

## Forest H. Haines

### 1877 - 1936



Forest H. Haines was owner and proprietor of the leading department store of El Dorado and one of Butler county's most progressive merchants. He was an independent oil producer who, in partnership with George A. Ramsey, developed the Harmon Lease. He was born in St. Joseph, March 6, 1877, to H. C. and Josephine (Hartzell) Haines. His father was a veteran of the Civil War and had been in the mercantile business all his life and was a member of the mercantile firm of H. C. and C. S. Haines of Sabetha, Kansas. At the age of fifty, Mr. Haines retired from the mercantile business. He devoted his retirement years to travel.

Forest H. Haines was one of eight children. Forest H. Haines was reared in Sabetha, Kansas and was educated in the public schools, and began his mercantile career February 9, 1894, at the age of seventeen, at which time he entered his father's store at Sabetha as a clerk. He remained in that capacity until 1900 when he and his brother, Harvey L., came to El Dorado and opened up a new store under the firm name and style of Haines Brothers. This partnership continued until 1912 when Forest H. became the sole proprietor and Harvey L., engaged in a similar enterprise at Maryville, Mo.

The business has had a constant and substantial growth and its many modern features placed the business in a class with the modern department stores to be found in the larger cities. And the general appearance of this great mercantile institution bears conclusive testimony of the enterprise and progressiveness of Mr. Haines. In 1914, he saw the necessity of meeting the demand for a special line of goods and promptly added an annex to the general department store, where he carried a popular priced line of goods. This innovation proved popular with the public and fully met with the patronage which Mr. Haines anticipated. The Haines department store was located, perhaps, at the best business point in El Dorado, on the east side of Main street, near the center of the block between Central and Fourth avenues. The store had a frontage of seventy feet and is a substantial two-story brick building, ninety-five feet deep. There were about fifteen employees in the store and the place usually presented a busy appearance.

Mr. Haines was united in marriage June 1, 1905, to Miss Mary, daughter of T. C. Ellett, president of the Ellett-Kandall Shoe Company, Kansas City, Mo. The Haines had one child, Irene. Mr. Haines was a York Rite Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine, and was the youngest man to become a member of the Shrine at the time he joined.

SOURCE:

[http://www.ksgenweb.org/archives/butler/history/1916/33/h/haines\\_forest\\_h.htm](http://www.ksgenweb.org/archives/butler/history/1916/33/h/haines_forest_h.htm)