

Interview Abstract



Interviewee: Peter Ryan
Interviewer: Suzanne MacKenzie
Date recorded: 17 October 2023
Abstractor: Suzanne MacKenzie and Margaret Bennie.

File 01 Time

00.25	Born in Dunedin 1930s.
00.27	Parents Stanley John RYAN: Marie SCULLY.
00.35	9 children in the family. 4 girls, 5 boys.
00.47	Ryans originally from Limerick in Ireland.
00:53	Went to Australia to Victorian Goldfields then to Lawrence in Otago. 1860s settled in Alexandra. RYANS spread all over Central Otago.
01:53	Mother's family farmed in Southland.
02:00	After WW1 father drew a ballot farm near his mother's farm. Left farm during depression late 1920's.
02:38	Details the name 'ENGLISH' which carried through generations.
03:09	Father and mother in Dunedin during depression. Father worked for Education Board as a carpenter, plumber and drain layer.
03:36	Started school during depression just before WW11.
03:59	Describes childhood in South Dunedin. Many children.
04:53	Boys attended Christian Brothers: Girls went to St. Philomenas.
05:07	Left school and looked for job as a sign writer – had no luck so went back to school then went to work as plasterer and bricklayer for a short time. Went to Tapanui. Worked at Roxburgh, Moa Flat early 1950s during Roxburgh Dam builds.
10:08	Friend Fred Strachan a traveller for a Dunedin firm (McKerchar & Hazlett)

	<p>– he looked for a business that Peter and Mavis could take on. Fred discovered the Becks Hotel. Settled at Becks Hotel with 3 children under 4. Loved it.</p> <p>Describes life in the hotel and at Becks – 6 o'clock closing. Stayed for 8 years. Children played hockey and rugby.</p>
13:11	<p>Moved to Christchurch for children's education.</p> <p>Grew tomatoes in Yaldhurst and a poultry farm.</p>
13:53	<p>Brother Maurice leased Four Square shop in Alexandra.</p> <p>Asked Peter to manage it.</p>
14:04	<p>Shop in Centennial Avenue where Paper Plus is now.</p>
14:57	<p>Early days of Supermarket.</p>
15:01	<p>Changed their Four Square to New World in 1984.</p> <p>Moved across the road.</p>
15:57	<p>Peters two sons - Kevin took over Alexandra New World and Philip 2nd son ran Cromwell New World.</p>
16:49	<p>Grandson Shane now running Alexandra New World.</p> <p>Great grandfather Ryan had Bendigo Hotel in 1860's.</p> <p>Peter Ryan came to Central Otago in 1960's and Ryan family should be here for many years to come.</p>
17:35	<p>Talks about changes in the grocery industry.</p>
18:48	<p>Many members of Ryan family holiday or settle in Central Otago.</p>
18:51	<p>Still has 97-year-old sister and 92-year-old brother alive.</p>
19:33	<p>Talks about retirement – bowls, gardening, duck shooting at Becks.</p>
22:38	<p>Talks about Grandfather and brother who came to Central Otago and started pubs in Clyde, Ophir, and Alexandra.</p>
22:55	<p>Talks about the 1905 photo of Cobb & Co. Coach outside Bendigo.</p>
24:37	<p>Discusses reunion of Ryans at Omakau races every year.</p>
25:59	<p>Talks about the history of Ryans in Central Stories Museum and his interest in his family tree.</p>

End of File 01