



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Chapter THIRTY: William R. Provencher 1949 - 1952

Our 27th State Deputy, William "Bill" Provencher, was born in Lewiston, Maine on February 28, 1901. He was the son of Napoleon Provencher and Mary E. Houle. He attended the Lewiston grammar and the St. Peter and Paul parochial school in Lewiston. He also attended what was then known as Arthabaska College, Arthabaska, Province of Quebec, from 1910 to 1917. This was comparable to our present prep-schools but since then has been changed to St. Josephs College. He also studied music in Lewiston and in Canada.

On August 23, 1926, he married Cecile, M. Grondin and they had two children. Beginning in April 1918 and continuing to 1957 he was organist at St. Francil de Sales Church and since 1947 he has served as Superintendent of the St. Francil Cemetery.

Having joined the Order in 1935, he has served the subordinate and State Council with distinction. He was warden and Deputy Grand Knight before being elected Grand Knight in 1939-1941 and Financial Secretary from 1943 to 1950 after which he served as a Trustee for several terms. Elected to the office of State Advocate for the year 1944-1945, he proposed that the State Council bylaws be changed so that there-after a State Advocate must be a lawyer by profession. Elected State Secretary in 1945, he held this office for two years, or until 1947. At the convention held at Van Buren in 1949, he defeated State Advocate Alphonse A. Aliberti, of Augusta, and was re-elected in 1950-1953. He was also Faithful Navigator of the local assembly in 1952-1953 and was appointed State Master in 1952, which office he has held until 1957. In the winter of 1952 he was tendered a testimonial in Waterville as State Master.

Altho the Waterville Council is one of the oldest councils in the state, Brother Provencher was the first member of the council to be elected to the office of State Deputy. There were no new councils instituted during his administration.

FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #8: Thomas J. Birmingham, Bangor

Thomas J. Birmingham served as District Master of the James A. Healy province from 1951-to 1952. There were no degrees held during his short term in office.

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 1949 was held in Van Buren on April 30-May 1, 1949

State Convention for 1950 was held in Bangor on May 13-14, 1950

State Convention for 1951 was held in Waterville on May 15, 1951

State Convention for 1952 was held in Houlton on May, 1952