

# Jensen dies in Sydney

**Top Taranaki sawyer and axeman Merv Jensen collapsed and later died after competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show yesterday.**

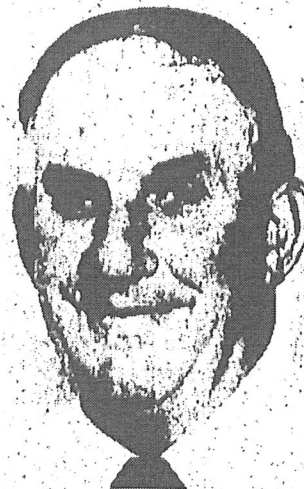
Jensen (68), New Plymouth, had just competed in the 375mm wood chopping and sawing contest when he collapsed. He was rushed by ambulance to nearby St Vincent's Hospital, but later died.

A regular competitor at the Easter Show for 10 years, he won the 375mm title in 1978, 1979 and 1980 and was placed second yesterday.

He collapsed before about 1000 spectators and was immediately given heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until ambulancemen arrived.

The veteran axeman had been competing in the second heat of the demanding event won by Melvyn Lentz of the United States. He reeled backwards as he finished and competitors ran to assist him as he slumped to the ground.

Ambulancemen treated



Merv Jensen... top competitor.

him for 25 minutes before he was taken to the hospital.

At the time of his death Jensen held 38 of the 39 single-handed New Zealand sawing records and 10 double-handed sawing titles.

Earlier this month he won the single and double-handed New Zealand championship titles at Auckland.

He was born at Matau, and lived and farmed there until he moved to New Plymouth 14 years ago.

He began his sawing and

chopping career at Okoki at 18.

Jensen leaves his wife, four sons, Christopher and Warren (Matau), Bryce (Lepperton) and Kerry (New Plymouth), and four daughters, Audrey (Stratford), Janet (Okato), Rosemary (Bell Block) and Deborah (Auckland).

## Sponsorship

AUCKLAND, Today (NZPA). — This year's international motor rally, a round of both the world drivers' and manufacturers' championship, will be sponsored by Autocrat Sanyo Ltd, organisers said last night.

There was also a right of renewal with the Rally Organisers Association of New Zealand for sponsorship of the 1984 event.

The president of the Motorsport Association of New Zealand, Mr Morrie Chandler, said Sanyo's offer came just as rally organisers were about to launch a last-ditch effort to find a sponsor to replace Motogard.

The rally, which starts and finishes in Auckland in June, has already attracted entries from the Nissan, Audi and Lancia teams.

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