



**Next year
it will
be real**

New Plymouth architect Mr B. Chong places a toy car on the model of the proposed Bank of New Zealand branch at the corner of Gover St and Devon St East, New Plymouth. By early in the New Year the cars and people should be real and the branch completed.

Brown and Hawkins Constructors Ltd began work on the two-storey building today.

The BNZ banking agency on the site since 1947 was recently demolished and a temporary agency set up diagonally across the road.

The main building material for the new building will be reinforced concrete, with decorative ceramic mosaic tiles on the outside of the ground floor. A verandah runs around two complete sides of the building. Ramps have been included in the design by Thomson, Buchan and Chong New Plymouth, chartered and registered architects and consulting engineers, to allow for easy access by crippled or handicapped people.

An unusual feature of the building for New Plymouth is that three sides of the building are visible. Mr Chong said. Most buildings in New Plymouth can only be viewed from one side.

Manager of the New Plymouth branch of the BNZ, Mr I. W. Parker, said the new building was long overdue. The proposed Gover St branch will provide that end of town with a full banking service from the BNZ.

Defence will plead insanity

The defence hoped to prove that Kent Edward White was incapable of knowing that the act of killing Mr Albert William Shephard was morally wrong, said defence counsel in a Supreme Court trial in New Plymouth today.

Mr P.M. Trehey, opening his case, said he would be asking for a verdict of not guilty on the grounds of insanity.

White (17), labourer, Auckland, has denied a charge of the murder of Mr Shephard at Waitara on or about March 5.

Mr Justice Mahon is presiding and Mr J. A. Laurenson appears for the Crown.

Continuing his evidence this morning Detective Sergeant John Richard Carr, Palmerston North, who came to New Plymouth to assist with inquiries, said he went to accused's home in Broadway, Waitara, and took possession of clothing. He then went to the New Plymouth police station with accused and after an inspection by a doctor witness arrested White.

Rapport

To Mr Trehey witness said accused was co-operative. There were things he could not recall but generally accused had rapport with what was happening. Accused was keen to make a clean breast of the killing once he got started.

Accused went to Sonya's home where she went to get a cardigan for him but she did not come back. He got wild and started to walk home the long way.

He met Mr Shephard by the Waitara Memorial Hall. He went up to him and asked him for a light.

Mr Shephard walked on in the same direction and accused said he stood for a moment, then ran up to him and punched him.

Tensed up

"I hit him on the head. I said something but I can't remember what I said. I don't know why I hit him. I was kind of tensed up a bit."

Accused said deceased was not a big man. He kicked deceased who fell to the ground.

He half carried Mr Shephard to the railway yards and remembered punching Mr Shephard on a corner.

"I don't know why I done it. I feel nervous today but I want to talk about it."

"Some of the things these other guys are saying are wrong."

Roy Mateo, met White about 6.30 p.m. on March 5. The accused asked if they knew who had killed Mr Shephard. They said they didn't and White told them he did.

"At first I didn't believe him, but then he showed us a watch and I had second thoughts," said witness. "I couldn't believe a person like White was capable of doing such a thing."

Miss Sonya Simeon (16), Waitara, said she went with White to a party at the Brixton Hall on the night of March 4. She had known the accused since Christmas and went out with him frequently. They stayed at the hall until about 3.30 a.m. and then went to her home. White had little to drink.

Someone asked Kent if he wanted to go outside for a blow," she said. "He asked me and I said no, so he didn't go."

She explained, "a blow" was to smoke marijuana.

Miss Simeon said Colin Karauria took White and herself to her parents' home about 3.30 a.m. She and White sat outside for about half an hour and she then went inside to get him a jersey as he was going to walk home.

March 4. He and White spent most of the day in the Bridg Tavern and in the pool parlour.

Witness went to the Brixton Hall about 10.45 p.m. and arrived home at White's mother's home about 2 a.m. to 3.30 a.m. When White came home, he shook witness awake and told him he had killed someone.

"I just laughed at him, said Mr Watson, "and then he handed me a metal bar which looked like a spike from a railway sleeper. I felt it in my hand and it was sticky."

Witness said he dropped the bar on the floor and saw White looked like blood on his thumb. White then showed him a watch and took some money out of his jeans pocket and threw it on the bed. Witness then fell asleep and when he awoke about 9.3 a.m. White was trying on a pair of striped braces.

Witness said White told him he was thinking of giving himself up. Witness told White this would probably be better in the long run.

(Proceeding)

Protecting