

Desmond Noel Cagney

The Cagney family was originally from Oamaru where they had family history going back to the 1860s. Prior to that, they had immigrated to New Zealand from Ireland, via Australia, with some time spent in North America between. Desmond's grandfather John Cagney J.P. (1839-1913) was a businessperson and storekeeper who operated out of Thames Street and as a member of the community much involved in public affairs, was very well respected. He was for a period chairman of the North Otago Dairy Company. He served on the borough council for over eight years. Desmond's father Thomas L. Cagney was one of four sons. One of them succeeded him in operation of the Cagney fancygoods business upon his death. There were another three daughters to Hannah née O'Brien, whom John married in 1875.

Desmond Noel Cagney was born in Napier to another one of John and Hannah's sons, chief surveyor Thomas L. Cagney and Lulu Florence née Moreland in 1914 (the age on this document is incorrect). Desmond had one younger sibling named Ian.

They lived in Hawkes Bay up until the mid 1920s. They seemingly had a brief spell in Auckland in the early 1930s where Desmond attended school in South Auckland. Thomas's career as kept them moving (see map in NLNZ collection at this link <https://tinyurl.com/y9xdhef7>) and by 1934 they had shifted to Hokitika. Desmond played in the Kiwis and Old Boys teams for Westland Rugby Union while there.

Desmond was working as a junior engineer and draughtsman at the Waitaki Electric Power Board when he resigned for a better opportunity in England and left the country in mid 1939. War broke out and he eventually enlisted, serving in the Durham Home Guard, 7th Battalion.

Upon returning to New Zealand in early 1946, he lived in Invercargill as per the address listed here. This was his parent's residence; at this time his father was the Commissioner for Crown Lands for that jurisdiction.

Around 1947 Desmond moved to Otahuhu, Auckland briefly then to Patea, Taranaki, in 1949; then before the year was out, down to Wellington where he resided in Island Bay. In the early 1950s he was back in Auckland and then had gone to Northland by 1954.

Around 1956 he moved back down to West Auckland where he now stayed for the rest of his life. He was an electrical engineer by trade, I wonder what kind of job he had that he had to pick up and move to different towns and cities so often?

He resided in Henderson with his wife Esther Patricia Cagney (1920-1986) in the 1960s, and then to Te Atatu close by where he was living at time of death in 1978. It's unknown whether he had any children, but his brother may have descendants.