

The Tryon Daily Bulletin

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SETH M. VINING, Editor \$1.50 Year In the Carolinas

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Held Blameless In Youth's Death

Buddy Pack, driver of the large truck involved in an accident near Mill Spring Saturday night that resulted in the death of 14-year-old Jesse Laughter of Mill Spring, was cleared of blame at an inquest conducted at the McFarland funeral home here Sunday morning. John Arledge, former superior court clerk, conducted the inquiry in the absence of Coroner John Z. Preston.

Evidence submitted at the inquest revealed that the youth was riding on the rocking bolster of the trailer of the huge log hauling truck from Mill Spring to his home two miles west over old No. 19 highway. When a stanchion jarred from the front of the truck fell under the wheels, the bump resulting bounced the boy from his seat under the truck wheels on the opposite side.

According to statements by witnesses the truck wheels did not pass over the body, but dragged him for some distance over the rough gravel road. Several of the stones from the roadbed penetrated the youth's body causing loss of blood and shock which resulted in his death at a local hospital where he was taken following the accident.

The deceased is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pelzie Laughter of Mill Spring and two half-brothers, Jackie and Russell, both at home.

Funeral services held at the Mill Spring Baptist church Monday morning at 11 o'clock. Rev. Malcolm Ross of Tryon officiated. Interment in the church cemetery.

Landrum Child Dies Of Auto Injuries

Eight-year-old Annie Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jona Smith of Landrum, died Sunday at the hospital from injuries suffered when she was struck by an auto on highway No. 176 near Landrum early Saturday night.

An inquest into the accident was conducted at 3 p. m. Sunday at the Petty funeral home in Landrum. After hearing testimony of the driver, Ambrose Lyles, 17-year-old Landrum youth, two other occupants of the car involved in the accident, and of the child's mother the jury found the accident unavoidable.

Lyles testified that the child apparently darted into the path of the auto from the side of the highway where her mother and a sister were walking, and that he did not see her until after the car had struck her. He testified also, as did other eyewitnesses, that the car was traveling at a moderate speed, and was equipped with good lights and good brakes. Other testimony showed that Lyles stopped the car immediately and returned and rendered all aid possible in removing the child to the hospital. The examining physician, Dr. A. R. Walden of Landrum, told the jury that in his opinion the child died from a fractured skull. Both of the little girl's legs were crushed also.

Funeral services were conducted at the Petty funeral home Monday at 2:30 p. m. Burial in the cemetery of the Shiloh Baptist church two miles from Inman, S. C. Besides her parents the deceased is survived by a sister, Alice, and one brother, J. L., Jr.