

Robert Elsworth Welch

30th State Deputy of Oregon 1965-1967



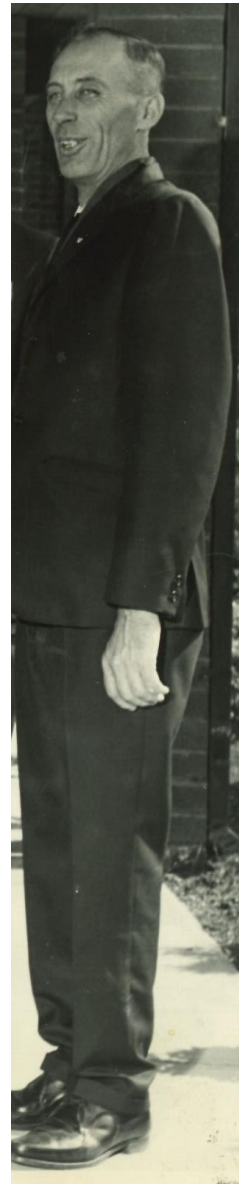
Robert Elsworth Welch was born on March 31, 1919 in Pettibone, ND into a Protestant family to Edward and Jessie Adams Welch. After Robert graduated from high school he worked on a farm.

In 1942 Robert enlisted in the Army to serve during WWII. On July 31, 1943 Robert married Florence Ludwig in Hattiesburg, MS. They had two daughters, Elaine and Eileen. In 1945 Robert was discharged from the Army.

In 1953 through the efforts of his wife's priest in Pettibone, ND, Robert converted and became Catholic. They moved to Salem, OR the following year where Robert worked as a County Assessor. Later in life Robert worked as a real property appraiser in Clackamas County.

Robert became a charter member of the Salem Council 5060 and was the first Grand Knight of the Council. He later became District Deputy, chairman of the K of C Invitational Basketball Tournament and Vice Supreme Master. He was elected as State Deputy in 1965 but never held any other State Office. After his term as State Deputy, Robert was the Chairman of St. Vincent's Blossom Day which gave tours of blossoming cherry orchards in Polk County.

Robert E. Welch died February 26, 1993 in Salem, OR and is buried in the Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR. Florence died in 2000 and is buried next to Robert.



"I believe the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, are the only branch of the faith that you know are Catholics." Robert E. Welch, December 16, 1978, Salem, OR.