

## IN THE COURTS

# Thought

## dead man was asleep

**C**HILDHOOD friend of a man found dead at Town Beach thought he was asleep until she tried to waken him.

The woman, Edith Ellen Harper, widow, of Andergrove, said this at an inquest yesterday into the death of Edward Farrington (53), waterside worker, on February 8.

The Coroner (Mr. J. C. Baker, S.M.) found Farrington had died from toxic myocarditis and hepatitis, chronic alcoholism, and coronary arteriosclerosis. There were no suspicious circumstances.

Sergeant N. L. Reeves assisted at the inquest.

Gustav Nicholas Aalto (62), watersider, of Town Beach, said in evidence he had known Farrington since 1924.

1924.

## Camped alone

Farrington had been camped by himself at Town Beach, and had his meals with a man called Charlie Morris. "I saw the deceased on Sunday, February 8, about 7 a.m. He was at Morris's place. He was not sober and was not real drunk. I did not see him alive after that," said Aalto.

"About 2 p.m. Edie Harper came to my hut and asked me to come and have a look at Ned Farrington. She said he looked to be dead."

Aalto said he had found Farrington's body lying alongside a track connecting the two camps, about 25ft. from Morris's hut. "I lifted his arm and found it a little stiff. It was not cold. It was not as warm as it should have been.

"I thought he was dead. I rode my bicycle to the police station and told the police." In his opinion there were no suspicious circumstances, said Aalto.

Edith Ellen Harper said in evidence she and Farrington had been children together 50 years ago. So far as she knew he had been born in Mackay and was single.

At daybreak on the Sun-

At daybreak on the Sunday she had walked from Andergrove to Town Beach and had a cup of tea with her brother, Fred Cox, who lived at the Salvation Army hall. She had then gone to Mr. Aalto's hut because she had wanted to buy some spectacles from him.

### **Hand stiff**

Aalto had not been home. While she waited she had seen a man whom she thought to be asleep. "When

I walked over I saw it was Edward Farrington. I touched him to wake him and his hand was stiff. I came to the conclusion he was dead."

Aalto and another man, Albert Eklund, had returned and she had called to them, said Mrs. Harper. "After I saw the body I sat at Aalto's hut. I do not know how long I was sitting there or what time it was when I first saw the body."

Senior Constable Robert Matheson said in evidence a post-mortem examination had shown the causes of Farrington's death. He had interviewed Aalto, Harper, Morris and Eklund. "I formed the opinion Farrington had collapsed while returning to his shack and had

turning to his shack and had lain dead beside the track until he was found by Mrs. Harper," he said.

His inquiries had revealed no sign of violence or foul play. He was satisfied there were no suspicious circumstances. He had known Farrington for some years and knew he had been addicted to liquor, particularly methylated spirits. Some time had elapsed before the matter had been reported to the police.

"In my opinion Mrs. Harper was incapable of remembering details. Her brother, Fred Cox, informed me she was subject to fits of forgetfulness," added Constable Matheson.

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