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## SUDDEN DEATH OF COWBRIDGE RURAL COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN

### Great Loss To The Vale

**M**EMBERS of the Cowbridge Rural District Council stood in silence when they met on Wednesday evening as a mark of respect to the memory of Coun. Owen Phillips, Chairman of the Council, who passed away suddenly at his home, 'The Cairns,' Llanblethian, near Cowbridge, earlier in the day, at the age of 57.

Coun. Phillips, who was well known and respected throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, took a great interest in public life. Headmaster of the Maendy School, Cowbridge, he was concerned with the welfare of the younger children of the district, being a member of the committee of the Cowbridge Institute and also the Youth Committee of the Cowbridge Y.M.C.A. Youth Club. He was also chairman of the joint Cowbridge Borough and Cowbridge Rural Committee. He took a keen interest in road safety and was always doing his utmost to increase safety conditions for schoolchildren on the road.

#### FREEMASON AND SPECIAL CONSTABLE

Coun. Phillips was elected to the Cowbridge Rural Council in April, 1946, and after acting as vice-chairman of the Council last year was elected to the chairmanship in May of this year.

He was a Freemason, being a Past Master of the Llantrisant Lodge, and also a special constable, and on the Tuesday night attended a lecture for special constables, given at the Cowbridge police station.

On Wednesday morning he failed to attend school. When members of the staff could get no answer when they phoned the house, where he was alone (Mrs Phillips was away attending a conference), they knew something was wrong.

During the lunch hour one of the masters visited Coun. Phillips' house, and on failing to get a reply, contacted one of the neighbours, Mr Busby, who, obtaining a ladder, looked through the window and saw Coun. Phillips lying in bed.

Police later entered the premises and found that Coun. Phillips was dead.

#### NUMEROUS TRIBUTES

During the meeting of the Council tributes were paid to his memory by various councillors, including the vice-chairman, Coun. Holford Morgan, who said that Coun. Phillips was in the Council Offices as late as 8 p.m. the previous even-



Coun. Owen Phillips

ing. "He has been a member of the Council for seven years, and I think I am correct in saying he was a very energetic member. It is doubtful whether any member of the Council has missed less meetings than he had Coun. Phillips spent more time looking after other people than himself." Coun. Morgan then proposed that the meeting should stand adjourned.

Coun. David Rees seconded the proposition, adding his tribute, as did Coun. James Brown, Coun. L. G. Grey, Coun. T. J. Hughes, Coun. G. Loughor and the Clerk of the Council, Mr V. S. Gwyn.

It was decided to send a wreath from the members of the Council.

Coun. Phillips is survived by his wife.

#### THEFT OF MONEY ADMITTED

Said to have entered his managing director's office by forcing a hole in the ceiling Arthur James Daves, aged 26, storekeeper, Caergwernian, Tonyrefail, was placed on probation for two years at the Glamorgan Quarter Sessions in Swansea on Tuesday. He pleaded guilty to breaking into his employer's premises and stealing £16.