

Men honoured for service to masonry

By Leigh O'Connor

W/E

22/10/95

Two local men have been awarded degrees of service to masonry at a recently ceremony.

Stuart Hayton and Fred Marsh were honoured in New Plymouth for their long service to masonry - a combined total of 100 years.

The Hayton name evokes a long lodge connection with Stuart's father the late E.C. Hayton, a long-time member of Ngamotu Lodge and married to the daughter of a member of Saint Andrew Kilwinning Lodge, Tom Dickson.

This began a long history of fraternal visits between the two lodges and the exchange of the Hayton gavel.

Stuart spent his early life in Hawera, coming to New Plymouth in 1924 where he was a student at NP Boys' High School until 1927.

For 25 years, Stuart served on the Taranaki Harbours Board, six years as deputy chairman and nine years as chairman.

He has also been very involved with Rotary and when the new district of 9940 was formed, Stuart was district governor. He undertook reorganisation of the group to such an extent that he became known as 'Mr Rotary.'

Stuart was raised in Lodge Taranaki 240 on January 18, 1934 and on the demise of that lodge joined Ngamotu 48 in 1980. With subsequent amalgamations, he is now a member of Lodge United Taranaki 456.

A JP for 53 years, Stuart is holder of the Queens Jubilee Medal and CBE as well as a gold star member of the RSA.

Meanwhile, Fred Marsh was born in Liverpool in 1912. He received his early education at Holy Trinity Church of England school at Walton and later at Alsop High School.

Entering his father's furniture business in 1929 he worked there until 1935, before studying chiropody. This was where he met his future wife Dora, with whom he set up practice in Liverpool.

The couple emigrated to New Zealand in 1952 by solvent flying boat and Fred was in practice here for many years. Initiated into Everton Lodge 823 EC, he served the office of steward and then joined Ngamotu Lodge 48 in 1953.

During his membership, Fred was Master in 1963 and secretary twice. He also had the ability to fill any vacancy or give any charge at short notice. During his term as Master, the lodge was presented with two columns by 50-year service badge holders, which are now on loan to De Burgh Adams Lodge.

In 1980, he presented a salver to be used at the northeast corner. Fred is a bronze medallist of St John Ambulance Association.