

OBITUARY

Mr G. T. Keen

Mr George Theobald Keen, who died in Timaru on Sunday, was in business as a bootmaker, in his tiny Church Street West shop, for 50 years. He was 80.

Born near Edinburgh in January, 1890, Mr Keen came to New Zealand with his parents in 1903, and after spending a year at the Waimatawai School became apprenticed in the bootmaking trade to Mr Denis Shea.

In 1914 he opened his own business in North Street, but after a short time closed it to go overseas with the New Zealand Army. After service, first with an infantry division and later with a machine-gun corps in Egypt and France,



Mr Keen

Mr Keen returned to Timaru and resumed his trade in Church Street West. He retired from business a few years ago.

For a time during the Second World War he served with the National Military Reserve in camp at the Timaru Showgrounds.

Mr Keen gained considerable pleasure from cycling, and in his early years rode over most of the South Island's major roads. He was a keen tennis player for more than 40 years, as a member of the Wesley Church group and, for many years, the Acragi Tennis Club, and he was also an enthusiastic player and follower of association football.

A long-standing member of the South Canterbury Horticultural Society, Mr Keen won a number of prizes for his apples and flowers.

Mr Keen enjoyed helping others, and almost from the inception of the meals-on-wheels scheme in Timaru gave his time willingly and regularly as a driver.

Mr Keen's wife died 18 years ago, and he is survived by two daughters.