, of Churchill Avenue, Maidstone, and his six-year-old son, Robert James King, at Maidstone, on April 26.

It is alleged that Leahy was the driver of a car which struck King and his two sons as they were crossing Ballarat Road about 6.40 p.m.

Force of the impact was stated to have thrown the 17-month-old baby son whom King was holding through the windscreen of the car, knocked the six-year-old boy into the car and carried the father about 85 yards on the bonnet of the car.

The prosecutor (Mr. J. Leckie) said Leahy admitted in a statement that he should not have been driving as he had had too much to drink. A sample of Leahy's blood showed alcohol content equal to at least 15 glasses of beer.

Henry William Lahy, school teacher, of Welwyn Parade, Deer Park, said he saw a car approaching him which swerved on the road, and then he noticed a small boy lying on the roadway directly in front of him. He estimated the other car was travelling at about 45 m.p.h.

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Goal for driver in double road death

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Gaol For Driver In Double Road Death

A 37-year-old storeman, who was acquitted by a Criminal Court jury last week of two charges of manslaughter but was found guilty of having driven in a manner dangerous to the public, was sentenced to three months' gaol.

Mr. Justice Monahan also cancelled his driving licence and disqualified him from holding another for three years.

The storeman, Edward Clarence Leahy, of Williamstown Road, West Footscray, had been found not guilty of the manslaughter of James Robert King, 35, of Churchill Ave., Maidstone and his six-year-old son, Robert James King, at Maidstone on April 26.

The Crown alleged Leahy was the driver of a car which struck King and his two sons as they were crossing Ballarat Road.

Leahy denied in evidence that he had told police after the accident that he had had too much to drink and should not have been driving.