

T.H. 14/02/1974

BENEFACTOR DIES

A New Plymouth benefactor, Mr George Charles Kibby, died in the city yesterday. He was 86.

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Mr Kibby, who was born in New Plymouth, was self-employed for practically the whole of his working life and until his death was managing-director of Kibby's Metal Pressing Works, New Plymouth, a family concern.

He attended Fitzroy School, leaving at the age of 12 to work as an apprentice boot-maker with the Egmont Boot Factory.

After the five-year apprenticeship in 1910, he started up his own boot-repair business in Queen St.

About 1920 he shifted his activities to a shop on Devon St, near the Opera House.

In the mid-1930s Mr Kibby stopped repairing boots and shoes and began manufactur-

ing steel heel and toe plates, which were sold throughout New Zealand.

He was still taking an active part in the business until last November, when his health deteriorated.

Mr Kibby presented a carillon to the citizens of the city in 1971. In 1940 he financed a Bren-gun carrier for the New Zealand Army, and in 1966 he donated the Begonia House to Pukekura Park.

A course at Massey University (then College) qualified him as a greenkeeper, and he was green warden for the Westown Golf Club for a number of years.

He was an active member of the club and was involved with the club's move from Tukapa St to Baker Rd. He donated the main gates to the course.

His hobbies included growing begonias and orchids, and he was one of the first financial members of the New Plymouth Aero Club.

In his younger days Mr Kibby was an active member of the Fitzroy Volunteer Fire Brigade and figured prominently in brigade competitions.

His wife predeceased him and he leaves a son, Mr Mervyn Kibby, and a daughter, Naera (Mrs Humphrey), both of New Plymouth.

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