

Raymond Muhlhhan

Rushworth Chronicle

12 November, 1920

MUHLHAN. – On the 6th inst, at Rushworth, Raymond, beloved third son of E. A. Muhlhhan. Aged 13 years. “Some day we’ll understand.”

Shocking Fatality at Rushworth. LAD CRUSHED TO DEATH IN RAILWAY YARDS.

A shocking fatality, resulting in the death of a lad of 13 years of age, occurred in the Rushworth railway yards on Saturday evening last. The unfortunate victim was Raymond Muhlhhan, son of Mr and Mrs E. A. Muhlhhan, of Rushworth.

From the particulars since ascertained it appears that the deceased lad, in company with several schoolmates, visited the railway yards on Saturday afternoon last, and commenced assisting in the removal of a truck being loaded with metal from the crushing plant on Dunlop’s Hill. These trucks are loaded on the timber siding by means of a shoot into which the metal is tipped from the drays. When portion of the truck is filled it becomes necessary to move it along a little, and it was while the lads were endeavoring to move the truck that the accident happened, and from the circumstances, as stated at the inquiry, it would seem that deceased was so intent in warning one of his comrades that he failed to get clear himself and lost his life.

After vainly attempting to move the partly loaded truck with a “pinch bar,” the boys attempted to bump it with an empty truck adjoining and as this came along a lad ran in front and deceased, momentarily forgetting his own danger, called out “Look out,” just as the buffers came together. Deceased’s head was caught by the buffers and terribly crushed.

Although death was not instantaneous — respiration continuing for about an hour—a merciful Providence rendered him instantly unconscious and immune from suffering.

The shocking suddenness of this awful calamity cast quite a gloom over the district. Deceased, who was the third eldest son of Mr and Mrs Muhlhhan, was a bright and promising boy, and was generally liked throughout the district owing to his courteous and obliging disposition, and his death so early in life is generally deplored.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

A magisterial inquiry, touching the death of Raymond Muhlhhan, was held at the court house, Rushworth, on Monday morning last, before Mr H. Cattlin, J.P., when the following evidence was taken;—

Edwin Andrew Muhlhhan deposed that he was a printer residing at Rushworth. The deceased was his son, and was 13 years of age. He last saw him alive about 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, 6th inst. When he was brought home about 6 o’clock on a stretcher he was still breathing. Respiration ceased about 6.30.

James Abikhair deposed that he was a schoolboy residing at Rushworth. He remembered Saturday, 6th inst., on the afternoon of which day he was in company with deceased. After visiting various places during the afternoon they went to the railway yards to a siding where metal was being loaded into trucks. He and deceased, together with some other boys, got down on the line to try and move a truck that was being loaded with metal. After unsuccessfully trying to move the truck with a crowbar they tried to shift it by bumping

another empty truck into it. They did this and the truck rebounded, so they decided to try it again. Just as the trucks were coming together he heard deceased call out, "Look out, Waterfall."

Deceased was standing close to where the buffers of the trucks would meet and he saw him put his head round the end of the truck when he called out the warning to Waterfall. The trucks then bumped together and he next saw deceased fall back. One of the boys called out that Ray had been hurt, and he then saw that he was badly injured.

Harold Alexander Ellison deposed that he was a laborer residing at Rushworth. On the 6th inst. he was engaged at the railway yards tipping drays of metal into trucks. Ray Muhlan, James Abikhair and several other boys came along when the drays were being tipped and they got down on the line and endeavored to move the truck that was being loaded into a better position. He (witness) was in the truck spreading the metal, and as the boys could not move the truck they bumped an empty truck into it.

He did not actually see the accident, but he heard deceased call out, "Look out. Waterfall." When the trucks collided the second time the boys called out that Ray Muhlan was hurt. He jumped down and saw deceased lying between the bank and the rails.

W. B. Utber deposed that he was a medical practitioner residing at Rushworth. At about 5.15 on Saturday, 6th inst., he was called to see a boy who was lying on the railway line at the Rushworth station. He saw a lad about 13 years of age lying on his back with the right side of his head against the southernmost rail. There were signs of his head being crushed. He was breathing, but unconscious, and, seeing that he was beyond medical aid and nothing needed to be done in the way of relief from pain, he at once brought Constable Theobald to the place of the accident and suggested that they should get the lad conveyed home. He (witness) informed the lad's father of the accident. The injuries were sufficient to cause death.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

THE FUNERAL.

The remains were interred on Monday afternoon, the cortege being a particularly lengthy one. The route was lined by numbers of deceased's schoolmates, each of whom carried a posy of flowers.

The body was carried by members of the Junior Order of Rechabites, of which order deceased was Chief Ruler at the time of his death, while other members led the procession. The wreaths were many and beautiful, including several from his schoolmates and teachers and a bunch of everlasting flowers picked by scholars of the Gobarup school.

The service at the graveside was read by the Rev. G. Nelson (Anglican), while the impressive Rechabite service was read by Bro. G. F. Hawking. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr E. F. Anderson.