

Mr Dalio Cruze

Rushworth Chronicle

9 September, 1927

CRUZE --- On September 5th, Dalio Cruze (accidently killed), the husband of Mary Jane, and father of Victor and stepfather of Theo (deceased), Herman, Mena, Alvina, Millie, Teresa and Mary. Aged 61 years.

A Sad Fatality

Man killed by falling tree

A sad fatality occurred on Monday afternoon last in the Mooroombool State Forest, whereby Mr. D. Cruze, a well-known resident of Rushworth, lost his life. Mr Cruze was employed in the forest on one of the thinning gangs and in company with Mr J. Hageman was engaged in felling a tree.

The tree had a bend in the trunk, and as it fell it turned and struck Mr. Cruze, who was knocked to the ground, the tree falling on him. He was extricated by Hageman, who then rode into Rushworth for medical aid.

Dr. MacInnes proceeded to the spot and found that Mr. Cruze had been badly hurt internally. He put him in his motor car to bring him into Rushworth, and found that the unfortunate man could not stand the jolting of the car. The Rushworth ambulance was sent for, but Mr. Cruze died before its arrival.

When the tree fell, it narrowly missed striking Mr. Hageman.

The late Mr Cruze, who was 62 years of age, was a resident of Rushworth and was very much respected, being a very generous and open-hearted man. He was born in Peru, South America. He came to Australia about 35 years ago. He had lived in Rushworth and Nagambie districts for about 33 years, being mainly engaged in the timber industry.

He married the widow of the late Martin Meyers and leaves a family of one son (Victor) by the marriage and on stepson and five stepdaughters.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, the remains being interred in the Rushworth cemetery, a large number of his fellow employees and townspeople following the remains to their last resting place. The Rev. Father Tehan conducted the burial service, the funeral arrangements being carried out by Mr. E. F. Anderson.

Rushworth Chronicle

16 September, 1927

The Moormbool Forest Fatality

The Inquest

An inquiry touching the death of Dalio Cruze, who was killed by a tree falling on him while working in the Mooroombool State forest on 5th inst., was held at the Court House on Friday last, before Mr. D. Crothers, J.P., when the following evidence was taken:--

Sergeant Clark deposed that he viewed the body at his (Cruze's) house in Wigg street, Rushworth, and identified it as that of Dalio Cruze whom he had known for about a year. He made inquiries as to the cause of death and he was quite satisfied that his death was caused by being crushed by the butt of a falling tree, and that it was purely accidental.

Calvin McInnes deposed that he was a wood-cutter residing in Murchison road, Rushworth, and was working in Moorroombool Forest on September 5th. At about 3 p.m. he was informed by Joseph Hageman that a tree had fallen on Dalio Cruze. He hurried to the spot and saw the butt of a tree on Dalio Cruze's chest, pinning him to the ground. Hageman and himself lifted the tree off him. He complained of his back and his chest being hurt. Joe Hageman then went for a doctor, and came back with Dr. MacInnes, who attended to Cruze, but he died about 4.15 p.m. the same day.

Joseph Hageman deposed that he was a wood-cutter residing at Whroo, and was working with deceased (Dalio Cruze) about three miles out from Rushworth falling trees. At about 3 p.m. they fell a tree which had a bend in the trunk. When the tree fell the butt jumped up and swung around to the side on which they were standing and struck deceased on the chest, knocking him down. Deceased said, "Lift if off me." He at once called Calvin McInnes, who was working nearby and they lifted the butt of the tree and removed the deceased and made him as comfortable as possible. He then went for a doctor and returned with Dr. MacInnes, who attended to deceased, but he died about 4.15 p.m. the same day. The ambulance then arrived and the body was taken into Rushworth.

Dr. A. F. MacInnes, Rushworth, deposed that he was called into the forest on the afternoon of the 5th inst. On reaching the spot he saw Cruze lying on the ground. He did what he could for him till he died about 4 p.m. From his condition at the time of his examination he formed the opinion that death was due to shock and cardiac failure, these conditions being secondary to and resulting from cerebral injuries and probable fracture of the base of the skull. In his opinion his injuries were such as could be caused by his being struck down by a falling tree.

Victor Herbert Cruze deposed that he was a labourer residing at Wigg street, Rushworth. The deceased Dalio Cruze was his father. He resided with witness in Wigg street, Rushworth. His father had been working in the forest for about 35 years. On the morning of the 5th inst., his father left home about 7 o'clock to go to his work. He was then in his usual state of health. The body viewed at his house was that of his father. He was 63 years of age.

A verdict was returned that deceased died from injuries received by being crushed by a falling tree, which was purely accidental.

The confusion surrounding the age of Mr. Cruze was not surprising, given his birth in Peru. The family notice, assuming it was typed accurately, might be regarded as the official age (61).