



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Chapter TWENTY FIVE: S.D Joseph Z. Ouellette 1936 - 1939

Our twenty second State Deputy is Joseph Z. Ouellette. He was born at Lisbon Falls on July 22, 1892, the son of Paul Ouellette and Philomene Levesque Ouellette. His folks moved to Brunswick when Joseph was four years old. He attended St. John's Parochial School. Joseph's father died when Joseph was eleven years old, and being the second oldest boy left at home at the time of his father's death, he went to work to help provide an income for his mother and the family. He first worked at the old Cabot mill but in 1911 he went to work for the Maine Central Railroad.

In 1929, he became manager of the First National Store in Brunswick in Brunswick, and worked there for five years until a new market was opened. He gave up this position to do police work, and was elected Chief of the Brunswick department in 1937. He retired from police work in 1942 and went to work for the Pejepsco Paper Company from 1945 until 1953, when an illness forced him to retire. He served two terms as President of the labor union while he worked there.

Brother Ouellette was married twice. His first wife was Laura Dionne, and although they had no children of their own, they adopted a son of the Brother Ouellette's sister. Mrs. Ouellette died in 1943 and in 1948 he married Yvonne Bernier, and there were no children from this marriage either.

Joseph was a charter member of the Brunswick Council. He was elected the first Deputy Grand Knight, and became the second Grand Knight serving two terms. He served as a District Deputy for more than twelve years from 1924 until 1936, which is one of the longest tenures as a District Deputy in the annals of the State Council.

Joseph Ouellette was a veteran of World War One and served as Commander of the George T. Files Post American Legion for two years. He was elected State Deputy at the convention held in Bangor on May 24, 1936. He held this office for three terms. He was the first person of French-Canadian extraction to attain this highest office, in the State Jurisdiction. He joined the Fourth Degree during the war years and was initiated in his army uniform. While he never held office in the Brunswick Assembly, he was a member of the Fourth Degree staff for many years.

His greatest hobby was amateur theatricals. He served as Director of the Cercle Cremazie from 1921 to 1928. This Cercle was composed of amateur actors who put on plays in French, which were very popular at that time. He also wrote and directed French minstrels from 1947 to 1950. Some of these traveled to the neighboring towns which had a French speaking population. Some of the plays were presented over the radio

FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #5: Martin T. Cavanaugh of Portland was appointed District Master of Maine and served from 1933 to 1944. While in office he held degrees in Augusta, Waterville, Brunswick, Sanford, Augusta, Fort Fairfield, Brunswick, Waterville, Fort Fairfield, Biddeford, Caribou, Bath and Fort Kent.

STATE CHAPLAIN 1933 TO 1953: Father Joseph E. McCaffrey

Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Joseph E. McCarthy, D.D. 1931-55

State Convention for 1936 was held in Bangor on May 24, 1936

State Convention for 1937 was held in Lewiston on May 30, 1937

State Convention for 1938 was held in Waterville on May 22, 1938

State Convention for 1939 was held in Fort Fairfield on May 29, 1939