

Peoria Stamp and Stencil Works/Aimen Stamp and Sign

Est. 1875

Arch M. Aimen was born in Iowa and raised in Peoria. Aimen purchased the Peoria Stamp and Stencil Works after many years in the newspaper industry. Aimen's successful career began at eleven years old when he began selling newspapers at the corner of Main and Adams. Aimen gained experience working on three local, German papers and, at age 17, was put in charge of the carrier boys on the *Journal*. He gained advertising experience in 1910-11 working at the *Star*. In 1914, he became circulation manager of the *Transcript* which was followed by work in display and advertising at the *Journal*.

Aimen was very active in the community, serving as a trustee on the Park Board and joining the Masons, Mohammed Temple, Knights, Jesters, Rotary, and Mt. Hawley Country Club. Arch married Ada Mae Miller and had one son, Jack.

When Aimen first purchased Peoria Stamp and Stencil Works, it was known as Aimens Office Supplies and Rubber Stamps. At one time, the company had 1,200 agents and dealers in 20 Midwest states. At some point in the company's history, Des Moines Rubber Stamp Works – established in 1880 -- purchased Aimen Stamp and Sign. Aimen now operates as a branch office of Des Moines Stamp Manufacturing Company and has been serving the Peoria community for over one hundred years.

Congratulations to Aimen Stamp and Sign on becoming a Peoria Historical Society Centenarian organization.