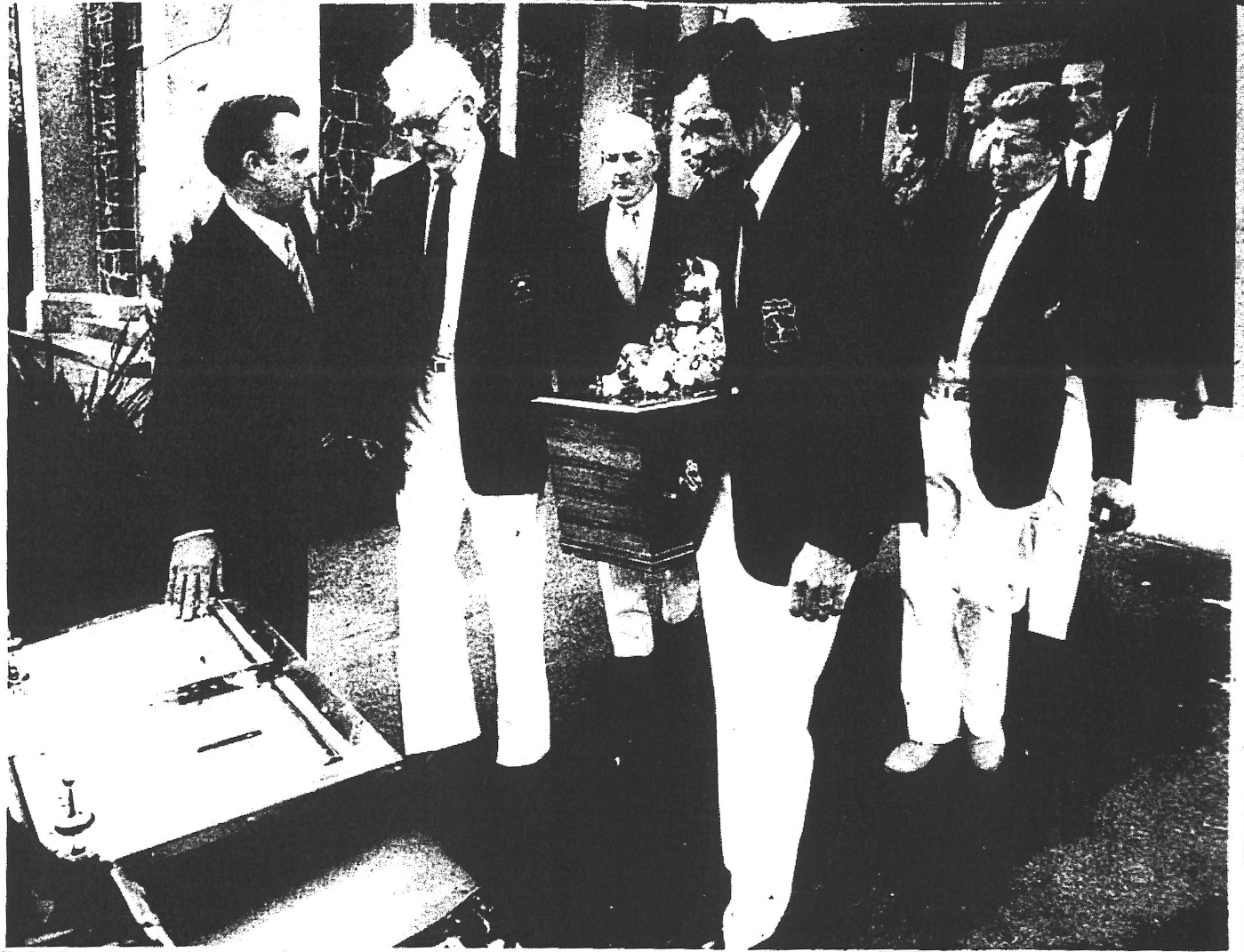


A CHAMPION FAREWELLED



Hundreds of people paid their respects to New Plymouth champion axeman and sawyer, Merv Jensen, who was buried yesterday after a service in St Andrew's Church, New Plymouth.

Mr Jensen (68) died last Monday of a heart attack after competing in a chopping and sawing event at the Sydney Easter Show.

His body was not going to be released by the Australian authorities until after the Easter break, but a New Zealand Government request for earlier action was granted.

Mr Jensen had a long list of sawing records at the time of his death including the 375mm world single handed sawing title, which he won in 1977 at the age of 62.

He held 38 of 39 single-handed New Zealand sawing records and 10 double-handed New Zealand sawing titles.

Above: funeral attendant Mr Don Boulter waits beside the hearse for the pallbearers — representative axeman — to bring Mr Jensen's coffin. From left they were: Rex Dowman, Logan Mitchell, Les Bellamy (obscured), Des Schreiber (front), Cliff Hughes and Alan Smith.