

## Another Cowbridge lorry crash



The scene after the lorry crashed into Mrs. Tilley's front room in Cowbridge.

# Uninvited 'visitor' in ex-mayor's parlour

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# A BRITISH Road Services lorry ploughed into the home of an ex-Mayor of Cowbridge, Ald. Mrs. Gwen Tilley, in the town's main street today. The accident was the fourth in the town since Friday, September 13, involving heavy lorries.

In today's accident the lorry laden with shoes ended up in Mrs. Tilley's front room after colliding with a double-decker Western Welsh bus.

Only five minutes before the lorry smashed into the front room, wrecking part of the main structure, Mrs. Tilley had left her home to go to her draper's shop 100 yards away.

*Slipping coffee and still shaken, Mrs. Tilley told a South Wales Echo reporter: "Normally I would have been in the front room. I must be the luckiest person alive."*

## Passengers unhurt

She added: "Although I do not know the cause of this crash for the past few years I have been campaigning that the Ministry of Transport should erect signs warning lorry drivers of the dangers in the town.

"It should be made compulsory that lorry drivers should change into low gear."

The lorry driver, Mr. Paul Lucas, aged 21, of Waverley Gardens, Melksham, Wilts., was taken to Bridgend Hospital suffering from shock and slight injuries.

The bus driver, Mr. Lawrence Davies, of Maesteg, escaped injury. Eight passengers on the bus were unhurt.

The latest accident occurred in the west end of the town opposite the local police station in Westgate Street, some distance away from the recent spate of crashes.

## Road blocked

Mrs. Tilley, who was mayor last year and in 1943-44, was told of the accident by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Joyce Tilley, who lives in High Street.

The road was blocked for an hour and a half and only single line traffic was allowed through the town.

Traffic queues stretched two miles on either side of the town and drivers switched off

Mrs. Edith Morgan, of Westgate Street, said: "It is becoming very frightening. It makes you think twice about living in the main street.

## Oil leak

"It was bad enough with the accidents at the other end of the town. Now it looks as though it is starting this end. But let's hope not," she said.

"Whatever was the cause of this accident I think it is very necessary that lorry drivers should be warned to change gears on coming into the town."

Another resident said: "Something should be done."

Minutes after the accident Cowbridge firemen were on the scene, led by Sub-officer John Roberts they cleared the road of debris including glass and a considerable amount of diesel oil which leaked out after the fuel tank of the bus was punctured.

Sand from a passing lorry was used to cover the road to soak up the oil.

Said Sub-officer Roberts: "Traffic was just chaotic. Hundreds of vehicles were forced to a standstill."



ALD. MRS. TILLEY  
"Lucky to be alive"

their engines and had early morning chats with one another.

The latest accident has frightened the local people. Today they were demanding "immediate action" in an attempt to stop further accidents in the main street.

## 'It's not safe'

Said Mr. Richard Jones, aged 69, of High Street: "This latest accident is in a spot where we are not used to having crashes.

"It is not safe to cross the road. Fortunately there was no one crossing the road or on the pavement at the time of the accident."

# Crash-town mayor calls for action to cut toll

## DEMAND FOR SPEED BAN ON LORRIES

**I**MEDIATE measures to cut down the Cowbridge road accident toll were demanded yesterday by the mayor, Alderman Edward John, after the fifth accident in a month demolished the front wall of a house. Borough councillors are to meet Ministry of Transport officials next Wednesday to discuss the problem.

"We know that the Ministry of Transport are doing all they can to build the by-pass as quickly as possible," Mr. John said after visiting the scene of the latest crash in Westgate Street.

"But we want something that can be introduced immediately. I have in mind something like a 30 m.p.h. speed limit for heavy vehicles approaching the town—and if necessary greater supervision to see that such a restriction is enforced."

The latest of a series of accidents that have brought death and destruction to Cowbridge came just after midday yesterday when a car travelling from Bridgend skidded across the street and demolished a garden wall.

A burst tyre is believed to have caused the accident.

### M.P. protests

The driver, Mr. Derek Powell, aged 41, of Highways, Cowbridge, was uninjured, but his car was severely damaged.

Mr. Donald Box, M.P. for Cardiff North, has written to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Ernest Marples, about the series of lorry crashes in South Wales.

The new legislation regulating heavy road traffic, which the ministry has indicated is on the way, "is clearly becoming urgent," he said.

Mr. John Roberts, a sub-fire

officer in the Glamorgan fire service at Cowbridge, and a member of the council, has been on the scene of all five accidents within minutes of their happening.

He said yesterday, "The spate of accidents has worried many of the older residents of Cowbridge. Several have complained to me that they are too nervous to walk, even, on the pavements, after dark."

The list of serious road accidents at Cowbridge within the last month now reads:

September 13: Runaway lorry hit a car at Eastgate traffic lights, killing the car driver and smashing the garden walls of several houses.

September 16: Runaway lorry collided with a house at almost the same spot.

September 20: Runaway lorry hit a house on the other side of the road.

October 15: Runaway lorry collided with a bus and crashed into the front room of a house owned by former mayor Alderman Mrs. Gwenllian Tilley. The driver was slightly injured.

October 16: Car skidded across Westgate Street and demolished garden wall.

WESTERN MAIL, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1963



Alderman Edward John (right) points to the damage caused by the latest crash bridge.

# WORK PLOUGHS INTO FRONT OF A HOUSE

OBSERVER, LEADER & FREE PRESS

Saturday, October 19, 1963

**YET** another heavily laden lorry, the fourth to crash in Cowbridge during the past few weeks, ploughed into the front of a house in Westgate on Tuesday, smashing in the bay window and knocking a large hole in the front wall of the house.

The accident occurred opposite the Cowbridge Police Station, and it is understood that before crashing into the wall, the lorry came into collision with a Western Welsh service bus.

The house is the home of A.D. Mrs Gwenllan Tilley twice Mayor of Cowbridge, and the first woman ever to hold the office and indeed the first woman to be elected to the Council.

## SHOCKED

Mrs Tilley, who is the proprietress of a Cowbridge drapers shop, had left the house a few minutes before the accident occurred, to go to her place of business.

It was Mrs Tilley's daughter-in-law, Mrs Joyce Tilley, who is the proprietress of the Milk Bar, near the Town Hall, broke the news of the crash to her mother, who was shocked by it.

For many years Mrs Tilley has been an active campaigner to have the Ministry of Transport to improve the road through Cowbridge and erect warning signs on the hill on either side of the town.

When our staff reporter arrived at the scene a few minutes after the crash occurred he found that a one-way traffic system had already been instituted by the police led by Inspector Frederick Bevan, and mobile police led by Chief Inspector Robinson of the Mobile department.

## WEDGED FIRMLY

Officials of the Western Welsh Co. moved the bus into the Police Station yard, and then officers were made to remove the lorry, which had wedged itself firmly in the hole it had made in the wall. A passing army lorry carrying troops was used to try to pull the lorry out of the hole, but it was too firmly wedged, and it was not until about 10 volunteers manned the sides of

When the bus was moved it was found that there was a large pool of oil on the roadway, and police stopped a passing lorry loaded with sand and used part of the load to dry up the oil.

The Cowbridge Fire Brigade, which had been standing by, then cleaned up the road surface.

One of the worries of the police was that they did not know the extent of the damage to the house, for it was possible

that when the lorry—which was supporting the wall of the house on its cab roof—was pulled away, that part of the wall might also come down. This did not happen.

The driver of the lorry 21-year-old Paul Lucas, of Wiltshire, was taken to the Bridgend General Hospital, suffering from shock and minor injuries.

## FIFTH ACCIDENT

Cowbridge's fifth road accident in a month demolished the front wall of a house on Wednesday. The latest in a series of accidents that have brought destruction to the town came just after midday, when a car travelling from Bridgend skidded across the street and smashed into a garden wall. A burst tyre is believed to have caused the accident.

The driver, Mr Derek Powell, aged 41, of Highways, Cowbridge, escaped unhurt, but his car was severely damaged.

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"But we want something that can be introduced immediately. I have in mind something like a 20 m.p.h. speed limit for heavy vehicles approaching the town—and if necessary greater supervision to see that such a restriction is enforced."

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