

Dr. Edward N. Tihen (1924-1991) was an avid reader and researcher of Wichita newspapers. His notes from Wichita newspapers -- the "Tihen Notes," as we call them -- provide an excellent starting point for further research. They present brief synopses of newspaper articles, identify the newspaper -- Eagle, Beacon or Eagle-Beacon -- in which the stories first appeared, and give exact references to the pages on which the articles are found. Microfilmed copies of these newspapers are available at the Wichita State University Libraries, the Wichita Public Library, or by interlibrary loan from the Kansas State Historical Society.

Subject(s): Sibbitt, Ben

Wichita Eagle

Wednesday, December 12, 1917

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5. Benjamin J. Sibbitt yesterday bought for \$16,000 the site of the old Moore foundry works at corner of 1st street and the Santa Fe tracks and will build a large new foundry and structural iron works. The site extends 220 feet north of 1st street along the elevated tracks and 132 feet east from the tracks.

Wichita Eagle

Monday, August 8, 1921

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6. Wichita's "Boy and the Boot" statue is to be repaired, and the broken parts are now at the Ben Sibbitt foundry and should be restored within two weeks. ¶ It was bequeathed to the city by Finlay Ross during the second year of his first term as mayor and for 23 summers has stood emptying water from one of his boots. But the present summer he has been missing. During the last winter some vandal broke off the boot and the arm which held it aloft. Now the Park Board plans to repair it.

Wichita Beacon

Saturday, February 9, 1924

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8. The Ben Sibbitt Iron Works has purchased the plant and business of the Wichita Foundry at 525 South Wichita Street. The latter is the oldest iron foundry in Wichita and was founded in 1876 by the McFarlands but has been owned and operated by W. J. Sharon since 1893. The Ben Sibbitt Company was established by Moore Brothers but has been owned and operated by the present company since 1914.

Wichita Beacon

Thursday, June 11, 1936

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13. Report of death yesterday of Benjamin J. Sibbitt, founder and head of the Sibbitt Iron and Foundry Company, at age 59. Born in Hoopston, Illinois February 1, 1887. Came to

Wichita from Illinois in 1910. Survived by wife, Clara, two brothers and one sister (named -- none in Wichita). Obituary. Photo.

Wichita Eagle**Thursday, June 11, 1936****page**

5. Article reports death yesterday of Benjamin J. Sibbitt, 59, of the Sibbitt Iron and Foundry Company, Wichita resident since 1910.

Wichita Beacon**Monday, August 9, 1937****page**

1. Article reports purchase of controlling interest in the Ben Sibbitt Iron and Foundry Company, 217 Moore Street, by E. A. Watkins, vice-president of Union National Bank. The company was founded in 1914 by the late Ben J. Sibbitt, who died 14 months ago, and the stock was sold by his widow, Mrs. Clara Sibbitt and by Walter S Henrion, of Henrion Improvement Company.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, October 24, 1937****page**

11. Ben Sibbitt Iron and Foundry Company announces the immediate construction of a two story office building facing 40 feet on East 1st and 80 feet along Moore. Details. E. A. Watkins is president and owner.

Wichita Eagle**Wednesday, February 28, 1940****page**

3. Announcement made yesterday that the name of the Ben Sibbitt Iron and Foundry Company will be changed on March 1 to Watkins, Inc. The concern is now headed by E. A. Watkins, of Wichita, founder of the Watkins Rebabbiting company, which was later acquired by the Federal Mogul company. ¶ The company was founded by Mr. Sibbitt in 1914 with three employes and now has 130 on the payroll.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, April 28, 1940****page****Special Section**

- 1W-8W. Special Section for Wichita Chamber of Commerce Good Will Tour, with articles and photos about Wichita business. Several pages about Watkins, Inc., with history, photos, etc. Says Ben Sibbitt purchased the Moore Brothers factory in January 1914 and in 1918 he incorporated the company with the name of the Ben Sibbitt Iron and Foundry Company. Ben Sibbitt died in June 1936 and the business was operated by Mrs. Clara Sibbitt until September 1937, when the

controlling interest was sold to E. A. Watkins. On March 1, 1940 the name of the company was changed to Watkins, Inc. Company at present has 140 employes, including W. Harold Mooney, who is a sales representative.

Wichita Eagle**Wednesday, April 3, 1963****page**

- 7A. Report of death yesterday of Everett Andrew Watkins, 80, of 225 North Belmont, Wichita industrialist and civic leader since 1913. Born August 7, 1882 in Montgomery County, Missouri. Family moved to Anthony, Kansas in 1884 and to Manchester, Oklahoma in 1899. Married Hattie D. Alley on January 25, 1905. President of Central Airlines 1930-32. In 1937 became president of Ben Sibbitt Iron and Foundry Company in 1937. Name changed to Watkins, Inc. in 1940. Survived by widow, a daughter in Tulsa (named), and a son, E. Leon, here. Further biography. Burial in Anthony.