

Thomas H. Quinn Jr.

(November 16, 1898 – January 25, 1946)

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On the birth of Thomas H. Quinn, Jr., on November 16, 1898, almost certainly someone prophesied that he would become a lawyer — like his father, uncle and others in the family. He fulfilled those predictions in short order.

He graduated from the St. Paul College of Law in the spring of 1919. At that time, graduates of local law schools were admitted automatically to the bar.¹ Because he had not yet turned twenty-one, he had to wait several months. Admitted on November 18, 1919, two days after his birthday,² he began practicing law in Faribault. He soon entered politics.

In 1921, he was elected mayor of the city — purportedly the youngest mayor in the country, and re-elected in 1923. The next year, in the middle of his second term, he subscribed to the publication of Joseph A. A. Burnquist's multi-volume state history and was entitled to have his biographical sketch published. Needless to say, his was very flattering:

Almost as soon as he had finished his legal studies and had been admitted to the bar of Minnesota, Thomas H. Quinn was notified by the voters of Faribault Minnesota, that his services were required most urgently as mayor of the town, and since 1921 he has filled

¹ The automatic admission law benefited only graduates of the University of Minnesota Law School until April 1917, when the 40th Legislature enacted a measure that authorized the admission of graduates of "any college of law incorporated in this state," provided that school met minimal qualifications:

Any student who has heretofore matriculated in the college of law of the state university shall be so admitted, upon graduation, without fee or examination, upon production of his diploma, within two years from the date thereof, and upon proof that he is an adult citizen and resident of the state, of good moral character. Upon the same terms and conditions any student who has heretofore matriculated in any college of law incorporated in this state or, established by authority of its laws, and located therein, shall upon graduation be admitted to such practice, provided such college receives as students only those having the equivalent of a high school education, affords a three years' course of tuition under a corps of ten competent instructors, and operates under the written approval of the supreme court.

1917 Laws, c. 282, §2, at 419 (effective April 17, 1917); codified as Stat. c. 35, §4946, at 474 (1917).

² 1 *Roll of Attorneys: Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970* 190 (State Law Library, 2011).

the office most acceptably to the citizens, who in 1923 reelected him for another term of two years. He was born in Faribault, on November 16, 1898, the son of Thomas H. and Elizabeth (Nolan) Quinn, the father's birthplace being Berlin, Wisconsin, and the mother's birthplace a farm in Rice county, Minnesota, where they were married. For many years the father was a lawyer in Faribault. They had five children, the four now living being: Thomas H., Beatrice, Frank and Genevieve. Both parents were members of the Roman Catholic church, and the father was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

He was a democrat in politics and had served as county and also city attorney. Both parents have passed away.

Thomas H. Quinn received his education in the parochial and public schools of Faribault, at St. Thomas College and at the St. Paul, Minnesota, College of Law, from which he graduated in 1919 and was admitted to the bar in the latter part of the same year. He began practice with Ray Moonan of Waseca, Minnesota, continuing this association until December, 1922, since which time he has practiced alone. Mr. Quinn is a bachelor and a member of the Roman Catholic Immaculate Conception church in Faribault. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the American Legion.

He enlisted for service in the World war in the fall of 1918, served at Camp Pike, Arkansas, in the Officers' Training Camp, and was discharged in 1919. In his political opinions Mr. Quinn is a democrat. He was elected mayor in 1921 and reelected in 1923 for another term of two years. His duties as mayor and his practice as a lawyer occupy all of his time.³

In 1926 he ran for Rice County Attorney, a position held by his father in 1884-1887 and 1891-1893. He was a well-known Democrat. Lucius A. Smith was the incumbent. Although these were non-partisan contests, they were hard fought; charges flew back and forth. They campaigned over a narrow legal question: whom does the county attorney represent? Both candidates placed ads explaining their views on this arcane question in the *Faribault Daily News* on the eve of the election:⁴

³ Joseph A. A. Burnquist, ed., 4 *Minnesota and Its People* 249-250 (1924).

⁴ *Faribault Daily News*, November 1, 1926, at 4 (Smith ad) and 5 (Quinn ad) (both enlarged)

County Attorney
Lucius A. Smith
Candidate For Re-Election



My opponent advertises that if he is elected County Attorney he will not act as attorney for the County Board. (See his political advertisement in Friday's issues of The Daily News.)

The following law covering the duties of the County Attorney may be found at Section 926, General Statutes of Minnesota for 1923:

"The County Attorney shall appear for the county in all cases in which it is a party, GIVE OPINIONS AND ADVICE UPON REQUEST TO THE COUNTY BOARD or any county officer upon all matters in which the county is or may be interested, or in relation to the OFFICIAL DUTIES OF SUCH BOARD or officer . . . attend before the grand jury upon their special request, give them legal advice, and examine witnesses in their presence. He shall draw all indictments and presentments found by the grand jury and prosecute the same to a final determination in the district court."

IF I AM RE-ELECTED TO THE OFFICE I WILL CONTINUE TO HONESTLY AND FAITHFULLY REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF RICE COUNTY AND ITS COUNTY BOARD AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY.
LUCIUS A. SMITH.

"Every Knock Is A Boost"

PAID. ADVERTISEMENT—Prepared and ordered run by Thomas H. Quinn in his own behalf and to be paid for at regular rates



VOTE FOR
Thos. H. Quinn
CANDIDATE FOR
County Attorney

"The County Attorney is the attorney for the county and not for the county board, and the county and not the county board is his client."

"The County Attorney is merely the legal advisor of the county board with respect to the performance of their official duties."

This has been my slogan throughout the campaign and it is the statement of the Attorney General, who wrote it to Mr. Smith last July. Mr. Smith does not apparently agree with it, while I am satisfied to do as the Attorney General says.

Please pay no attention to last minute stories. The issue is clear cut, namely—whether you want your affairs in your court house to continue as they have or whether you want to change. That is the only issue.

I do not wish to be elected or defeated by misrepresentation or last minute stories.

TOM QUINN.

He was elected to a four year term on November 2, 1926, by a wide margin:

Thomas H. Quinn.....5,060
Lucius A. Smith.....3,835 ⁵

In 1930, he ran for a second term. He was opposed by Arthur B. Childress, who had served two terms as county attorney, 1907-1915.⁶ Childress' campaign ad was a simple affirmation:

Prepared and ordered run by A. B. Childress, Faribault, Minn., and to be paid for at regular political rates.



A. B. CHILDRESS
Candidate for
County Attorney
ABLE — RELIABLE —
EXPERIENCED
If elected will enforce the law
without fear or favor.

ABLE — RELIABLE — EXPERIENCED
If elected will enforce the law
Without fear or favor. ⁷

Quinn was re-elected by a margin even greater than in his first:

Thomas H. Quinn.....6,178
Arthur B. Childress.....3,088 ⁸

Four years later, he was opposed by John E. Coughlin, who well known to the voters because he had served two terms in the state House of Representatives, 1931-1935.

During this campaign Quinn was forced to defend —or explain —some of his actions. On November 2, 1934, he placed the following ad in the *Daily News* that ran from the top of page 4 to the bottom:

⁵ *Faribault Daily News*, November 3, 1926, at 2 (unofficial results).

⁶ Franklyn-Curtis Wedge, ed., *2 History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota* 1270 (1910).

⁷ *Faribault Daily News*, November 1, 1930, at 8 (accompanied by a small photo of the candidate).

⁸ *Faribault Daily News*, November 5, 1930, at 1 (unofficial returns).

**Tom
Quinn**
For
**County
Attorney**
Rice County



You elected me upon my promise that I would represent all of the people as county attorney. I have honestly and fairly given you my best to keep this promise. However, this had displeased some people who seem to think that public officers should act for the few.

HOTEL FARIBAULT CASE

The building permit for this hotel called for a \$250,000.00 building. The present owners came to own it in a deal in which small Faribault stockholders were frozen out for 15c on the dollar.

For tax purposes the city assessor placed a value of \$140,000.00 upon the whole property. These owners were not satisfied with this and they quietly applied direct to the Tax Commission. Hardly a person in the county knew of the application. A notice was mailed to me, but I did not receive it.

The valuation was then reduced to \$99,750.00, thereby saving the owners about \$1,500.00 a year in taxes which, of course, has had to be made up by you other taxpayers. They have saved themselves about \$3,000.00 to date at your expense.

When I learned of this I thought that all of the people should be advised so I publicly exposed the deal. For this, I was profanely condemned and was told that I would be "gotten" in this coming election. Business associates and political appointees, who received their positions through at least one of the hotel owners, are, as per this threat, out to "get" me. Whether they succeed is entirely up to you. I believe, that such deals should be exposed and if you believe that you taxpayers are entitled to be advised of them, I will appreciate your active support.

DISORDERS

DISORDERS

There have been many disorders within the county the past summer. They have been promoted by racketeers for self profit. I have tried to be as patient as possible, always remembering that I was working for all of the people and not for any clique or cliques who wanted to take the law into their own hands.

If I had turned the county over to these people, I would have been false to you.

However, my conduct did not please some of them. I was the subject of false and profane poems and news articles. A petition containing untrue and slanderous charges was filed with the Governor. This petition was circulated at the direction of O. J. Fosso, President, and Frank Ellis, Business Manager, both of the Independent Union of All Workers of Austin. About the same time Ellis, a former member of the I. W. W., made speeches urging my defeat. It is, of course, for you to say whether these men from Austin shall decide who shall be your county officers.

Among the signers on that petition as per a letter from the Governor's office were: R. L. Carver, of the Faribault Industrial Union; J. Gordon O'Neil, Faribault road contractor; George Harris, of the Faribault Industrial Union, and Harry Madsen, of the Farm Holiday Association.

I do not know what Mr. O'Neil's relations with these other signers are. He does his road work with motorized equipment and I can see nothing that he has in common with his co-signers. I have urged the use of men and teams on our roads. Possibly that is why he joined in asking my removal. Mr. O'Neil's name followed R. L. Carver's on the list.

MY RECORD

What I have done or have failed to do as your county attorney is a matter of public record. I was born and raised here in Faribault and most of you voters know me, or know of me. I would ask of you that fairness which will prompt you to look up things for yourself rather than believe the vicious stories which have been circulated against me through the summer and into this campaign. I know you will be fair.

If you believe, as I do, that your county attorney should be tied to no one, but that he should be free to openly, honestly and reasonably work for all of the people of the county, I will not only appreciate your vote, but would also solicit your active support, so that your office will not be placed under the influence of those who would use it for their own selfish purposes.

I respectfully submit my candidacy for county attorney to you.

Yours very truly,

THOS. H. QUINN.

Political Advertisement: Prepared and inserted by Thos. H. Quinn, Faribault, Minn., for himself, for which the regular rates are to be paid.



Vote For
John E. Coughlin
FOR
COUNTY ATTORNEY
RICE COUNTY

While State Representative I served the people of Rice County in an honest, economical and efficient manner, and will give the same service if elected County Attorney. I have no organization and am paying my own expenses, and if elected will assume the duties of the office without obligation to anyone, except the people of Rice County as a whole. I respectfully solicit your vote at the General Election next Tuesday.

Political Advertisement: Prepared and ordered run by John E. Coughlin and for which the regular advertising rate is to be paid.

The results of the election on November 6, 1934, were:

Thomas H. Quinn.....5,912
 John E. Coughlin.....5,149 ⁹

In 1935, he placed the following profile—really a short autobiographical sketch—in Theodore Christianson’s history of the state:

THOMAS H. QUINN, county attorney of Rice County, has exhibited a splendid loyalty and sense of responsibility in public office, and is one of the ablest of the younger men of affairs of the City of Faribault.

He was born there, November 16, 1898, a son of Thomas H. and Elizabeth (Nolen) Quinn. His paternal grandfather, Patrick Quinn, was born in Ireland, and after coming to America was a bookkeeper in New York City. Later he moved to a farm in Wisconsin and spent his last years at Faribault. Mr. Quinn’s maternal grandfather was also born in Ireland. He first settled in Boston and during the ‘50s came to southern Minnesota and became a pioneer in Rice County, where he developed a farm. Thomas H. Quinn Sr. was born at Berlin, Wisconsin, and for many years enjoyed a high place as a member of the Faribault bar. He served as city and county attorney, was a leader in the Democratic party, and belonged to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church. He died in 1915 at the age of sixty-two. His wife, Elizabeth Nolen, was

⁹ *Faribault Daily News*, November 7, 1934, at 1 (unofficial returns).

born in Richland township of Rice County, and passed away at the age of forty-five in 1911. Of the five children of these parents four are living: Thomas H.; Beatrice, social secretary of the Seaton Guild at Minneapolis; Frank N.; and Genevieve, a nurse in the Veterans Hospital at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Thomas H. Quinn Jr. is a lawyer of fine attainments and received a liberal education, attending St. Thomas College at St. Paul, and the St. Paul College of Law. There was an interruption to his educational career when in October, 1918, he was called to the colors, but was in training camp only two months. After his admission to the bar he engaged in private practice in 1920. Public honors came to him quickly. In 1921 he was elected mayor of Faribault, and was head of the city government for four years, until 1925. In 1926 he was elected county attorney of Rice County and by reelection in 1930 is filling the second term in that office.

Mr. Quinn is a member of the City, County, State and American Bar associations, is a Knight of Columbus, and is exalted ruler of the B. P. O. Elks at Faribault. He is chairman of the County Democratic Committee. While in college he played football and he is a follower of all outdoor sports.

He married in 1926, Elinor Foley. She was born at Aitkin, Minnesota, and was educated in public schools there and finished in St. Mary's College at South Bend, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Quinn have three children, Diane, Thomas H. III and Sally. The family are active members of the Catholic Church and Mr. Quinn is trustee of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Faribault.¹⁰

Four years later Coughlin again challenged Quinn for Rice County Attorney. Although this was a nonpartisan office, Quinn was a prominent Democrat running in a year of Republican landslide victories across the nation.¹¹ They waged an acrimonious campaign, each distributing pamphlets with charges and counter-charges that were repeated in their advertisements in the local newspaper.¹² This time, not surprisingly given the national mood, the tables were reversed, and John Coughlin prevailed by a comfortable margin in the election on November 8, 1938:

John E. Coughlin.....	6,041
Thomas H. Quinn.....	5,038

¹³

¹⁰ Theodore Christianson, 4 *Minnesota: The Land of Sky-tined Waters* 421-22 (1935).

¹¹ Republican Harold E. Stassen was elected governor of Minnesota. Nationally, the Democrats lost 72 seats in the House of Representatives and 7 Senate seats.

¹² Quinn's ad on page 9, below, is from the *Faribault Daily News*, November 3, 1938, at 12. Coughlin's ad on page 10, below, is from the *Faribault Daily News*, November 5, 1938, at 8. Both are enlarged.

¹³ *Faribault Daily News*, November 9, 1938, at 1. These returns are unofficial and incomplete, with 37 out of 38 precincts counted.



THOS. H.
QUINN
FOR
COUNTY
ATTORNEY

**To The Voters Of
Rice County**

About three weeks ago I issued a small circular. It represents all that I have put in print in this campaign. Whatever I have said orally has been said from public platforms. I have always felt that whatever was worth mentioning in a campaign was worth bringing out in plenty of time and in a fair and open manner.

However, just this week there has been issued against and mailed and peddled from house to house a very lengthy circular which attacks me almost in my whole life.

Although my opponent's name is signed to this vicious circular, I am satisfied that it is not solely his work. It is the work of those who desire to take over your court house and your county affairs.

I cannot at this date attempt to answer the many false and misleading insinuations contained in the document, but I am willing to rest my candidacy with the spirit of fair play which I know that you possess.

I Will Speak At:

SHIELDSVILLE—Thursday, November 3rd, at 8 p.m.,
at Town Hall.

WALCOTT—Friday, November 4th, at 8 p.m., at Town
Hall.

MORRISTOWN—Saturday, November 5th, at 8 p.m.,
at Village Hall.

LONSDALE—Sunday, November 6th, at 2 p.m., at
Frejlach's Hall.

Prepared, issued and circulated by Thos. H. Quinn, Faribault,
Minn. for himself.



John E.
Coughlin

Candidate for

**County
Attorney**

Rice County

My opponent charges that my pamphlet was issued too late in this campaign. I issued it as soon as possible after receiving a copy of his circular. He has had sufficient opportunity and time to answer my charges if he desired to do so—both at his political meetings throughout the county and the newspapers. (My pamphlet had been circulated in Faribault and Mr. Quinn commented upon it at his meeting on Monday, Oct. 31, 1938). If it was my intention to be unfair I could have waited until the last of this week to distribute and mail my pamphlets.

The ridiculous and false statement that my pamphlet was written by others, is apparently the basis for the reported rumors during the past week to the effect that if I am elected someone else will actually be your County Attorney. You may be assured that if I am elected the duties of that office will be performed by me without fear or favor as I will be under obligation to no one except the voters of Rice County.

My opponent chooses to call my pamphlet "vicious." If facts are vicious then I agree with him; but the truth, even though it may hurt, is not vicious.

Again I respectfully solicit your vote at the election next Tuesday.

Paid Advertisement—Prepared and inserted by John E. Coughlin, Faribault, Minn., for which regular political rates will be paid.

In 1942 he ran for judge of the Fifth Judicial District. He survived the primary on September 8, coming in second to the incumbent, Judge Axel Anderson:

Axel B. Anderson.....8,917
Thomas H. Quinn.....5,676
F. A. Alexander.....4,165 ¹⁴

This was his seventh campaign for public office in twenty years: twice for mayor of Faribault, 1921 and 1923, four times for county attorney, 1926, 1930, 1934 and 1938, and last, for district court judge. The voters knew him very well.

For the general election, both candidates ran advertisements in the local paper. Judge Anderson's was as straightforward as any election ad can be: "Ask Any Lawyer" "Ask Any Juror." Quinn's was directed at the voters of Rice County.¹⁵

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: Prepared and ordered published for and on behalf of Axel B. Anderson, Owatonna, Minn. by the Axel B. Anderson for District Judge Volunteer Committee, B. Glendon Smith, Owatonna, Minn., Secretary, for which the regular advertising rates will be paid.



VOTE FOR
**AXEL B.
ANDERSON**
Your Present
District Judge
At The
General Election
November 3

Experienced - - Qualified
Ask Any Lawyer
Ask Any Juror

¹⁴ 1943 Blue Book, at 261.

¹⁵ *Faribault Daily News*, October 28, 1942, at 8 (Anderson); *Faribault Daily News*, October 30, 1942, at 3 (Quinn)



Elect

THOS. H.

QUINN

FARIBAULT

District Judge

Rice County's people, if united, have the power to elect Attorney Thos. H. Quinn.

His election will bring business, honor and prestige to our county and will also give us a District Judge who was voted by the lawyers of the four counties of the District, 17 to 6, to be the best qualified.

The law provides that party politics shall not enter into the Judgeship election and we are confident that the voters of our county will loyally support, and thus elect, this qualified Rice County man.

It is up to all of us as loyal Rice County citizens to bend our efforts to give Mr. Quinn the majority in Rice County which will assure his election.

We are counting on each of you to vote for

X - THOS. H. QUINN FOR DISTRICT JUDGE

Ed A. Kieckheff, merchant,
Wm F. Kaul, retired,
John P. O'Neil, contractor,
T. R. Chapman, farmer,
Herman Budge, farmer,
John D. Gibson, farmer,
H. Vierkant, farmer,
Matt J. Hintsala, salesman,
L. F. Shandorf, insurance,
Dr. Jos. A. Hanson, dentist,
Ed J. McCusker, dray line,
Dr. F. F. Kramer, retired, Dean
of Seabury Divinity School.

Robert Fox, farmer,
Hilary Walsh, merchant,
H. H. Aberle, merchant,
Prof. Fred W. Jenkins, retired,
Headmaster, St. James School,
Henry Malluege, farmer,
George Petricka, farmer,
A. B. Jasinski, cafe,
C. W. Zimmerman, retired
farmer,
Joseph F. Sklusacek, retired
farmer.

(Address of any of the above furnished on request; omitted here to save space.)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: Prepared and inserted by the Quinn Volunteer Committee, L. F. Shandorf, Faribault, Minn., ex. Chairman, for which regular rates are to be paid.

Although Quinn carried Rice County, he received only 40% of the total vote In the general election on November 3, 1942:

Axel B. Anderson.....14,289
Thomas H. Quinn.....9,640 ¹⁶

Thomas H. Quinn, Jr., died on January 24, 1946, aged forty-seven, while attending a boxing tournament in Owatonna.¹⁷ In its front page story, *The Faribault Daily News* described the background of the man “who served for four years as city mayor and for 12 years as county attorney and who has been prominent for many years here in professional, athletic, civic and church affairs”:

Son of Pioneers

Thomas H. Quinn, son of Thomas H. and Elizabeth Quinn, early day settlers in Faribault in which the elder Mr. Quinn practiced law form 1880—1915, was born in Faribault November 16, 1898. He attended the Immaculate Conception School and later graduated from the Faribault H. S., where he was prominent in athletics, starring in football, baseball and basketball.

Following his graduation he attended St. Thomas College where he continued his athletic interest by playing on the college football and basketball teams, winning recognition as all-state football center.

He then attended St. Paul College of Law, covering sports for a St. Paul newspaper while continuing his studies. World War I service interrupted his law school work which he resumed at the close of the war, graduating in 1919.

At the time of his graduation he was under 21 years of age so it was necessary for him to wait six months before being admitted to the bar later that same year. On June 29, 1920, he was admitted to U. S. district court practice.

Following his admission to the bar he spent a year as deputy internal revenue collector. In 1920 he returned to Faribault establishing a law practice with Ray Moonan, who later moved to Waseca.

Mayor Two Terms

On April 5, 1921, Mr. Quinn was elected mayor of Faribault at the age of 23, gaining recognition as the youngest mayor in the U. S. at

¹⁶ Id. at 453.

¹⁷ *The Daily People's Press* (Owatonna), Friday, January 25, 1946, at 1 (“Tom’ Quinn Dies Here”).

that time. He was re-elected to the mayor's office on April 3, 1923, serving a total of four years.

On November 2, 1926, he was elected to the office of county attorney serving in that capacity for 12 years until 1938. In 1942 he was a candidate for judge of the district court. In 1926 he was married to Miss Eleanor Foley of Aitkin, Minnesota.

Mr. Quinn has been unusually active in Faribault's community life. Since last September he had served as commander of Faribault Legion Post 43. He was past exalted ruler of Faribault Lodge 1166, B.P.O.E.; was a member of the Faribault Knights of Columbus and Fourth Degree Knights; was a past president of the Fifth Judicial District bar Association and the Faribault Bar Association and at the time of his death served as secretary of the latter association.

He was past president of the Southern Minnesota Baseball League and a director of the Faribault baseball club at the time of his death; he was a member of several important committees of the Minnesota State Bar Association, and was instrumental in the formation of the Faribault Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Devoted Father

A devoted family man, he was keenly interested in proper recreational facilities for children and aided materially in the advancement of athletics at Bethlehem Academy. A devout churchman, he served for many years as trustee of the Immaculate Conception church.

He is survived by his widow, four children, Diane, 15; Thomas H. III, 15, both students at Bethlehem Academy; Sally, 12; and Richard, 10; one brother, Frank, Faribault attorney; and two sisters, Beatrice, former Rice county welfare secretary and now a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, and Genevieve, a nurse in the U. S. Army Air Corps now on terminal leave after extensive service in the Far East. His parents and one sister, Marion, precede him in death.¹⁸

The next day *The Faribault Daily News* carried the following tribute on its editorial page:

Thomas H. Quinn

The death of Tom Quinn was a shock to not only the people of Faribault but to many other people in the surrounding cities. Mr.

¹⁸ *The Faribault Daily News*, January 25, 1946, at 1 ("Quinn Funeral Rites Monday")(details of mass and photograph omitted).

Quinn was a man who was well known due to the many activities he engaged in during his lifetime. He was a prominent athlete not only at Faribault High School but at St. Thomas College as well. He was active in his professional life as well as community life. He was a devoted member of the Immaculate Conception Church and he was an outstanding lawyer in the community.

Mr. Quinn was a man who took hold of things with vigor — there was no halfway measure in his thinking. He was either all for something or all against it. This type of thinking always makes some enemies as well as friends. Mr. Quinn pulled no punches in what he thought about civic affairs. He had experience in his early years, after graduating from college, as the youngest mayor in the [history of the] city of Faribault.

While serving as county attorney he took vigorous action against what he thought in his own mind was corruption in county affairs. Every city needs a man of this kind and Faribault will miss Tom Quinn. Mr. Quinn was a likeable man personally and made many friends through his congenial personality.

Probably few men in the city of Faribault have engaged in as many activities as Mr. Quinn. His opinion was sought on many questions and whether you agreed with him or not you had admiration for his frankness in making his decisions. Mr. Quinn could have gone a long way in political life had he so desired. He represented the Democratic party of which his father was a staunch member. At the time Roosevelt and Al Smith were campaigning Mr. Quinn broke with the Roosevelt side and went with Al Smith. Roosevelt won out and this closed the doors to Mr. Quinn's chances of entering national politics.

Faribault will miss Tom Quinn, because after all whether you believed in his decisions or not, he did force a balance of thinking on many public questions.¹⁹

¹⁹ *Faribault Daily News*, January 26, 1946, at 4. The November session of the District Court was postponed due to his death.

The scheduled adjourned session of the November term of Rice County District Court, slated to open in the court house here on Monday, January 28, at 10 a.m., has been postponed until Thursday, January 31 at 10 a.m. because of the sudden death of Thomas H. Quinn, Faribault attorney.

Judge Axel Anderson, Owatonna, will preside at the session for which nine cases, in five of which Mr. Quinn served as counsel, were scheduled to be heard.

Id., at 1.

Posted MLHP: October 13, 2019.