PINCHEN, Robert Cyril 1 January 1929

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Fettler	9 Mile Kurrawang Woodline	Fall from PW Trolley

Robert Pinchen, a Fettler, received fatal head injuries when the motorised trolley he and others were riding derailed throwing all the occupants onto the ground. The accident occurred at the 9 mile peg on the Kurrawang woodline. Robert, who was also known as Robert Lewis lived at Kurrawang and had no relatives in WA. The Coroner found that his death was accidental. ©MM 2019

Kurrawang Line Fatality.
Mr. E. Mc Ginn, Acting Coroner, opened an inquest in the Kalgoorlie Court Wednesday last into the death of Robert Cyril Pinchen, who died on Tuesday as a result of injuries he received when a trolley on which he was riding on the Kurrawang woodline became derailed. Alexander Theodore Tenn, an oxy-acetylene welder employed at Kurrawang, gave evidence of identification. The deceased was known, as Robert Lewis at Kurrawang. He had no relatives in Western Australia. The inquest was adjourned sine die.

Source: Trove/Kalgoorlie Western Argus Tuesday 8 January 1929 Page 3

KURRAWANG FATALITY. CORONER'S INQUIRY. ACCIDENTAL DEATH.
Mr. E. McGinn, acting Coroner, concluded his inquiry in the Kalgoorlie Courthouse yesterday afternoon into the circumstances surrounding the death of Robert Cyril Pinchen, who received fatal injuries when a motor quad became derailed at the 9 mile on the Kurrawang woodline on, January 1. Sergeant Tormey elicited the evidence on behalf of the police.

Thomas Andrews, a fettler stated that at 11 a.m. on January 1 he left Kurrawang woodline on a motor quad. Pinchen, Ted Smith and Bob Grupp were with him. There were two quads. The deceased and me were on one quad and Smith and Grupp on the other. The quads were connected with a, chain. Both were worked with their own power. Witness' quad was, behind. On the way out to the 14 mile he noticed that the road was bad in places, but the line was clear. The ballast had been washed away in places. They arrived at the 14 mile about 11.45 a.m. They left for Kurrawang about 1.50 p.m. His quad was behind on the way back. They were travelling about 20 miles an hour. It was arranged with Smith, the driver of the first quad, that he would put out his hand to go slow. That was because the road was not too good in places. When they were 9 miles from Kurrawang Smith put his hand out and witness shut his engine off. After shutting the engine off they travelled 50 or 60 yards, when all of a sudden the witness felt himself leaving the quad. He was thrown off on the right hand side. He did not know what became of the deceased. The quad was in good running order. He did not know how the accident happened. After wet weather quads always travel in pairs on the woodline. The quad remained on the line. The track was pretty level where the accident happened. They were just going on to a curve at the time. Smith put his hand out to steady the quad as they were approaching the curve. The line was in good repair at the scene of the accident.

Dr. Thomas Patrick Byrne stated that he was called to the Government Hospital about 4.30 p.m. on New Year's Day. He saw a man who they told him was Lewis. He examined him and found a large wound on the head, extending from the front across and backwards. It was eight or nine inches long. He could see a fracture of the skull, and brain substance protruding through the wound. The little finger of the left hand was dislocated. There were minor abrasions on the left leg and thigh. ! The deceased died about an hour or an hour and a half after witness first saw him. The cause of death was a fracture of the skull and laceration of the brain.

Edward Arthur Smith, a ganger on the Kurrawang woodline, also gave evidence. He stated that on the return journey a man named McKenzie was on the front quad with witness and Grupp. Witness had examined the line the previous evening, and found that some of it had been damaged as a result of the

storm. The object of the trip on New Year's Day was a further re-examination of the line as well as to take out provisions and bring in any isolated passengers. Before starting it was arranged that witness should signal when approaching any bad road. When approaching the 9 mile he put out his hand to signal bad road. He shut off his engine and Andrews shut off his engine. Just as they were arriving at the curve he felt a snap, which was caused by the chain breaking. He looked around and saw the second quad standing up on its end. It had left the line. Pinchen was thrown straight out onto the rails. Andrews was thrown off on the left side. Andrews was stunned. Pinchen was badly injured. There was nothing wrong with the road. The quad was badly smashed. He had no idea of what of the quad was in good order. The woodwork was smashed. Witness took the injured man to Kurrawang, from where he was taken by other men to the hospital in a motor car. Some of the undercarriage might have dropped and caused the accident.

Constable Alexander James Goldie stated that on the morning of January 2, he went to the 9 mile on the Kurrawang woodline with Smith on the quad he was driving at the time of the accident. He found a motor quad off the line, the wood work was badly smashed and parts of the undercarriage damaged. There was no obstruction on the road. He could see no signs of anything having been on the road. About six feet in front of the quad there was a blood stain on the rail. There was another blood stain where he was informed the deceased was picked up. The line was in a fair state of repair at the place there was a very slight curve. Witness went to the 14-mile and on the return to Kurrawang he got Smith to drive the motor quad at its greatest pace, about 20 miles an hour, approaching the 9 mile. He got him to switch the engine off approaching the curve. Witness found that in 50 yards the speed was reduced to below 10 miles an hour. He considered the line was safe at the scene of the accident.

Mr. Mc Ginn found that the deceased died at the Kalgoorlie Government Hospital as a result of injuries, a fractured skull and lacerations of the brain, accidentally received by being thrown off a quad at the 9 mile on the Kurrawang woodline.

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