

The Dean Forest Mercury Friday August 20th. 1920

YELLOWSTONE POOL LITTLE BOY DROWNED DISTRESSING ACCIDENT

Mr. M. F. Carter, District Coroner, held an inquiry on Wednesday at the Police Station, Ruspidge, concerning the death of Eric Evan Embling, the six year old son of Mr. Tom Embling, engineer fitter, Ruspidge.

Mr. Ambrose Adams was chosen as foreman of the jury.

P.C. Merrett, Ruspidge, said on Monday he received information of the accident. He went to Abbotswood and found the body near Yellowstone Pool. Dr. Rigden was there trying to restore life. He afterwards examined the pool. The water, at the time, was 3 feet 4 inches deep. The pool was constructed near the lane. The measurements were 30 feet by 60 feet. There was a wire fence about 8 feet from the edge of the pool on the Abbotswood Lane side. The two strands of wire were broken. The water was within three inches of the top. The pool was built on what might have been a piece of waste ground. It was bounded on two sides by a high hedge and on the outside by a fence. There was a path leading from St. White's Farm about 50 yards away. The lane was a road used by the public and had been repaired by the District Council. The pool was on land of the Abbotswood Estate. There was no path on the east. He had understood that the pool was put there for the purpose of collecting water for Abbotswood, for the gardens. There was by all events, an overflow pipe leading towards Abbotswood House. The pool contained tadpoles, etc. He had cautioned boys a number of times about the danger of being there.

By the foreman: The fence in its present condition was not sufficient to prevent danger. In any case, there was the possibility of children getting through if the fence had been in perfectly good condition.

Sidney Mobberley, eight years of age, staying with his grandparents in Ruspidge, said he knew Eric Embling. On Monday, after dinner, he went up the pool with Eric and Freddy Hobbs to catch "evats". They put a line of string down. Eric was catching "evats" when he fell in. He and Hobbs went down to get some help. Witness had been up to the pond twice.

They got through the railings to the pond.

William Byett, also eight years of age, said on Monday he was near the pond in Abbotswood Lane. He saw three other boys. Eric Embling went round the other side of the pond. He saw a big toad, and fell head first in. He went and told someone. Witness had never been near the pond before except with his dad and mam for a walk. Eric went through the wires.

Frederick Phelps, St. John's, Cinderford, collier, said he was milking cows in a shed in the neighbourhood when his little girl brought him information of the accident. He went to the pool, but could see no one there or any sign of anyone. He saw two tins by the side of the pool and searched there. Two little boys and a man came up and they told him where to search, and he searched just there and recovered the body. He tried artificial respiration, but there was no sign of life. Dr. Rigden was fetched at once. He thought the pool was still required, as water was used from it for the greenhouses. The pool only collected surface water. There was a reservoir near the greenhouse, and he believed the water in it came from the pond.

Dr. G. F. Rigden, Cinderford, said he was summoned at 6 o'clock to go to the spot. He was there in about five minutes. The last witness was trying artificial respiration and witness continued this for 20 minutes, but the boy was dead. The cause of death was drowning. The time elapsed while the little boys were fetching someone was fatal to restoration.

The foreman asked would it be possible, to whomsoever the pool belonged, to ask them to put a proper fence to save boys getting in? Other lads might go there. A lot of children went round there during the holiday time. It was a road from Ruspidge to Littledean.

The Coroner said of course boys had no business inside the fence. They trespassed by getting through the fence and down to the pool. At the same time the jury's direction would be carried out, and he would communicate with whomsoever was the owner on the subject.

They found a verdict of "Accidently drowned".

Transcribed by Eric Nicholls

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