

# Kling Factories President Feted At Mayville Testimonial Dinner

MAYVILLE — Back in 1912, Chester E. Helgran, then 19, and a graduate of business college, liked the furniture business so well that he joined a year old firm, Kling Factories, Inc.

He had worked for several years in Breed & Johnson Furniture Company, later known as Eckman's, in Jamestown.

Mr. Helgran then did not dream that one day he would become nationally known in the furniture industry.

Less than two years ago, Kling Factories, Inc., was purchased by Baumritter Corporation, nationally known furniture manufacturer.

A testimonial dinner was given in honor of Mr. Helgran last night in the Peacock Inn by Nathan S. Ancell, Baumritter Corporation president.

Mr. Ancell said Mr. Helgran will continue as Kling Factories, Inc., president and also will be senior consultant on all policy matters.

Some of his other duties will be taken over by D. Donald Kling, the factories' vice president.

At the same time, Mr. Ancell announced Mr. Kling's new appointment as general manager of operation of the Kling Factories here, Falconer and Frewsburg.

A son of Denold Kling, one of the Kling Factories' founders in 1911, Mr. Kling is 41 years old, and has been identified with the furniture business since, as he says, "knee high."

A graduate of Mayville High School, he was attending the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Va., when he left his studies behind to join the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II.

Married to Grace Cleland, the couple resides on Chautauqua Road, and have two children, James J., and Patricia A. Kling.

Mr. Ancell also stated that each of the factory superintendents will report directly to Mr. Kling.

The plant superintendents, Mr. Ancell said, are George Zerns, Mayville factory; Edward Sulborski, Falconer plant, and J. Albert (Al) Lindquist, Frewsburg.

It was not the first time Mr. Helgran has been honored during his 51 years as a furniture man, but last night's occasion was "different." It was an honor bestowed by the boss—Mr. Ancell.

For the occasion, there were more than 50 factory workers, officials of other Jamestown area furniture manufacturers and industrialists, some of whom have been in the furniture business as long or a bit longer than Mr. Helgran.



**HONORED** — Chester E. Helgran, veteran furniture manufacturer executive was honored by Kling Factories, Inc., a division of Baumritter Corporation, New York City. From left to right: Nathan S. Ancell, New York City, Baumritter Corporation president; Mr. Helgran, and D. Donald Kling, Kling Factories' vice president, who was named general manager of the factories.

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Jamestown - Royal Corporation, now the Jamestown - Royal, Inc., manufacturer of upholstery furniture. Mr. Ancell is the immediate NAJPM past president.

Mr. Helgran, who also has been active in church, civic, fraternal and banking circles, says, "I'll have a little more time to travel now." He and his wife spend the winters in Tuscon, Ariz.

An ardent fisherman, Mr. Helgran also has another hobby, string saver. The honored furnitureman said, "that is why I get along so well in life."