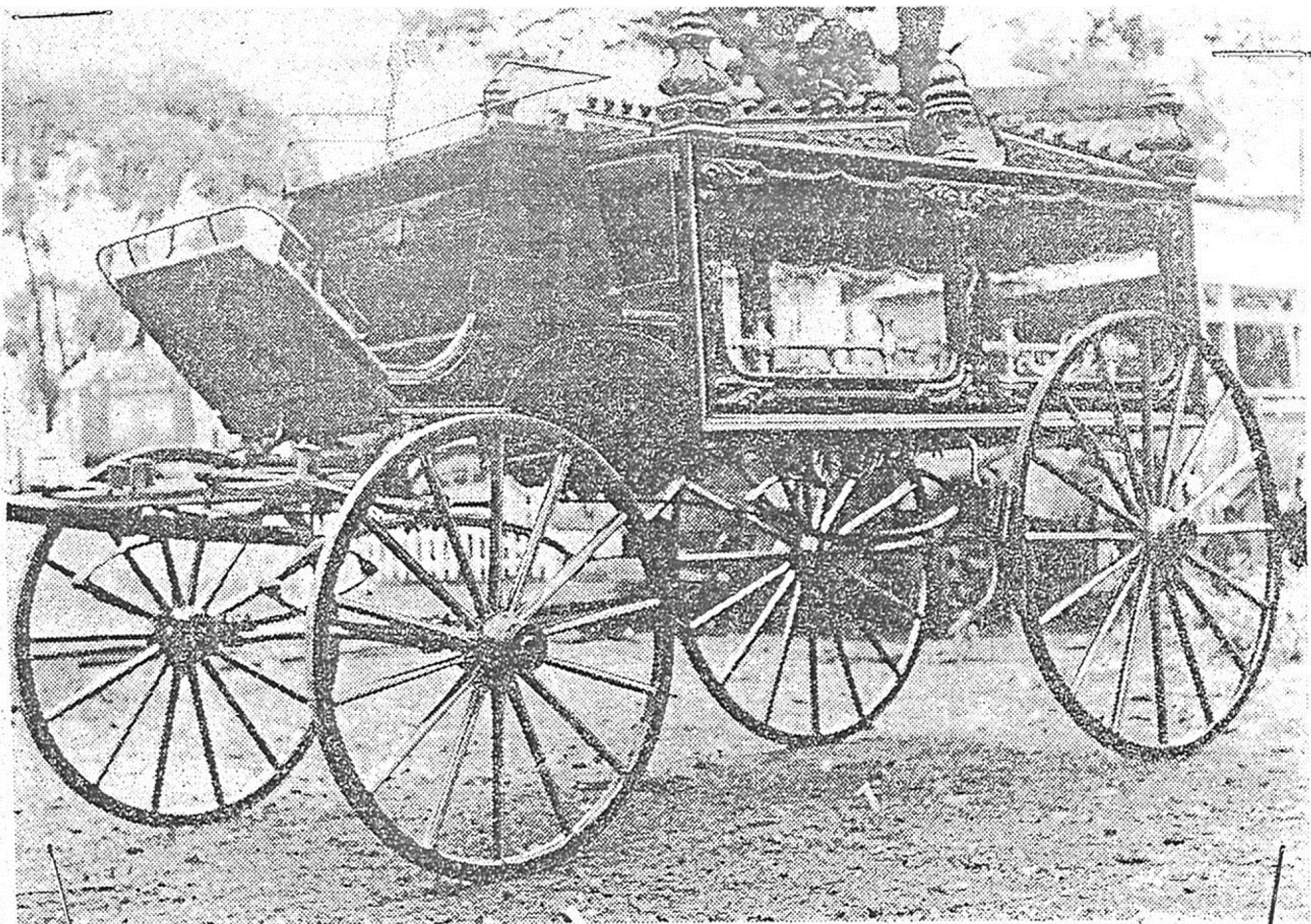




The restored hearse at the Transport Museum yesterday.

80-Year-Old Hearse Is Restored

A horse-drawn hearse, given 12 months ago to the Museum of Transport and Technology at Western Springs, has been restored to its original dignity with new glassware, velvet curtains and a fresh coat of black paint.

It was given by the Gisborne Museum and Arts Society and is now on display in the carriage hall at the museum.

Thought to date back to the 1830s, the hearse was a virtual wreck after being locked in a Tokomaru Bay building for about 60 years. Two of the wheels had collapsed and the decorations were in poor repair.

The intricate task of rebuilding the wheels and remodelling the coach was done by Mr L. Parmenter, of Mt Albert, with the help of Auckland firms.

The restoration was sponsored by the Auckland Funeral Directors' Association.