



Central Fire Station as it appears today on corner of Liardet and Courtenay Streets.

## FIRE BRIGADE ANNIVERSARY : How Old Is It?

Here is a question many people are still asking, which well they might, for the brigade seemed to grow several years older with each passing day. It was first announced that the New Plymouth Fire Brigade was to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1883. Within a few days it became 12 years older: 87. Not satisfied with the rapidly increasing maturity, researchers revealed that the brigade was founded at a public meeting on November 26, 1866; age now 91½.

Picture below shows Fire Engine House in 1886, at the ripe old age of 20. Fire House was then situated near the present site of the Royal Hotel.





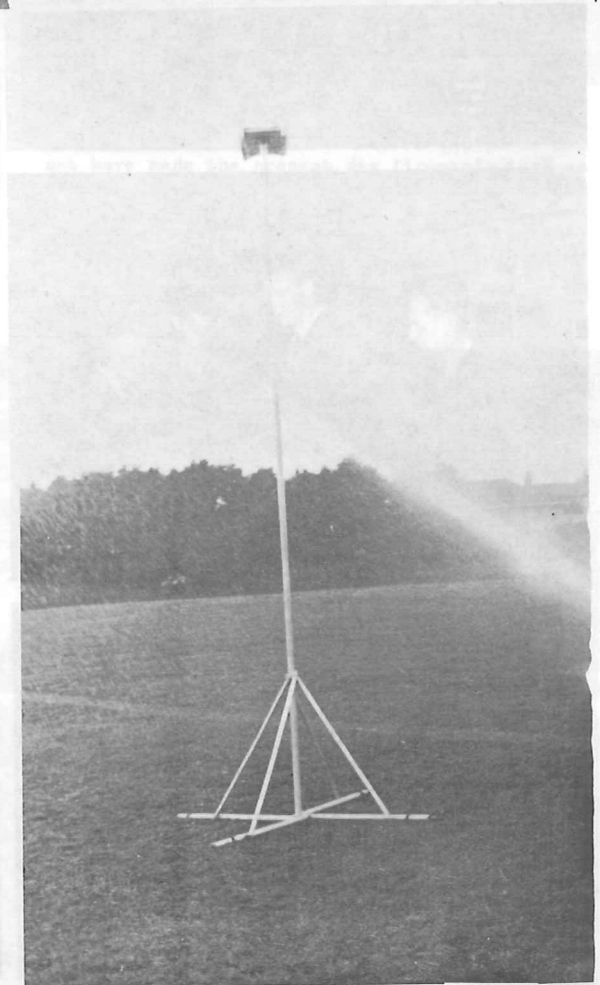
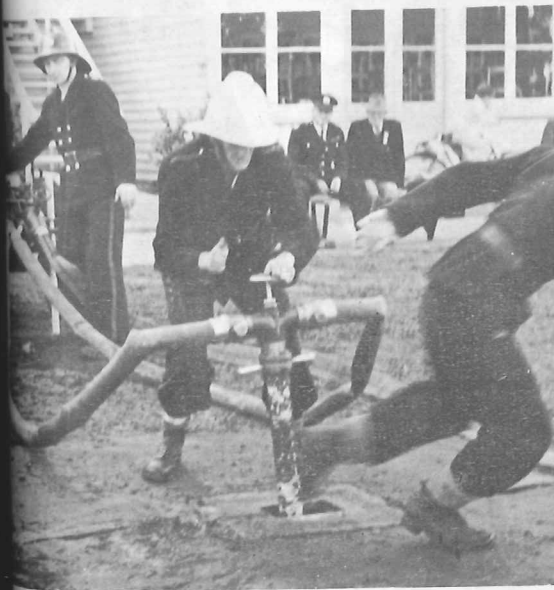
Run in conjunction with New Plymouth Fire Brigade's anniversary, the Taranaki District Junior Fire Brigade Championships were held in the grounds of Highlands Intermediate School.

Above: Firemen around Inglewood Brigade's pump tender, prepare for next event.

Below left: Racing off to start a pump event, which concluded the day's competitions.

Below right: Powerful jet from hose swings in to remove tin on top of pole, the target for such events.

**WARNING:** Don't place yourself in front of a playing fire hose: "Photo Newsmen" was almost drowned taking this picture!





A social evening marking the 75th, 87th, 91st (or even older) anniversary of the New Plymouth Fire Brigade, was held in the Old Folks Hall on the evening following the junior championships. The occasion was also an opportunity for district firemen to congratulate Deputy Chief Fire Officer D.S. Butcher, of Stratford Brigade, on his recent election as president of the United Fire Brigades' Association (pictured left).

Below: Mr. Butcher presents Morton Shield and cups to his own winning Stratford team.

Bottom of page: Chief Fire Officer C.H. Carey, Patea Freezing Works Brigade, for 25 years secretary of Taranaki U.F.B.A. and who last week completed 50 years' active service.



Fireman Crow, Inglewood, President Taranaki U.F.B.A., present Hawera Team with Crabtree Shield awarded for coiled hose event.

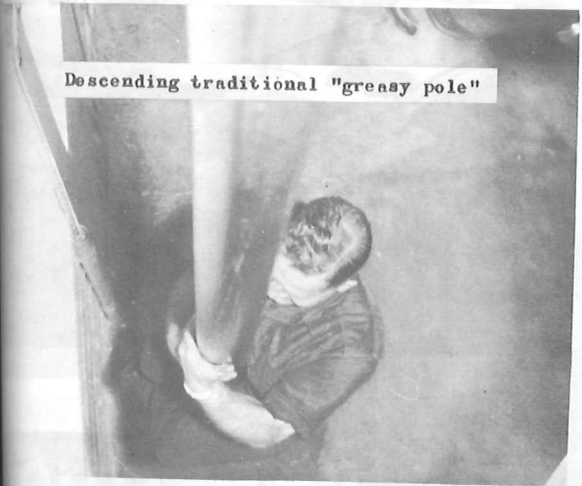


Victorious Stratford Team with trophies.





Off duty firemen relax over game of snooker



Descending traditional "greasy pole"



Present alarm equipment in watch house

Fire-fighting methods and techniques have altered vastly and, in many cases, become more streamlined and effective. Modern equipment may not have made the present day fireman's task an easier one, but certainly he has more efficient weapons to use against his enemy.

Below: This picture from the Fire Brigade's historical collection, the exact date of which is uncertain, indicates a vast change in the brigade uniform.







## Behind the Scenes

**Above:** Single men's quarters are neat twin bed rooms over station. Firemen on 24 hour call are within seconds' reach of engine house.

Fire officers are almost equally as close for emergency calls, in flats alongside main fire station.

**Right:** Deputy Chief Fire Officer H.T. Genese, in lounge of his private flat.

**Below left:** Mrs Hartley tends garden behind flats.

**right:** Chief Fire Officer L.F. Hartley in his station office.





How often have you heard the question—"What does a fireman do when there's no fire?"

One of the answers is found in the vigilance and care with which he keeps his equipment ready for instant use.

Left: Fireman Eustace checks and numbers new hose.



Above: Standard fireman's equipment hangs on convenient hooks in engine house ready for men to pick up on the run when alarm is sounded.

Right: To add yet further to the brigade's facilities, firemen's flats are being constructed behind fire station, fronting on to Courtenay Street.

Below right: New Plymouth Fire Brigade Central Station as it appeared at turn of the century. Today's electronic and automatic alarm units were then unknown.

Alarm was raised by handbells, such as that hanging on left of station building.

