

Edward John Bell

16th State Deputy of Oregon 1938-1940



Edward J. Bell was born September 16, 1899 to William and Mary Schmitt Bell in Sublimity, OR.

Ed attended St. Boniface grade school and was a 1920 graduate of Stayton Union High School. He took an active part in combatting the KKK activities in 1917-1920.

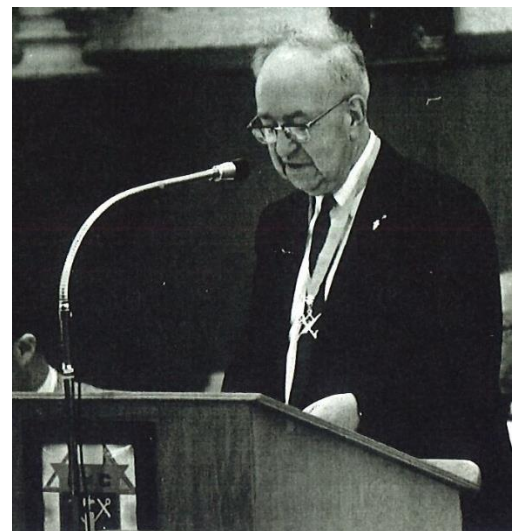
Ed married Rose Hottinger, daughter of prominent Knight of Columbus, Charles Hottinger, on October 11, 1924 in Sublimity, OR. They had two children: Roberta J. and Lela Mae. Roberta died in a Portland hospital in 1947 after a short illness at the age of 18.

Ed was owner and operator of the Stayton Public Service Office which he founded in 1939. He was secretary of the Stayton Fire Dep., and Central Willamette Fire Fighters Assn.; a director of Stayton Coop. Telephone Co.; clerk of Stayton Union High School; Stayton Citizen of the year in 1956; notary of public; Stayton municipal judge; president of the Stayton Chamber of Commerce, Lions and North Santiam Sportsman Club.

Ed was also involved with the Boy Scouts, Bankers Ass., Catholic Forestry, Holy Name Society and the Baseball Ass.

In the 1930's a young milk delivery boy darted out in front of Ed's automobile causing an automobile accident in which one life was taken. Ed was exonerated of the accident. Ed was the victim of a hold up by two masked bandits in his office on November 18, 1948 in Stayton. Ed was tied up and stolen of \$700. The bandits were never caught.

Sponsored by St. Anthony Knights of Columbus, *The Servicemen's Bulletin* began in 1942 to let the local boys overseas know they weren't alone. Ed Bell spearheaded a newsletter devoted to keeping them connected. The price of subscription was a letter to Ed and garnered national recognition for Ed and his staff, but for Ed it was all about the boys. "You boys let us know how you are and what you are doing, so we can tell the other boys about you and where you are," Ed told them. As word of the *Bulletin* spread, "Dear Ed" letters began pouring in from around the globe. By 1945, the bi-monthly publication grew to more than 50 pages, with a mailing list of 350 names.



Ed was a charter member of the Stayton Council in 1923. He was never a Grand Knight. Ed was elected as State Deputy on a third ballot over two opponents by one vote, which later was revealed that this one vote was inadvertently cast for Ed by error instead of for his runner-up. He was Supreme National Warden 1963-1965. In 1969 Ed represented Oregon at the dedication of the K of

C Home Office building. Ed's favorite hobby was taking pictures and movies of K of C events from 1935 to his death.

In May of 1973, Ed received the "Distinguished Service Award" in recognition of his services to fraternities and the community as a whole for the first time in over a century history of the Rebekahs and Oddfellows. The Masonic Hall in Stayton was filled by Knights of Columbus, Masons, Oddfellows, Rebekahs, Eastern Stars, and local citizens for the presentation to Ed and his wife Rose.

Edward J. Bell died on May 17, 1981 and is buried at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Stayton, OR

Rose was the first Grand Regent of Stayton for the Catholic Daughters of America and was appointed National Representative for the Catholic Daughters for the Northwest. She died in 1988 and is buried next to Ed.

(Edward J Bell is the most photographed and documented Past State Deputy in the Oregon archives, more than can be included in this Bio.)



Rose Bell – Tillamook K of C State Convention, May 18, 1963



Ed Bell – 1962 State Convention



Ed Bell - 1965

"I realize that I am the product of a smaller community, and probably not too familiar with the activities in the larger cities, but I assure you that I have been over earnest and sincere in my work, have labored hard and long and have used every ounce of enthusiasm that I have in the promotion of Columbianism in Oregon." Ed Bell - May 11, 1939, 31st State Convention, Mt. Angel, OR

