



Crime and Punishment

Oaksey

Court Case

William Edward Jones

A motor-cyclist who was alleged to have crashed into a “stop” and “go” sign, and knocked over another “keep left” road sign where road repairs were being carried out in Manchester road, Swindon, failed to appear at Swindon Borough Police Court to-day to answer a summons of driving carelessly.

He was William Edward Jones, of Coppice Farm, Oaksey, and the Bench, after hearing the evidence against him, decided that he was guilty and adjourned the hearing for three weeks in order that Jones might appear and say anything he wished in mitigation of penalty.

William Gingell said that he was directing traffic in Manchester road, Swindon, where repairs were being done. He noticed Jones, who was riding a motorcycle with a pillion passenger, approaching. The signal was turned to “stop” against him, but Jones appeared unable to stop. He crashed into the “keep left” sign, and then into the “stop” and “go” sign, knocking it over. “I saw he couldn’t stop,” witness continued, “so I fell back into the hut out of the way.”

Corroborative evidence was given by other employees of the Corporation who were engaged in roadwork at the spot.

PC Young read a statement Jones made to him. In this, he said that he misunderstood the signal of the flagman, thinking that he meant him to go to the left of the road, but this was blocked. He then applied his brakes and the motor cycle skidded.

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William Edward Jones, Coppice road, Oaksey, was fined £2 (including costs), and had his licence suspended for one month., by the Swindon Borough magistrates, this afternoon, for driving a motorcycle carelessly in Manchester road, Swindon.

The magistrates heard the case on 12 January, but deferred imposing a penalty until to-day to allow Jones, who did not appear on that occasion to show why his licence should not be suspended.

Jones said he lived seven miles from the nearest town, and he needed his motorcycle to get to work. He had an invalid mother to keep.

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