

Identity bows out

Mr Jack Medley, who retired yesterday after 33 years in the typewriter and office machinery trade.

A New Plymouth identity, Mr Jack Medley, yesterday bowed out of the business with which he has been associated for about thirty years.

Mr Medley, former owner of Medley's Office Equipment Ltd, retired from the business he started in New Plymouth in 1943.

The firm started as a one man concern, when Mr Medley took over a small business after the death of its owner. It came shortly after Mr Medley returned to New Zealand after being wounded while serving in Egypt during the war.

Before the war he was an electrician for the borough council and also worked for the New Plymouth Gas Company.

He is not sure what prompted him to change trades and start in the office equipment business, and although the past 30 years have been spent working with typewriters, he confesses to still being a "two finger expert" with the machines.

When Mr Medley first started the firm mainly dealt with typewriters, adding machines and calculators.

The firm has expanded over the years to provide a Taranaki-wide repair service embracing all types of office equipment.

Mr Medley has trained five apprentices and says the trade is still an essential one. Now, in addition to learning the basics of various office machines,

apprentices had to have a limited electrical licence as everything was becoming electronic, he said.

Mr Medley sold his business three years ago, although staying on in an advisory capacity. But typewriters and office machines are not the only reason he is well known in Taranaki.

In the past he has led an active sporting life and been member of many local organisations.

He is a past president of the New Plymouth Old Boys' Association, a former chairman of the Central School Committee and a member of the original committees for both Devo and Highlands intermediates.

A cricket and rugby fan, he is a past president of the Old Boys' Cricket Club and a past vice-president of the Old Boys' Football Club.

He was a member of the team which won the Taranaki championship for the first time for Old Boys in 1930 and played for Taranaki on the wing in the late 1920s.

At various times he has been president of the Taranaki Club, the New Plymouth Contract Bridge Club and the New Plymouth Bowling Club.

Mr Medley says his main interests now are gardening and bowls, and he is looking forward to having more spare time in his retirement, although he may keep doing part time repair work on office machines.

Mr Jack Medley, pictured at his New Plymouth home yesterday. He has retired after 33 years in the office equipment business.