



# THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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## Chapter THIRTY TWO : Francis W. Reardon 1955-1957 Portland

Probably none of our State Deputies, of the Maine jurisdiction, grew up under more humble circumstances nor has had a more varied or interesting career. Our 29th State Deputy was born on December 23, 1899, within a few blocks of where "Al" Smith was reared in lower New York City. He is the son of William F. Reardon and Mary J. Sullivan Reardon and was christened Francis William Reardon. At the age of four, his mother died and his father moved to Portland, Maine where young Francis attended the local parochial schools until he was thirteen years of age, when he went to work. He worked for the Portland Company from 1913 until 1919. Later he worked for the railroad at Thompson's Point and for a time worked on the waterfront in Portland as a checker.

On April 5, 1926, he married Mary E. Flynn. They did not have any children. The same year that he married, he joined the Portland Police force and served as a provisional patrolman for three years before getting his permanent appointment on the regular force of "Portland's Finest". As a patrolman his activities were varied and exciting. Some of the outstanding arrests that he participated in was Anthony Casales in 1929 for transporting intoxicating liquor. Then there was Antonio Napolitano on a similar charge. He assisted in the raid on Carmine "Benny" N. Napolitano's residence where \$22,000 worth of narcotics was found. When "Scarface" Philip William, one of the four who robbed the Cabot Mill, escaped from the Cumberland County Jail, again it was Brother Reardon who was instrumental in his recapture. In 1945 Judge Edmund P. Mahoney appointed him as his Court Attache. In this position, it is his responsibility to prepare the cases for the municipal court, which involves issuing 2,000 warrants and interviewing over 3,000 persons annually.

And to prove the inaccuracy of the adage that "all policemen have flat feet" we note that in 1922 Francis Reardon and Miss Ethel Emery won the waltz dancing contest at the Portland city Hall and were acclaimed the terpsichorean champions. The following week they competed against a Lewiston couple for the state championship.

It is interesting to note how Brother Reardon got his nickname of "Dutchy". Probably the thing that brought him more fame and pleasure than anything else was his participation in organized sports. It seems that at that time there was a professional baseball player by the same name of Dutchy Reardon, who had recently met with an accidental death. On this day when young Francis was playing sand-lot ball and knocked one out of the park for a home run someone in the crowd shouted "there's that Dutchy Reardon again". And from that day on he has been "Dutchy" to everyone except on official papers. For ten years he played on the fast semi-pro Knights of Columbus baseball team sponsored by Council No. 101. He played every position except catcher, but mostly centerfield or pitcher. A strong hitter, he usually was either lead-off or clean-up batter. Besides playing on the Knights of Columbus teams, he also played for the E.T. Burrows, The Teamsters, and the Milliken-Tomlinson teams, against the fastest teams in the state.

Brother Reardon was initiated in the Portland Council No. 101 on February 17, 1919, but transferred to the Msgr. Houlihand Council No. 2983, being a charterm member when that council was instituted June of 1946. He served as Warden, Chancellor, Deputy Grand Knight, and Trustee. As Grand Knight, he served one term in 1949-1951. He also served as a District Deputy for three terms from 1949-1952. In the 1952 Convention at Houlton, he was a candidate for the office of State Deputy, against Robert J. Ouellette of Brunswick. Upon being defeated, the delegates elected him the State Secretary, which office he held for three terms. In 1955 he was again a

candidate for the office of State Deputy against then incumbent, Robert J. Ouellette, and he won by a three to one vote.

The William Brenigan council No. 3942 of Belfast was instituted during his term of office as State Deputy.

## **FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #10: Robert Ouellette 1955-84 Brunswick**

Following his three terms as State Deputy from 1952 to 1955, Robert J. Ouellette was appointed as District Master and served in that office from 1955 to 1984. This was a total of 29 years as District Master of Maine.

## **STATE CHAPLAIN 1953 TO 1967: Rev. Daniel J. Haggerty**

## **Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Daniel J. Feeney, D.D. 1955-1969**

**State Convention** for 1955 was held in Skowhegan on May 28-29, 1955

**State Convention** for 1956 was held in Lewiston on May 5-6, 1956

**State Convention** for 1957 was held in Caribou on May 25-26, 1957