

WOMAN KILLED

Stepped in Front of Horse

An unknown woman was knocked down and killed by a one-horse covered-in van at the corner of Russell and Bourke streets at 10.10 a.m. today.

The van, which is owned by McPherson Bros., Nicholson street, North Carlton, was being driven by William Williams, of Drummond street, North Carlton.

Witnesses of the accident told Constable Hedson that the woman stepped off the footpath in Bourke street in front of the horse, which was about to turn into Russell street. Two wheels of the van passed over the body.

The woman died at the Melbourne Hospital. She is described as follows:—

Age between 40 and 50, 5ft. 6in. high, short stout build, wearing rimless spectacles, light stockings, patent shoes, a wedding ring and a brooch.

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DEAD WOMAN IDENTIFIED

The woman who stepped in front of a horse-drawn van in the city today and was killed (reported in page 4) has been identified as Margaret Corbett, 55, Military Munition Factory, Maribyrnong.

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INQUESTS AT THE MORGUE.

Woman Knocked Down by Horse.

When she was knocked down by a horse and run over by the wheels of the vehicle to which it was attached, Mrs. Margaret Alice Corbett, aged about 50 years, of Northmead, received injuries from which she died shortly afterwards. Her death was inquired into by the city coroner (Mr. D. Berriman, F.M.) yesterday.

Kenneth John Young, fruiterer, of Nicholson street, Carlton, said:—At the corner of Russell and Bourke streets on the morning of October 25 I saw a horse and van turn at the intersection and pass along Russell street. Mrs. Corbett was walking towards Spring street, and went to pass in front of the horse. The driver shouted. Mrs. Corbett took several paces, halted, and then ran in front of the horse. She was struck by the shaft of the vehicle and the shoulder of the horse. As she fell to the ground Mrs. Corbett screamed, and the horse became startled and bolted. The two wheels of the van passed over her body. When the driver returned, his arms were cut by the reins, so great had been his effort to stop the horse.

In a statement to the police, read in Court, William Williams, of Drummond street, Carlton, the driver of the vehicle concerned in the fatality, said that he had called out, and that the woman had walked directly in front of the horse.

The coroner found that death had followed injuries received accidentally.

Death Follows Fall.

The death of William Simpson, aged 53 years, labourer, of Bridge road, Richmond, was inquired into by the city coroner (Mr. D. Berriman, F.M.) yesterday. While in Bridge road, Richmond, on the evening of October 13, Simpson was seized with a fit of coughing and suddenly collapsed, striking his head on the footpath. He was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital with a fractured skull, and though an operation was performed he died on the morning of October 21.

A finding was recorded that Simpson's death was the result of an accidental fall.

Suicide in Restaurant.

The body of Frederick Herman Staples, aged 48 years, of Harrow street, Box Hill, was found with the throat cut in a room in a restaurant in Spencer street, on October 25. The coroner (Mr. D. Berriman, F.M.) yesterday held an inquiry into the circumstances of his death.

Mrs. Evangeline Staples, of Malling road, Canterbury, said:—My husband had earned £8 a week, and there was a family of seven. He kept a racing pony, and when I last saw him he appeared to be very worried, and said that he had lost £25 on the pony. He frequently said, "I do not know what will happen to you and the children."

The coroner found that Staples died from a wound in the throat, self-inflicted.

Fall Against Stairs.

The body of Martin Alvear, known as "Martin Oliver," was found on the morning of October 25, lying at the foot of stairs at the rear of premises in Flinders street. He had been dead apparently for some hours. At an inquiry into his death, conducted by the city coroner (Mr. D. Berriman, F.M.) yesterday, evidence was given that Alvear, who was aged about 55 years, was subject to intemperance following the drinking of alcohol.

Constable Stewart, of Bourke street west, said:—On the morning of October 25 I saw Alvear lying at the foot of a stairway at the rear of No. 228 Flinders street. He had apparently been dead for a considerable time, and appeared to have fallen on to the stairs when about to ascend.

A finding of accidental death was recorded.