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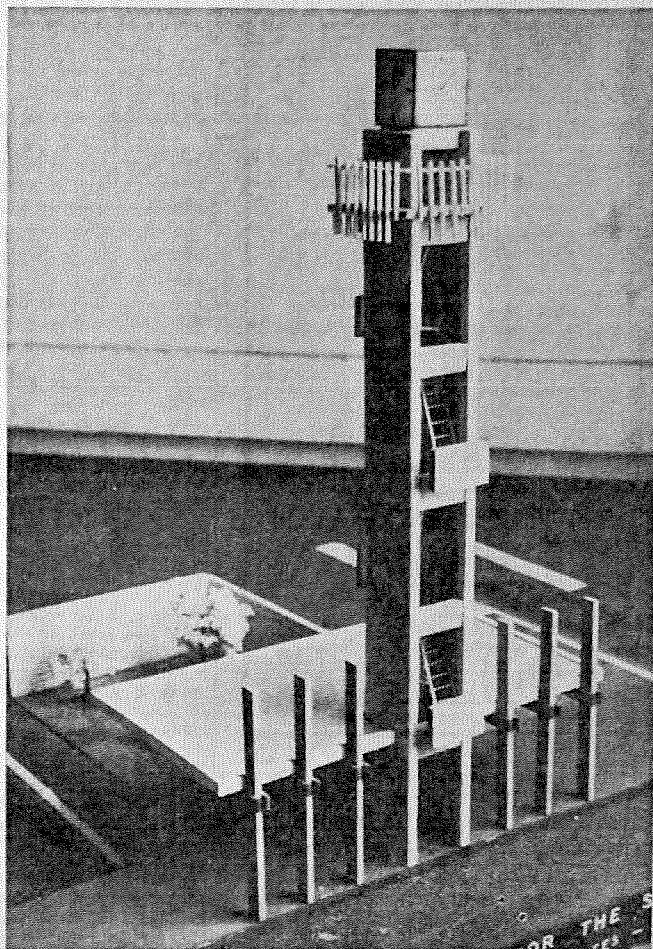
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A MODEL OF STRATFORD'S NEW CLOCK TOWER, which will cost up to \$20,000. The Mayor of Stratford, Mr G. J. W. Boon, said today that the money was available and he hoped tenders for its construction could be called within a few weeks.

Stratford misses its clock tower

New Plymouth people were advised today to "think very, very carefully" before allowing the old Post Office clock tower to be demolished.

The advice came from the Mayor of Stratford, Mr G. J. W. Boon, who said that following the recent demolition of Stratford's clock tower, the people of the district now missed it greatly.

"We miss it as a skyline structure—we miss its chimneys and many of us still look out of habit, where it used to be to check the time,"

said Mr Boon. Mr Boon said that some of the people who had told him that they missed the clock came from New Plymouth.

"Its demolition has left a hole in our town."

New Tower

But Mr Boon pointed out Stratford is to get a replacement clock tower, cost-

ing up to \$20,000. He hoped that tenders could be called for its construction within a few weeks. The old one was demolished because it was considered to be structurally unsound.

"Although we lost our tower, at least we have the advantage of getting one back," said Mr Boon.

The new tower, to be built over the footpath in Broadway at the old entrance to the railway station, will be a twin-tower reinforced concrete structure with an access stairway between the towers.

The 60ft structure will have an illuminated four-face clock at the top.

"I have been following with interest the discussions whether or not New Plymouth's clock tower should be pulled down," said Mr Boon. "I'm a former New Plymouth boy (he lived there until going to Stratford in 1936) and have been used to a clock tower for most of my life as we had a similar type tower in Stratford."

"Following the reaction of people in Stratford to the loss of our tower, I think the people of New Plymouth should think very, very carefully before pulling down their tower.

"Each generation seems to produce some architecture of merit which later becomes an outstanding feature for those times, such as New Plymouth's clock tower.

"If we pull down everything willy-nilly we are going to be left with little to remind us of our history," said Mr Boon.

Leap Year baby

There is now at least one more New Plymouth child who will have a birthday only once in four years.

By this afternoon one baby had been born since midnight in Westown Hospital.

By noon today 23 Leap Year babies had been traced through Auckland hospitals, the Press Association reported.

Queen's Counsel, Mr David Beattie, born on February 29, 1924, planned to have a few drinks late this afternoon with two friends similarly born—Mr L. J. Minogue (72) and Mr R. Bell-Booth (48).

Princess Alexandra and Mr Angus Ogilvy's first child, James Robert Bruce, was born on February 29, 1964.

MYSTERY PETITION

A mystery petition has appeared in Dalton's Supermarket at Strandon, New Plymouth.

Today a customer told the Taranaki Herald that the store had a petition seeking support for fluoridation.

Inquiries revealed that the petition, stating "We want fluoridation. Sign below. Keep New Plymouth water drinkable," was pasted on the back of a petition to save the town clock.

The clock petition which has about 300 signatures, was displayed with the authority of the management. But the fluoridation petition, which has no signatures, has appeared without the store's permission.

The supermarket manager, Mr Noel Dalton, said today he knew nothing about the petition, or who had organised it.