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Further to your enquiry at the City Council Archives the other day about the history of Adelaide's pie carts, I have found some information which may be of assistance to you.

According to our records it seems the first pie cart was established in 1871 by William Miller in King William Street, near the corner of Hindley Street. They were originally called coffee stall stands and they had to be licensed and inspected annually by the Council's health inspectors (the Archives holds lists of names of early licencees and locations of the stands in the streets). Between 1915 and 1942 the City boasted at least nine such stands at locations including:

Franklin Street adjacent to the GPO

in King William Street near the corner of Weymouth Street

outside the T&G Building near the intersection of King William and Grenfell Streets

in front of Waterhouse Chambers at the intersection of King William and Rundle Streets

North Terrace adjacent to the Railway Station.

It is recorded that the City Council made a decision in 1938 to abolish the stands when the current occupiers personally ceased trading, following complaints from nearby City businesses that the stands were taking trade away from them. Consequently by 1958 only two sites were still operating - one adjacent to the GPO in Franklin Street and the other at the corner King William and Rundle Streets, though this was later relocated in front of the Adelaide Railway Station on North Terrace. These two carts are still in business

of course, although they are only permitted to trade after the close of normal business hours (and sometimes during the day on special occasions such as when the Grand Prix was on). During the late 1970-80s there was another night time stand located at the corner of Hindley Street and West Terrace (where Mc Donalds is now situated) but this ceased trading after a few years.

You may be able to obtain further information about Adelaide's pie carts from Cowleys Pie Carts Pty Ltd (tel 8268 3533) and also Mr Ray Purvis, 40 Malrus Ave, Lockleys SA 5032 (tel 8443 5019), as I believe both have compiled brief histories of the pie carts. The Mortlock Library on North Terrace may also hold some information, including newspaper references.

I have enclosed copies of some of our records which deal with this subject which you may wish to incorporate in your project.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Thornton
REFERENCE SERVICES ARCHIVIST