

The Three Forks Furniture Company

For a number of years in its early days, Three Forks had its own furniture store. There is not a lot of documentation about the Three Forks Furniture Company, only a few advertisements in the local papers. But there is a considerable amount on the owner, N. M. Kvalnes.

Norman Marius Kvalnes was born a 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Norway in 1878. His father, a fisherman, was lost to the sea in 1887 and his mother and four siblings immigrated to America in May 1888. They settled in Lisbon, ND and Norman took a job in a furniture store in Valley City, ND. He married Clara Proctor of LaMerene, ND in 1901. They had two sons in North Dakota, Hamline and Donovan. The family moved to Harlowton where Norman took a job in a furniture store.

It was reported in the February 26, 1914 edition of the Three Forks News that N. M. Kvalnes, of Harlowton, "was in the city last week, looking things over, with an eye toward opening a furniture store and undertaking parlor."

Kvalnes moved to Three Forks on April 13, 1914. In October 1914, Kvalnes joined the volunteer fire department.

Shortly after arriving in the city, Kvalnes placed ads in the Three Forks News for the Hoosier "White Beauty" free standing kitchen cabinet. The Hoosier was a product sold at the Three Forks Furniture Company, but not produced there.

In September 1916, N.M. Kvalnes acquired the Davis and West undertaking business. The Three Forks News reported that "Kvalnes will conduct his undertaking business in the Davis & West building next to the News office, and keep his furniture business at the Main St location."

DAVIS & WEST

Licensed Embalmers and
Funeral Furnishers

Personal Attention in all Cases. Hearse
for City and Country Service.

Three Forks Montana.

1911 ad from the Three Forks News

Last Minute of the Great Hoosier \$1 Sale

The end of our great offer is now at hand. Scarcely enough Hoosiers remain for this sale to justify this advertisement.

WE NOW HAVE KEPT OUR PROMISE

By telling you frankly that YOU MUST ENROLL EARLY TOMORROW in order to have the Hoosier save you hours from your hot kitchen during the sweltering days ahead. When the last Hoosier in this allotment is taken, your opportunity to enroll on this famous Hoosier \$1 First ends, and we have no early assurance of receiving more Hoosiers, even on regular terms, for some time to come. Come tomorrow without fail, and come early.

This Our Last Ad

Tomorrow the Last Day

Read about these conveniences that made the HOOSIER necessary to over 700,000 women.

- (1) Mrs. Christine Frederick's famous "Housekeepers' Food Guide"—on the upper left door—answers the eternal question: "What shall we have for dinner?"
- (2) The Cool-book Holder on the middle upper door holds your cook book securely when not in use. When you are cooking, simply open up the book to the proper page behind the holder. It is on a level with your eyes, always clean, never in the way.

There are 40 special conveniences in the NEW HOOSIER—17 are entirely NEW.

- (3) The Hoosier Metal Floor Bin holds fifty pounds. It is low and easy to fill. The sliding glass front enables you to clean the entire bin daily. The inside is entirely of metal, with no corners to hold flour. First flour in is always out first.
- (4) The New Shaker Flour Sifter is the most wonderful of all the new Hoosier inventions. It is the only flour sifter ever made on a kitchen cabinet that shakes flour through instead of grinding it through. It cannot wear out and cannot grind through any grit or foreign substance that might be in the flour.

OUR WINDOW DISPLAY is the talk of the town—come and see it.

- (5) A new feature in the Base Cupboard is a narrow shelf conveniently located for the storage of canned articles. Most women will find this a great convenience as an "emergency shelf." It will save many trips to the cellar or pantry.

TOMORROW YOU may examine all the new features. You incur no obligation. But you should come early. You may be too late to get one on the HOOSIER PLAN if you delay. Come and SEE this remarkable NEW Hoosier tomorrow.



"WHITE BEAUTY"
ADVERTISED IN LEADING MAGAZINES

Tomorrow, Only \$1 Puts This NEW HOOSIER in Your Home—Don't Wait!

The mid-summer sale terms are:

1. You may choose any of the new Hoosiers—"White Beauty," or "Oak Interior" at slightly less price.
2. \$1 puts your Hoosier in your home at once.
3. \$1 weekly quickly pays for it.
4. The low cash price fixed by the factory prevails strictly.
5. No interest—no extra fees.
6. This sale is under direct supervision of the Hoosier Company.
7. Sale is strictly limited to one small number of new Hoosiers.
8. Your money back if you are not delighted with your Hoosier.

This is your opportunity—if you act quickly—to own this wonderful Hoosier on the most liberal terms ever offered. You may search the whole world and find nothing that will save you so much labor in your kitchen as this new Hoosier.

White Beauty is a wonder of conveniences. It combines three ready cupboards, a large work table and postage penny in one spot so you can sit down at work and save miles of steps.

You have places before you for 400 articles all at your finger ends. You save most of the weary hours often wasted in their kitchen.

This new Hoosier on these terms is the greatest kitchen cabinet bargain you have ever seen. The few we have will be sold in no time at all. Only those women who grasp this opportunity promptly can be sure of getting one of these cabinets on the liberal Hoosier plan.

Three Forks Furniture Company

N. M. KVAMNES, Proprietor

UNDERTAKING AND EMBALMING

ARTISTIC PICTURE FRAMING

ALL WORK GUARANTEED CALL 708

1914 Three Forks News Advertisement

Norman was, according to the many mentions in the newspapers, a busy man. He was elected President of the Three Forks Gun Club in February 1918. Later that year, he was listed as a director of the Three Forks Mining Company, a company founded by Herbert Dunbar with a claim in the Copper City mining district.

In 1919, Kvalnes was appointed by the state to be the Recorder of Births and Deaths. In 1920, he was chosen as the President of the Montana Funeral Directors Association. His wife, Clara, was the Grand Noble of the Rebekahs in 1923. In 1928, Kvalnes and E. M. Mestad attended the "Smith for President" banquet in Butte. In 1935, he was the Vice-President

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of the Three Rivers Sportsmen Association. Also in 1935, he attended the National Townsend Club (a movement for the creation of a retirement plan, which eventually led to the Social Security program) convention in Chicago.



MR. N. M. KVALNES

Popular Three Forks man who was chosen as President of the Montana Funeral Directors' Association, at their convention held some time ago.

Hamline, Norman's older son, went to UofM, got a PhD in Chemistry and was a research chemist for the DuPont Company. Norman's son Donovan went on to get his doctorate in chemistry and eventually became the Technical and New Products Manager for a division of the DuPont Company.

Norman went back to his hometown of Stegen, Norway in 1960 at the age of 80. He died in Couer d'Alene in 1965. Both he and his wife Clara are buried in the cemetery in Bozeman.

According to long time resident Arnold Wade, Kvalnes moved the mortuary building from Block 17 on Date Street to Block 12 Lot 7 (corner of Cedar and First Ave East). It is now the back part of the home on that lot. Sherlock Nave did the moving on July 28, 1937 (the photo is in the Headwaters Heritage History book).

In May 1947, the Three Forks Herald reported that N.M. Kvalnes sold the Kvalnes Hardware and Variety store to Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Sorenson of Harlowton.

In 1948, the I.O.O.F. gave Kvalnes and his wife a farewell party as they intended to move to Couer d'Alene, Idaho. Later that year, the Grace Lutheran Church dedicated Three Forks Chapel and welcome pastor Candidate William Friederichs. The Kvalnes funeral home had been remodeled, and was ready for use.