

PROVIDED BY
WAITAKERE LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICES
LOCAL HISTORY &
REFERENCE SERVICES

17 23.11.67

SIGNS NOT SUFFICIENT

Measures to keep children out of a New Lynn clay pit where a 10-year-old boy was buried in a fall had been completely ineffectual, the Auckland coroner, Mr A. D. Copeland, said yesterday.

He was concluding an inquest into the death of John Raymond McNeil.

Alan Leo Foulkes, aged 11, said that on the afternoon of September 23 he and John McNeil and John's younger brother, Alan, had entered the quarry of Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Co., Ltd, from Margan Ave.

They had slid down a clay slope for a while and then they climbed up to where the accident happened. He and John took the sign off a pole which was lying on the clay. It mentioned something about trespassers.

He said he had been sitting on a ledge throwing stones at the sign and John was coming down toward him when the cliff fell away.

Leonard Norman Dormer, security officer for Amalgamated Brick, said that while patrolling the clay pit between noon and 3 p.m. on the day of the accident he had chased eight children from the area.

Under cross-examination from Mr H. Fulton, who appeared for Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Co., Ltd, Mr Dormer said signs had been put up to dissuade people from entering the quarry.

They were placed at each entrance and 300 yards apart around the boundary of the 56-acre property.

Constable Murray James Cannons, of New Lynn, said it had been a wonder no one else had been killed in the quarry.

He said that, as safety precautions, the security officer and signs warning of the danger to children had been inadequate.

Mr Fulton asked Constable Cannons if he had had any experience with quarries on

which to base his statements. Constable Cannons said that his opinion had been based on his training as a policeman to protect life and property.

Herbert Eric Rowe, inspector of mines and quarries, said the quarry manager had carried out his statutory safety obligations conscientiously.

He considered that the company had adopted reasonable measures to prevent unauthorised entry into the area.

Mr Copeland said the quarry had been established when the area had been open country. Now it was surrounded by homes.

He found that the safety precautions had been completely ineffectual and said that if further tragedies were to be avoided a fence would have to be put up.

He referred the matter back to the authorities for action.

He found the death of the boy had been due to asphyxia.

NZ Herald

New Lynn - Businesses - Amalgamated Brick & Pipe Co.