

ROTARY CLUB FOUNDER DIES IN HOSPITAL

DEATH OF MR A. M. PURSER

One of the original founders of the New Plymouth Rotary Club, Mr. Albert Musgrove Purser, died at the New Plymouth hospital this morning. He was 67. Only two foundation members of the club now remain alive.

A well-known business personality in New Plymouth since 1921, when he opened his furnishing shop in Devon Street, Mr. Purser had over the past five years been gradually retiring from the business, leaving the management in the hands of a son, Mr. H. Purser. For the past few years his health had not been the best.

At the time of his death, Mr. Purser was still a member of the Rotary Club of which he was a past president. He was for many years associated with the club's work for the blind in the New Plymouth district. He was also a member of the Taranaki Club where he was noted for the excellent game of billiards he played.

A keen fisherman, he fished often around the coast of Taranaki where he caught many schnapper, and travelled many times to the Bay of Islands and particularly to Mayor Island, Tauranga, in pursuit of the thrills of big game fishing.

Born at Blenheim, Mr. Purser received his education there, later going to Wanganui where he developed a keen interest in rowing. He belonged to the Aramohe rowing club and was twice stroke for the New Zealand championship rowing four.

Just prior to the First World War, he married Miss E. Richards at Christchurch.

In 1921 Mr. Purser came to New Plymouth and bought out the old Red Post Furnishing Co. A cabinet maker himself, Mr. Purser served his time in the furnishing trade with which he was connected from his school days.

Mr. Purser is survived by his wife, two sons, Doug (Whangarei) and Howard (New Plymouth) and two daughters Peggy (Mrs. Thurston, Christchurch) and June (Mrs. McCorkindale, New Plymouth.) There were seven grandchildren.