

Past Knight

William Daniel “Dan” Hay



William Daniel Hay was born on August 18, 1902 in St. Paul, MN to William and Julia Holly Hay. He graduated from St. Tomas Military academy in 1921 in Mendota Heights, MN.

In the late 1920's, Dan married Louise Ruckeshler. The couple had two girls, Margaret and Dorothy. The family lived in San Francisco, CA from the late 1920's to 1935 when they moved to Rural, NV.

In 1936 Dan moved his family to Salem, OR and became employed by the Associated Employers of Oregon as executive manager until 1944. Dan joined the Knights of Columbus around 1936 and became a member of the Salem Council 1748 in which he became Grand Knight. He eventually became District Deputy.



Louise Ruckeshler

In 1944 Dan moved his family to Portland, OR and opened a professional labor relations office as Dan Hay and Associates. Dan work for 40 years in that profession and retired in 1984 at the age of 82. When Dan moved to Portland he transferred to the Portland Council 678.

Dan became the State Publicity Chairman in the mid 1940's and served as State Secretary from 1943-44. In 1943 he served as Chairman of the State Convention held in Salem and in 1949 as General Chairman of the 67th Supreme Convention held in Portland, OR. In 1946, Dan organized the Archbishop Howard Assembly in Salem and was the first Faithful Navigator.



Dan Hay speaking at the 1949 Supreme Convention

In 1950's, Dan served as the state's Loyalty Day Parade Chairman in 1953, District Deputy of District 1 and Chairman of the 1955 State Convention held in Portland.

In the 1960's, Dan served as the Grand Knight of the Portland Council 678 from 1962-64, President of the Columbus Hall Association in Portland, State Public Relations Chairman from 1967-69 and 1969 State Convention held in Portland.

Dan was appointed Oregon District Master in 1978 to 1980. He was Degree Chairman and directed the conferring of the third degree in more than 100 exemplifications in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

William Daniel Hay died on March 18, 1987 in Portland, OR and is buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland, OR. Louise died in 2005 and is buried next to Dan.



"From a state level there is only so much that can be done. Actually, the survival, the activity and the enthusiasm of each Council rests in its Grand Knight, Officers and Board of Trustees." Dan Hay – June 6, 1969, Portland, OR

