

Wagga Inquest on Road Smash

behalf of the Kyeamba Shire
Council.

CONDITION of the Mangoplah road at the time was blamed by witnesses at an inquest at Wagga yesterday into a fatal accident on November 4.

The Coroner (Mr. A. J. Redman) found that James Joseph Hanrahan, 35, married, of 22 Jarick Avenue, Wagga, died from injuries received when a utility in which he was a passenger skidded and overturned 17 miles from Wagga on the Wagga-Mangoplah Road.

Mr. Redman in expressing sympathy for Hanrahan's wife and relatives said he had been a good type of man, a good tradesman and an honest builder.

With his head and shoulders encased in plaster, William Lowe, builder, of 16 Docker Street, gave evidence of his efforts as driver of the truck, to avoid a crash.

Lowe said he saw another car coming in the opposite direction, and pulled the utility to the left of the road as he approached a culvert. He felt the vehicle slip sideways, and this happened three times as he tried to regain the road proper, he said. Finally he tried to steer down a slight embankment to avoid the culvert, but the car hit a guide post and went over the wing wall of the culvert and overturned.

Road Slippery

"The road was extremely slippery, because of excessive rain," said Lowe. "The crown of the road in my opinion is unnecessarily high. It had been raining at the time."

Dr. J. F. Ziegler said Hanrahan died seven days after the accident, from multiple internal injuries.

Two other passengers in the truck also told of the smash. They were John Prendergast Gray, carpenter, of Junee Road, via Wagga, and Robert Neil Hudson, apprentice carpenter, of Uranquinty.

They said four men were in front, with Hanrahan at the left.

John Thomas Doughty, farmer, of Burrandana, said he saw the accident as he approached in his motor lorry from the opposite direction.

Police evidence was given by Constable M. L. Yates.

Sgt. G. Fairfax appeared to assist the Coroner, and Mr. E. F. Cameron, shire engineer, on behalf of the Kyeamba Shire Council.