

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): Innes, Walter/Innes Department Store

Wichita Eagle

Friday, December 10, 1897

page

5. Article reports the holiday opening last night of **Innes** and Company, the new proprietors of the old McNamara store. Details.

Wednesday, March 25, 1908

page

6. **Innes** ad announces permanent closing of the old store at 123 to 133 N. Main at 5 p.m. Thursday (drawing) with all departments of the new store except the basement open and ready for business Friday morning, March 27.

Friday, March 27, 1908

page

7. Article reports the opening today of the new **Innes** store in the Smyth building at Lawrence and Douglas. ¶Ten wagons and 136 employees were used in moving to the new store after the old one closed last evening. Details.

Sunday, January 21, 1912

page

2. The George **Innes** Dry Goods company will no longer use horses in delivering goods to Wichita residents. A new auto delivery vehicle was placed in service last week.

Sunday, April 21, 1918

page

5. Article reporting that Mrs. Laura Buckwalter, widow, of Larimer avenue, went to a grocery store last week to buy a 24 pound sack of wheat flour and informed the grocer that she did not want any substitutes. The grocer insisted that the war regulations required that he sell her substitutes too. Then Mrs. Buckwalter showed an exemption signed by W. P. **Innes**, food administrator. It was stated at the food administration office that she secured the exemption by producing a certificate from a physician that the condition of her health is such that substitutes might work a hardship upon her.

Sunday, May 25, 1919**page**

5. **Innes** Furniture company awarded contract for construction of \$100,000 wholesale furniture warehouse at southwest corner of Mead avenue and 1st street. Site has frontage of 225 feet on 1st street and 200 feet on Mead avenue. Building will be 225 feet on 1st street by 100 feet on Mead with an L at the rear making width there 125 feet. To be two stories high. To be completed by November 1. Foundation will allow for five stories.

Sunday, January 22, 1922**page**

5. Building permit issued yesterday to Walter **Innes** to erect a \$20,000 commercial garage at 1215-21 E. Douglas.

Sunday, February 15, 1925**page**

5. Officers of the new Travel Air company, organized last month, were announced yesterday. Walter **Innes**, Jr., president; Clyde Cessna, vice-president; and Walter Beech, secretary. The first plane will be ready for service in two weeks. Details.

Wednesday, November 4, 1925**page**

1. Travel Air, Inc. leading field on East Central avenue road was purchased yesterday by Walter P. **Innes** and associates on the aviation committee of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce for \$32,000. The 160 acre field was bought from E. L. Hart, president of the Union Stockyards National Bank for #200 an acre and will remain in the hands of the purchasers until the state legislature amends the law which now bars the city government from owning property more than one mile outside the city limits. The city is then expected to take over the area as a municipal landing field. ¶Hangars will be built and gasoline pumps installed. In addition, the Travel Air firm, whose lease on the property expires in the next few weeks, is expected to continue to use it. ¶This removed the last obstacle to making the landing of air mail planes in Wichita a reality.

Sunday, January 10, 1926**page**

7. Ad says average number of employes of George **Innes** Company is 247 and salaries paid last year were \$278,595.

Sunday, November 14, 1926**page**

1. Announcement of new \$700,000 building for George **Innes** Company to be erected at Lawrence and William. Drawing and details.

Saturday, April 10, 1927**page**

5. First consignment of steel for the new George **Innes** Company building has arrived in Wichita and will be placed about Tuesday. For the past month workers have been tearing down the Princess theater and the Evans building on the site.

Monday, July 4, 1927**page**

1. Photo of new **Innes** store under construction, with framework for three stories up.

Sunday, July 24, 1927**page**

4. Ad with photo of new **Innes** store under construction and details about the new building. ¶Excavating started March 25, 1927 and all footings and basement walls and columns were in May 27. ¶Main floor was poured May 28. ¶Second floor was poured June 13. ¶Third floor was poured June 22. ¶Fourth floor was poured June 30. ¶Fifth floor was poured July 8. ¶Sixth floor was poured July 16. ¶Roof was poured July 23.

Sunday, September 18, 1927**page**

2. Article about progress on **Innes** building. Says a water tank holding 50,000 gallons is already in place on the top story.

Tuesday, November 8, 1927**page**

9. The new **Innes** store opens this morning. Details.

Tuesday, May 29, 1928**page**

8. **Innes** company is observing its thirty-first anniversary, having opened here in May 1897 in a 25 foot store on North Main.

Saturday, April 20, 1929**page**

3. Wichita Chamber of Commerce yesterday let contract for painting of a sign with word "Wichita" and an arrow pointing to the municipal airport, on top of the **Innes** store. The painters will start work today.

Sunday, August 3, 1930**page**

5. Contract has been let to the **Innes** company to completely furnish the new Allis hotel for approximately \$150,000.

Wednesday, December 24, 1930**page**

5. Board of directors of Stearman Aircraft has been revised at request of United Aircraft and

Transport Corporation, the parent firm. Lloyd Stearman will devote full time to research problems and production methods, and business management will be headed by Walter P. **Innes**, Jr., who has been named president and treasurer of the firm.

Sunday, July 26, 1931**page**

2. Announcement made yesterday by Walter P. **Innes**, Jr., president of Stearman Aircraft company, that the new Northrop Beta all-metal monoplane will be built this winter by Stearman here in Wichita. The Northrop Alpha will be built and serviced by the Boeing Aircraft Company of Seattle, another United Aircraft division. Photograph of Northrop Beta on page 12.

Sunday, May 22, 1932**page**

7. Thirty-fifth anniversary sale of **Innes** Dry Goods Company opens next Thursday. Article says Walter P. **Innes**' father, William **Innes**, came to U.S. from Great Britain and lived for a time at Lawrence, where his brother, George **Innes**, operated a department store, and then moved to Los Angeles for his health. Walter P. **Innes** was born during his brief stay in Lawrence. He graduated from high school in Los Angeles and later worked for his uncle, George, and then for a company in New York for two years. While there, his uncle, George **Innes**, wrote him that the J. J. McNamara store in Wichita was for sale due to the death of Mr. McNamara. Walter **Innes** then obtained financial backing from his New York employer and came to Wichita and bought the McNamara store, and since he was only 23 years old his uncle, George **Innes**, went into partnership with him and loaned the use of his name, in high standing in Kansas.

Sunday, April 19, 1936**page**

7. The **Innes** Tea Room has been air conditioned.

Tuesday, March 16, 1937**page**

3. **Innes** Dry Goods Co. yesterday obtained permit to build a \$5,500 fur storage vault on top of their building.

Sunday, April 25, 1937**page**

9. Photo of new fur storage vault nearing completion of roof of **Innes** store building.

Sunday, June 6, 1937**page**

12. Photo of the original George **Innes** store in first block of N. Main. The company celebrates its 40th birthday this week.

Sunday, April 28, 1946**page**

2. Report of death of Mrs. Walter P. **Innes**, Sr., 64, of 320 North Terrace Drive, yesterday after an illness of several months. Before her marriage in 1900 she was Margaret Brown, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Brown of Augusta, one of the pioneer families in this section of Kansas. Survived by her husband, a son, Walter P. **Innes**, Jr., 6 North Hampton Road, Eastborough, a daughter, Mrs. Lee Phillips, 330 North Terrace Drive, four grandchildren, Lee and **Innes** Phillips and Walter and William D. **Innes**, and a sister, Mrs. D. P. Woods, 145 South Crestway. Burial in Highland Mausoleum.

Sunday, June 15, 1947**page**

1. Announcement made by the George **Innes** Company that it will build a new eight story addition to its store, to be erected at the northeast corner of Market and William and joined with the present building above the first floor. Frontage of the new building will be 75 feet on Market and 300 feet on William; giving the store a total of 275,000 feet of floor space. ¶ Buildings now on the site will be razed starting July 1. New structure will cost \$1,000,000 exclusive of the site and interior furnishings. Overend and Boucher are architects and A. W. Soderberg is the general contractor. About a year will be required to complete the building. Details. Drawing.

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8. Photos of the three **Innes** stores, including the first one, at 123-127 North Main, previously known as McNamaras, which Walter P. **Innes** purchased in 1897. ¶ Long article gives detailed history of ownership of the property at Market and William where the new **Innes** addition is to be built. Originally acquired by William Griffenstein in 1873 and lots 122, 24 and 26 South Market sold by him to Alfred Basley on January 3, 1881 for \$150. Acquired by Cone and Connell on April 9, 1900, and they erected two story building. Details.

Wednesday, June 18, 1947**page**

5. Report of banquet last evening honoring Walter P. **Innes** and the 50th anniversary of the **Innes** store in Wichita. Details.

Sunday, March 7, 1948**page**

15. The George **Innes** Company will soon install escalators, believed to be the first in Kansas. Work will begin April 1 and be completed about September 1. Details.

Friday, September 24, 1948**page**

5. A new eight story **Innes** building will formally opened to the public Monday, October 4. The first escalators in Kansas, in the **Innes** store, will also be in operation on that date. Details.

Tuesday, October 5, 1948**page**

1. Report on opening of the new **Innes** store building yesterday. Details.

Sunday, July 1, 1951**page**

4. The **Innes** store in Wichita will inaugurate the new "Charge-Plate" charging system tomorrow, the first of its kind in Wichita. Details.

Sunday, December 30, 1951**page**

1. The **Innes** department store has been sold to Younker Brothers, Inc., of Des Moines, Iowa, it was announced yesterday. Younkers will obtain possession on February 1, 1952 and has signed a long term lease on the buildings presently occupied and which are owned by the Woods Building Company. The store will continue to operate under the **Innes** name. Jack Zavatsky, of the Younker Brothers firm, will manage the Wichita store. Details.

Monday, March 31, 1958**page**

1. Report of death yesterday of Walter Pease **Innes**, Sr., 84, well known Wichita merchant, following an illness of about three months. Had been a Wichita resident for more than 50 years and was founder of the George **Innes** Company department store. Born at Lawrence, Kansas December 15, 1873, the son of Daniel **Innes** and Kate Pease **Innes**. Went to New York in 1894. In 1897 he learned of the death of the owner of the McNamara Store in Wichita and came here and bought the store when he was 24 years old. His uncle, George **Innes**, joined him financially in the venture, and in respect to him the remodeled store, then located at 123-127 North Main, became the "George **Innes** Company". Married Miss Margaret Brown, of Augusta, June 1, 1900. She died in August 1946. Survived by a son, Walter P. **Innes**, Jr., 6 Hampton Road, a daughter, Mrs. Lee Phillips, of the home at 330 North Terrace Drive, two grandchildren, a brother, William A., a sister, Mrs. Willard J. Doran, of Los Angeles, California. Further biography. Photo.

Friday, April 4, 1958

page

5A. Report on details of the will of Walter P. **Innes**.

Friday, April 17, 1959

page

5A. Report of appraisal of estate of Walter P. **Innes**, who died March 30, 1958. Value approximately \$1½ million. Details.