



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## **Michelle Anne Glastonbury**

### **Ermin Street Not to Blame for Death of Girl (11)**

The nature of Ermin Street, Stratton St. Margaret, had little or nothing to do with the accident which led to the death of an 11-year-old girl, the Wiltshire Coroner. Mr. G. L. Lush said yesterday.

He was speaking at the inquest on Michelle Anne Glastonbury, of Grange Drive, Stratton St. Margaret.

She died on March 11, at Princess Margaret's Hospital, Swindon, a few days after being hit by a 300 lb. inspection plate which fell from a tanker.

The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

Mr. Lush said: "One knows there has been a good deal of comment about the road. The condition of the road at this point had little and probably nothing to do with this accident. It is very unfortunate that the plate flew off as it did. It could have come off in a thousand different places and probably caused no injury or damage at all."

Dr. R. Martre, consultant pathologist, said death was caused by cerebral lacerations.

Mr. Cyril New, of Dove Trees, Covingham, told the jury he was cycling along the street on March 8, when he saw a tanker coming towards him. The driver blew his horn, put on his brakes and came to a stop quickly, I might describe it as a juddering stop.

### **No Nuts or Bolts**

I saw two girls lying on the path. One appeared conscious and the other was not moving and I saw she had a very bad head wound. He found a steel plate on the ground about six to eight feet away.

Insp. Arthur Parsons, of Swindon, said the loose plate matched another plate on the structure above the six-ton liquid gas tank.

He discovered five bolt holes for securing the plate. There was some indication from rust, paint and other debris that nothing had been in the holes for some time. He could find no loose nuts or bolts.

### **Responsibility**

The driver of the tanker, Mr. Alan Worthington, of Manchester, said he made a thorough inspection of the vehicle and the fixture of the tank was not his responsibility.

He was driving down Ermin Street on a journey from Southampton to Manchester at about 4.45 p.m. "It was rather crowded with people and cars and lorries coming the other way, I saw three children walking towards me. They were on the pavement and one stepped on to the road and back at various intervals. I sounded my horn to let them know I was there, and touched my brakes. I heard a clattering and saw the children fall down." He did not realise until afterwards that the plate had fallen from his tanker.

**Swindon Advertiser, 6 June 1972**