The Herald

5c Interstate 4c

63-0211 MELBOURNE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1966 32 PAGES

HOME EDITION

490,710 daily sales

Car rally winner hinges on word

"COURT" SETTLES IT

Eight weeks of argument over which car — a Holden or a Ford — won this year's Rally of South Eastern Australia has been settled in the Holden's favor.

The Holden, entered in the event by S. A. Cheney Pty. Ltd., a Melbourne Holden distributor, and driven by GMH employes **Tony Roberts** and **Peter Haas**, was originally placed second.

This was after the car had been penalised 10 points for CORRECTLY spelling "Innisfail," the name of a cattle grazing property three miles south of Wangaratta.

The Holden's 10-point penalty originally gave a two-point winning margin to a Ford Cortina GT.

The Ford was entered privately in the rally by **Bob Forsyth**, a production engineer at the Ford Motor Company, and **Bruce Woodfull**, an East Malvern garage proprietor.

In answer to a compulsory question Forsyth and Woodfull gave the property's name as "Innesvail" — the name actually painted on the gate of the property.

PROTEST

The 2000 mile rally, the biggest and most important in Australia and the only motor sport event in this country listed on the International Motor Sport Calendar, was held from May 3 to 8.

Immediately after the trial directors declared the Ford Cortina the winner, the Holden team protested to the stewards.

- The stewards upheld the Holden protest, ruled that either spelling of the property's name was acceptable, and declared the Holden the winner.
- Next, the Ford team re-appealed to the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport — the controlling body of motor sport in Australia — and was re-instated as the winner.

The argument was finally settled on Monday night, when the rarely-convened Australian Motor Sport Appeal Court sat in a large room in a St. Kilda motel.

This is the highest court of appeal for motor sport in Australia.

Three of the court's independent panel of six members heard the argument.

They are: **Mr N. E. Burbank**, QC, chairman; **Mr J. A. Denniston**, deputy chairman, and **Mr H. Mardling**.

Innisfail, so Ford fails . . .

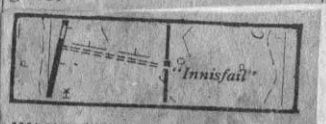
KEY WITNESS

The Holden team's solicitor, Malleson Stewart and Co., briefed Melbourne barrister **Mr Daryl Dawson** to state its case.

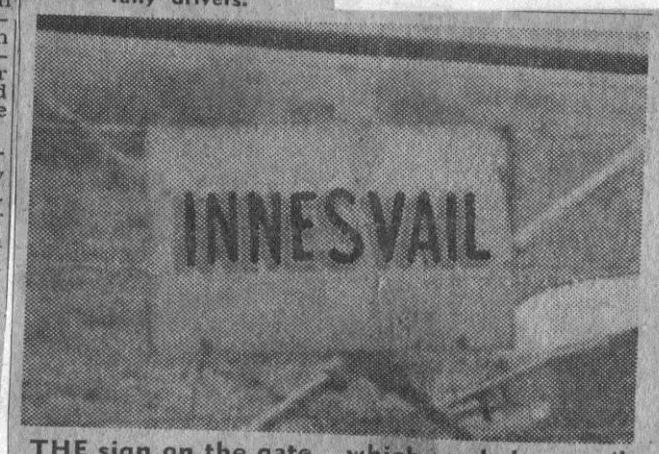
The Ford team had another barrister, **Mr Neil McPhee**.

Key witness was **Mr W. A. Hickmott**, who owned the controversially-spelled Wangaratta property until two years ago.

He said a friend of his decided one week-end to paint a nameplate to hang on the property's front gate.



"INNISFAIL" on an Army survey map used by the rally drivers.



THE sign on the gate, which reads Innesvail.

Cont. from Page 1

Car rally upset

"When he finished the sign, I noticed he had misspelt the name 'Innesvail.' But I told him it didn't matter and to hang up the sign anyway," Mr Hickmott said.

Rally competitors told the court that one of the written questions they had to answer during the trial was, "What is the name of the property on the east side of the Wangaratta to Greta road 1.1 miles north of the junction with the Tagoora road?"

The Holden team said they were using an Army survey map (permitted by the regulations) for navigation and picked up the name of the property, correctly spelt "Innisfail" from the map.

The Ford team stopped at the gate and wrote down the wrongly-spelt "Innesvail."

"NOT WRONG"

Mr Burbank, awarding the rally to the Holden, said that as no source for the required answer was specified in the question, it was not wrong for the Holden team to have taken the name from the map rather than from the gate — the more usual trials' practice.

For winning the rally, which is sponsored by an oil company, the Holden team wins a first prize of $750.

But the ultimate prize for the manufacturer of the winning car is far greater.

Success in this event, the toughest in Australia since Round Australia trials finished, is always widely advertised by the winning car's maker as proof of its reliability and sporting ability.

CAPITALS' NOON