

A Story Of Noise, Discomfort And Anger

C.T. July 6, 1962



The top picture shows the busy workmen drilling in the centre of the road at the Quay.

THESE three C.T. pictures tell a story. A story which roused the anger last Friday morning of residents, amusement and restaurant proprietors and holiday-makers in the vicinity of Christchurch Quay.

They tell the story of the upheaval, the noise, the inconvenience and discomfort that people on the Quay complained of last Friday.

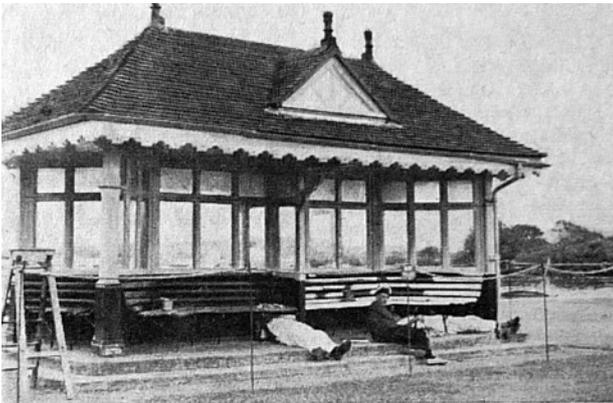
Residents told the C.T. that Quay Road, the main gateway to the Quay, was obstructed early in the morning by contractors drilling along the centre of the road, causing pedestrians and motorists to dodge about from one side to the other.

Friday morning was rather wet and windy, but the holiday-makers weren't able to use the shelter on the Quay. That was out of action on Friday and had been for the last fortnight. Council workmen

were painting the building and seats.

Cars were not able to use the Quomps car park on the other side of the Quay, because that was being resurfaced and motorists driving up to it were hailed by large "No Entry" signs.

"FARCICAL"



Soon to be spick and span, our picture on the left shows the shelter re-painting operation under way.

People on and around the Quay were extremely annoyed by all this upheaval, and one of them, Mrs. K. A. Palser, who with her husband are proprietors of the Riverside Cafe on the Quay, told us: "It is absolutely farcical that in a seasonal place like Christchurch, the Quay which attracts most of its trade during the three summer months has to have these road and painting works done during its busiest times".

She told us that the noise of the drilling was so bad that the waitress in the cafe could not even hear the orders that customers were giving her.

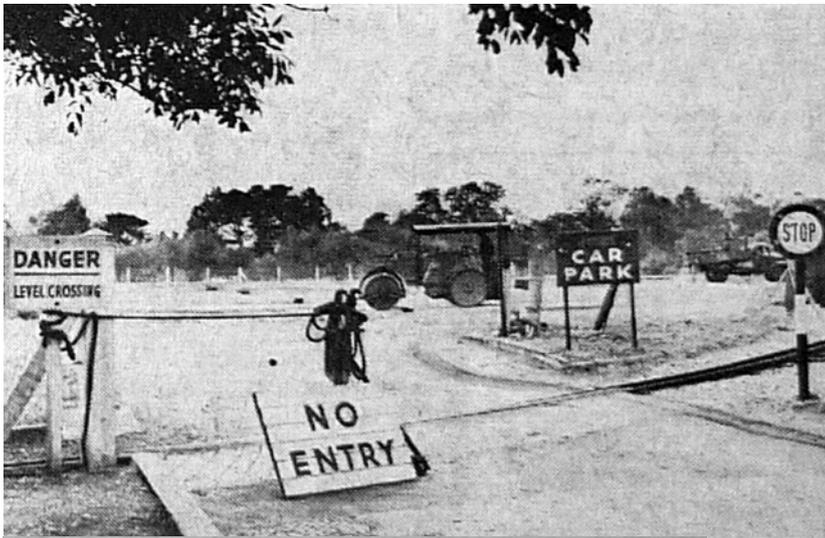
Mrs. Palser had contacted the Borough Surveyor, Mr. E. B. Wise, about the drilling that was going on outside the windows of her cafe and he had told her that the work was being done on contract and the Council had no control over when the work was carried out.

"OBLIGING"

Surely the Council could stipulate that even the contract work should be done out of the season in such a place as the Quay where most of the revenue came during the three months of the year, said Mrs. Palser, who added that in the main the Council were usually "obliging",

If the contractors had started work on the Quay a few weeks before, the loss to the ratepayers in the area would not have been so great. Commenting on the re-surfacing of the Quomps car park she said that this was losing revenue for the ratepayers of the borough.

Reports reached the C.T. on Wednesday that several holiday-makers who had used the shelter on the Quay had got paint on their clothes. They complained to the Town Hall and shortly afterwards the "wet paint" notices were replaced on the shelter.



Signs which halted motorists on their way to park their cars in the Quomps car park are shown in our bottom picture.

Mr. Wise told the C.T. that the work carried out on the Quay last Friday was trench repairs and was done by contractors. The Council had to place an order for the work to be done and wait for the contractors to do it when they were in this area.

In this particular case the Council were not informed by the contractors that they were coming, but even if they had informed the Council they were coming Mr. Wise said he would not have stopped them because the work needed to be carried out as soon as possible.

"The whole operation of repairing the trench by the contractors only lasted one day and the part which was complained of, the noise of the pneumatic drill, finished by 12 noon", said Mr. Wise.

The re-surfacing of the Quomps car park was approved by the Council in the present financial

year. The Council had had to apply for loan sanction for the job and this had only just been obtained.