

New overbridge not first

New Plymouth's proposed overbridge across Carrington St is nothing new for the area.

In 1875 a wooden viaduct was opened to carry rail traffic across the Carrington St gully from Vivian St to Leach St.

New Plymouth's original railway ran up Brougham St, turning east at Vivian St to cross Carrington St south of the present city council buildings.

The line ran along Leach St joining up with the present railway line at Waiwaka Tce. But it ran for only 11 years.

During those years, the cross town railway claimed two lives — those of Mr E.

P. Smith, MP, and a Major Brown.

"Major Brown walked into a locomotive without seeing it," New Plymouth's former town clerk, Mr H. N. Johnston, recalls.

"It was a nasty accident," The railway line was moved to its present route in 1906, and in 1909 the viaduct was demolished.

"The city council negotiated to buy the land for a public walkway between Powderham St and Vivian St," Mr Johnston said.

"But we were unsuccessful and the land was sold privately and built on.

Abutments of the old bridge can be seen in the reserve on the banks of the Huatoki Stream and near the council building.

Solid totara beams were stored in the city council's works yard. Some were used for a footbridge across the Huatoki Stream at Vogeltown. Other beams were sold to carvers or used in construction works.

Carrington St's new overbridge is expected to open early in 1977.

Tenders for the foundations and piling work have been called and should be let at the city council's next meeting on April 22.

The link's estimated cost is \$665,000. When completed it will reduce cross-town traffic congestion on other routes through the city centre.

ARA LEVY UP BY 41 P.C.

AUCKLAND, Today (NZPA). — Levies paid by local bodies to Auckland Regional Authority will jump by 4 per cent under 1975-76 estimates approved yesterday.

Last year the levy was \$10.2m. This year it will be \$14.2 million, most of the increase being an increase in public transport service costs.

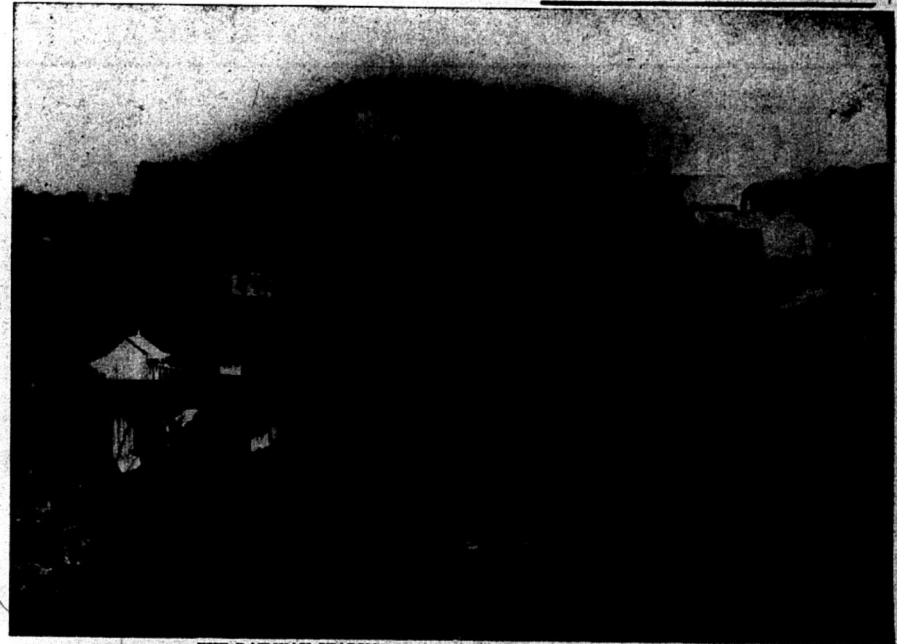
The levy on transport last year was \$3.8m and this it is up to \$6.4m.

The director of finance, Mr D. MacLean, said that without the transport increase the levy for all other departments had been restricted to a rise of 19 per cent, which was forecast in last year's five-year financial programme.

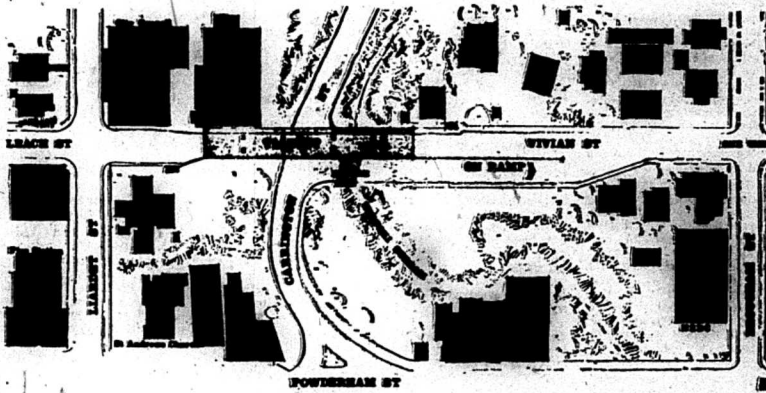
The \$6.4m for transport takes into account a proposed fare increase. He said certain assumptions were used in preparing the estimates and they were based on the projections that the rate of in-

ONUS ON PARENTS

Parents had far more responsibility for their children under the Children and Young Person's Act, the director of New Plymouth branch of the Social Wel-



THE RAILWAY VIADUCT across Carrington St in the early 1900s.

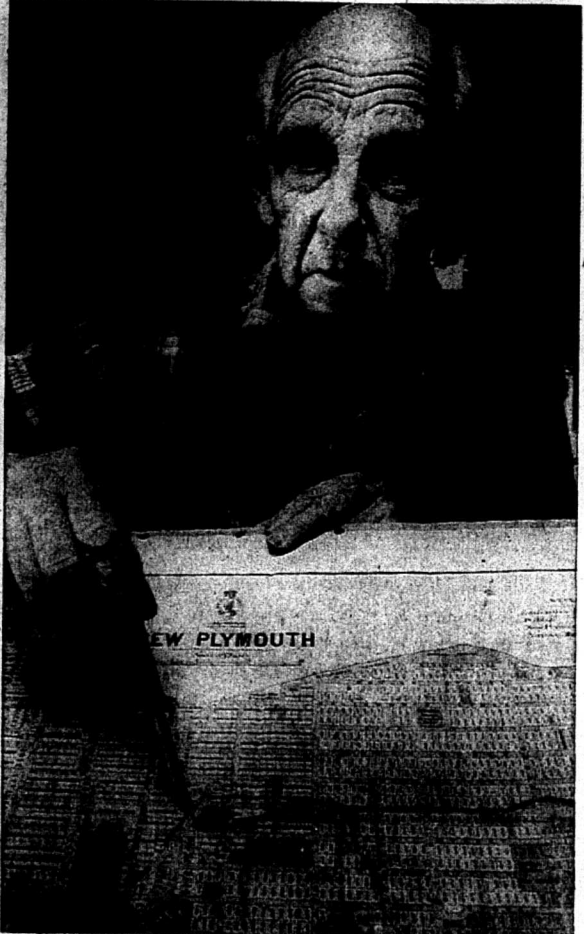


THOUGHT HE COULD FLY

CHRISTCHURCH, Today (NZPA). — After taking 15 seconds, a man jumped from a balcony, thinking he could fly, and suffered severe head injuries, the Christchurch Magistrate's Court was told yesterday.

Before Mr E. S. J. Crutchley, SM, was another man, aged 23, who pleaded guilty to a charge of giving a narcotic, hypodermic, to the man injured, when he was not licensed to do so.

The defendant, whose name was suppressed, was convicted



COLLECTOR OF CURIOS from New Plymouth's past, former post office employee, Mr H. D. Mullon, has this map of the old railway route across New Plymouth. Mr Mullon points to where the line crosses Carrington Rd.