

## Herald (Melbourne, Vic. : 1861 - 1954), Monday 3 October 1904, page 3

## CYCLING HOME.

AFTER A SOCIAL EVENING.

YOUNG MAN'S LONELY DEATH.

## THE CORONIAL INQUIRY.

The circumstances of the sad death of the young man, James Wm. Edworthy, whose body was found lying alongside his bicycle on the Kalkrat road on Saturday morning, were inquired into by the District Coroner, Dr. Cole, at the Magpie this morning. The deceased was 27 years of age, unmarried, and lived with his parents on the Geelong road, Footscray.

The evidence tendered bore out the facts of the tragedy as reported in last Saturday's Herald. The deceased left his home at 6.30 on Friday evening, and attended a social at Dickson's Hall, Deep Park, about eight miles beyond Braybrook. He took an active part in the amusements, contributed several songs to the programme, and was generally in the best of health and spirits. At 5.30 on Saturday morning he left Dickson's Hall on his bicycle to go home, and was then, to all appearances, quite well and was sober. Before starting on the journey deceased, it was stated, had a few words with a man named Jones, but no blows were struck. At 7.30 on Saturday morning two employees of the Australian Paperboard Co., Robert McKenzie and Peter Jensen, found the deceased lying on the roadside road, about a mile out from Deep Park. He had fallen some twenty feet from a curve near by, as a result his head and, having no other means of support, the face struck and bruised him.

Coroner Thomas McKeegan, stationed at Braybrook, stated that he went to the scene indicated by the witnesses Jones and McKenzie and found the deceased lying on his back on the side of the main road. His head was supported by a rough seat of swags. His hands were crossed over his body, and there were evidences of suffocation. The neck showed very freely. There were no signs of a struggle, and no words were being about near the spot. Witnesses did not think there was anything suspicious about the case.

Dr. William Stewart, after he made a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased, he found slight abrasions on the chin and on the back of the middle finger of the left hand. There was a notable amount of about the nostrils. The face was swollen, and there was evidence of the face of suffocation and the spine was swollen. There was a quantity of mucus in the trachea, and a little blood. The windpipe was congested and showed some hemorrhage. There were no injuries about the skull. Death was due to suffocation from swelling of the spine and vomiting.

Q.—What was the cause of swelling of the spine?

A.—There was no apparent cause.

Q.—Do you remember a case of a body found in the road in Queensland? Death in that case was always wholly due to the swelling of the spine, which was attributed to the fall of an object?—Yes. It is probably a similar case.

Q.—Would the spine have been stiffened in this case to have caused death? I do not think it would have been of itself.

Q.—Was it possible the bite of an insect?—Yes. Judging by the swelling of the lip, I think it possible.

In reply to further questions, the witness stated that although the abrasions on the chin and hand may have been caused when deceased was getting off his bicycle, he thought that if he fell off the bicycle would have been more decided.

The Coroner remarked, stating that the deceased was found dead, having died from suffocation due to vomiting, and swelling of the spine. He added that there was no evidence to show how the system was occasioned.