

Carillon makers reply

Everything possible will be done by the makers of New Plymouth's carillon to increase the volume of its sound.

This is promised in a long-awaited letter from the makers, Eljsbouts Bellfoundry Ltd, Holland, received yesterday afternoon by the New Plymouth town clerk, Mr W. S. Connor.

The New Plymouth City Council has written to the firm twice since early July and this is the first reply.

It is holding back \$6000 of the more than \$20,000 cost of the carillon until volume is satisfactory.

The letter, signed by the director, Mr J. A. H. Tiggeleman, states that the firm will need more information about the carillon's performance before making a firm suggestion for improvements.

SOUNDING BOARD

However, he does say that construction of some sort of deflecting equipment to direct the sound from the bells could help.

He quotes the case of a carillon built on the town hall in Eindhoven which has a wooden sounding board over the bells and louvre-like panels all around them to direct the sound.

Mr Tiggeleman rejects the idea that the concrete columns supporting the bell frame could be absorbing some of the vibration from the bells.

"Vibration in these columns does not influence the sound of the bells, for we installed these bells with swingmetal as we did before with several other carillons," he said.

He said it was possible that the poor performance resulted from the electro-magnetic clappers not touching enough as a result of variations in the electric power supply, but said the report supplied by the engineer who assisted in installing the bells tended to rule this out.

TESTED

"We can assure you that we installed the complete carillon in our factory and it was tested in the presence of Dutch carillonneurs, who were very enthusiastic about it."

Mr Tiggeleman also reaffirmed that the site was "absolutely favourable" but said it was possible the carillon was not large enough to be heard more than two miles away.

"From experience in many European countries we know that people do not like sharp-sounding carillon music.

"Mostly carillons are instruments for parks and squares, but not to deafen a whole city."

RECORDING

Mr Tiggeleman said that to get a full understanding of the problem his firm would need a recording of the sound in various parts of the city.

He has requested the City Council to tape record the carillon sound at distances of five, 10 and 25 metres.

The Mayor, Mr D. V. Sutherland, said the council will have no trouble in supplying the material the Dutch firm has requested.

He said the council's own

consultant on the carillon problem has recorded the volume of the bells from a number of points in the city.

He said the comments on the reflecting surface supported one New Plymouth theory for improving the carillon.

"Shortly after the carillon was completed in May an engineer suggested that a parabolic dome supported over the bells could be used to reflect the sound to a truncated pyramid, which would

in turn reflect the sound longitudinally over the city," he said.

This theory was supported by the council's consultant, and Mr Sutherland said it was possible a temporary frame could be built round the carillon to test it.

"Sheets of heavy-gauge metal or some other material could be supported on this and might establish whether lack of a reflecting surface is causing the trouble," he said.

SITE

Asked who would pay for any improvements to the tower he said the council would look first to the manufacturers. The council was continuing to withhold the \$6000.

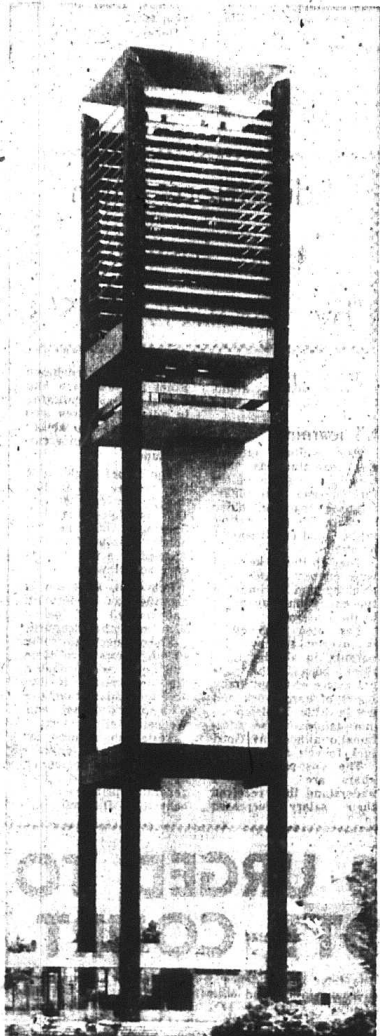
Mr Sutherland said both the council and the donor, Mr George Kibby (who gave \$30,000) had been assured that Marsland Hill was "the best site in the world" and the bells would be heard for 2½ miles.

"There was no talk then of the carillon not being large enough," he said.

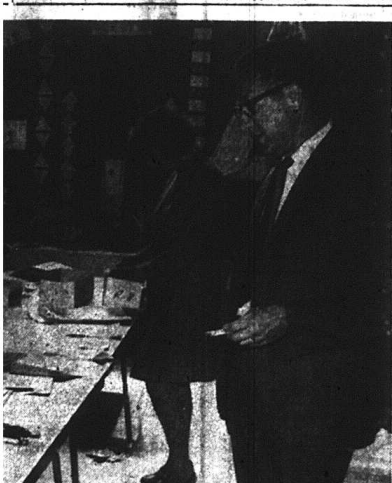
"This was the size of carillon recommended by the makers, and both the council and Mr Kibby accepted this recommendation."

Mr Kibby is delighted with the news in the letter.

"The carillon now belongs to the council and it is up to Mr Sutherland to make any comment, but you can say that I am pleased to hear the makers have promised to put things right," he said.



THE MAKERS of New Plymouth's carillon, Eljsbouts Bellfoundry Ltd, Holland, have suggested that a sounding-board could improve its volume. They quoted the example of this carillon which has been installed in Eindhoven and has a wooden sounding-board over the bells and a louvre-like arrangement around them.



JANITOR ARRESTED: Chicago Police last night arrested an 18-year-old janitor