

Past General Agent

Austin Leo “Doc” Elvin

Past General Agent 1941-1967



Austin Leo Elvin was born on January 25, 1902 in Jefferson, IA to Francis and Alice O'brien Elvin.

At an early age Austin was a salesman for wholesale fruit in Mandan, ND. Austin married Ellen Holtan on February 10, 1934 in North Dakota. The couple never had any children. In 1936 the couple moved to Salem, OR where Austin was a masseur and a practice in chiropody where he earned the name “Doc”.


Austin joined the Knights in the late 1930's and was a member of the Salem Council 1748. He was Grand Knight of the council 1939-40. In 1960, Austin became a charter member of the Salem Council 5060 in which he helped form.

The Knights of Columbus Agency Department officially started in 1941 with the appointment of A. L. Elvin as the first fulltime representative in Oregon. He held the position in until 1952 under the supervision of General Agent, Joseph Bradley of San Francisco. Upon the death of Bradley in that year, Austin was appointed General Agent for Oregon, Washington and Idaho with headquarters in Salem, OR.

The agency was immediately organized by him and reached a total of 10 agents at one time. With the growth of the insurance program and the addition of the health and accident program in 1961, the Northwest agency was divided into state units and Austin remained General Agent for Oregon until he retired in 1967 after 26 years of service. Earl Zak was then appointed as General Agent of Oregon. Austin did continue to represent the Order in an advisory capacity and as part time district agent.



Austin and Ellen



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Austin Leo Elvin died on October 15, 1970 in Salem, OR and is buried in Belcrest Memorial Park in Salem, OR. Ellen died in 1982 and is buried next to Austin.

"I believe that the Knights of Columbus Insurance is the greatest insurance in the world. I believe that its greatness lies not so much in its wide flung organizations nor in its millions of dollars of deposits, but in that all this greatness exists for one primary purpose – to prevent and alleviate unhappiness." A. L. Elvin - October 31, 1963, Salem, OR

