

Theodore T. Ellis (1867-1934)

Theodore Ellis purchased the *Telegram* from Austin Cristy in November, 1919, and the *Evening Gazette* from George Booth the following year. Thus, he was the consolidator of the city's two largest dailies. In 1925 Ellis also bought the city's only radio station, WCTS, from its owner and founder, the C. T. Sherer Co., and soon renamed it WTAG. As Al Southwick put it, "The grand design of Ted Ellis was complete." But Ellis, according to Southwick, was also finding that "he wasn't really cut out to be a publisher, to handle the endless, gritty details of running a newspaper and dealing with the public." In December, the papers announced the sale of Ellis' entire interest in the *Telegram and Gazette*, including WTAG, to George Booth and Harry G. Stoddard. Booth brought expertise and experience in the newspaper business and Stoddard brought the financial capital.

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME" 16 PAGES—TWO CENTS

THEODORE T. ELLIS DIES SUDDENLY IN LONDON

LITTLE HOPE FOR FEDERAL TAX CUT SEEN

Congressional Leaders Agree Roosevelt Program Has Postponed Reduction for Five to 10 Years

NO TREASURY SURPLUS EXPECTED BEFORE 1936


WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (INS)—The \$7,300,000,000 deficit, piled up by President Roosevelt's emergency relief program, has postponed reduction of Federal taxes for five to 10 years, congressional leaders agreed today.

"I don't think there will be any reduction for at least five years, except to repeal some particularly obnoxious tax and substitute something else in its place," said Representative Doughton (D) of North Carolina, chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, which has jurisdiction over tax legislation.

"The Roosevelt administration," said Senator Dickinson (R) of Iowa, member of the Senate Appropriations committee, "has created no terrific deficit. It has

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Dies in London



THEODORE T. ELLIS

HEART ATTACK IS FATAL TO WORCESTER RESIDENT

He Is Found Dead in Bed by Servants at Ritz Hotel—Seemed in Good Health Yesterday—Was President of New England Fibre Blanket Co. and Vice President of Chicago Daily News—Formerly Publisher of Telegram and Gazette—Born in St. Louis

LONDON, Jan. 6 (INS)—Theodore Thaddeus Ellis, 66, of Worcester, Mass., vice president and part owner of the Chicago Daily News, was found dead in his bed this morning by servants in the Ritz hotel here. Physicians were summoned and pronounced death due to a heart attack.

Negley Farson, a Chicago Daily News correspondent here, who, lunched with Mr. Ellis yesterday said he appeared at that time to be in good health. The correspondent is awaiting instructions before proceeding with plans for sending the body to the United States.

Mr. Ellis had been making his headquarters at the hotel for about two weeks while engaged in business matters.

News of the death of Theodore T. Ellis in London was received by Mrs. Ellis at the residence, 425 Salisbury street by telephone this morning.

Mr. Ellis, who was president of the New England Fibre Blanket Co. of this city and former owner of the Worcester Telegram and the Evening Gazette, had been in England supervising the opening of a new mill at Diggle for the manufacture of press blankets for the European market. He was in London awaiting the arrival of William F. Grenier of 80 Coolidge road, sales manager of the company who left Wednesday night for London to study with Mr. Ellis plans for a European sales and merchandising campaign.

Mr. Ellis is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary (Griffin) Ellis, his second wife, and two brothers, Frank E. of Worcester and Charles of Boston.

Born in St. Louis, April 23, 1867, Mr. Ellis became associated with the mechanical departments of newspapers immediately upon completing his education and worked successively in the pressrooms of

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THEODORE T. ELLIS DIES IN LONDON

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papers in St. Louis, Brockton, Boston and Worcester before he invented the fibre press blanket which brought him his fortune and his advancement in business circles.

World Tour With Navy

His first position was that of pressman on the St. Louis Chronicle where he remained from 1886 until 1889. He then went on a world tour with the United States Navy, remaining in China and Japan for 18 months.

He returned to this country in 1890 and obtained a position in the press room of the Brockton Enterprise where he remained until 1897. He went from Brockton to the Boston Herald, staying there until 1900, when he came to Worcester as foreman of the press room of the Worcester Telegram.

He remained there until 1907, during which time he had invented and started making as a sideline his press blanket on which he has exclusive patents. His employer advised him to stop making the blankets or give up his job and he decided to enter into the wholesale manufacture of his invention. He also invented and patented many other printing press improvements.

He established in 1907 the New England Fibre Blanket Co., and through the sale of the blankets amassed a considerable fortune. On Nov. 17, 1919, he purchased the Worcester Telegram from his former employer, the late Austin P. Cristry, at a reported price of \$1,000,000 in cash. The following year, on Dec. 31, 1920, he purchased The Evening Gazette from George F. Booth and John Day Jackson of New Haven, Conn., and combined these two papers for the first time.

Sold City Papers

About five years later, on Dec. 5, 1925, he sold the Worcester Telegram, The Evening Gazette and Sunday Telegram to Mr. Booth and Harry G. Stoddard. In August, 1931, with Frank Knox, president of the Manchester, N. H., Union

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Leader Publishing Co., he purchased the controlling interest in the Chicago Daily News. He held the office of vice president of that company at the time of his death.

Other business positions of Mr. Ellis were chairman of the board of the Royal Worcester Corset Co., president and treasurer of the New England Woolen Fabric Co., the New England Fibre Blanket Co., vice president and director of Danico Corp. (Delaware), director of the Worcester County National bank, St. Pierre Chain Corp., Worcester Bank & Trust Co.

Mr. Ellis was former president of the New England Daily Newspaper association; honorary life member of the National Pressmen's union and a member of the Worcester County Musical association, the A. S. M. S., and the Worcester County Historical Society.

He was the owner of a notable herd of pure bred cattle, among them "Green Meadow Lustre," a world champion Guernsey cow. He was an art collector and the owner of one of the most valuable collections of pictures in America. One of his possessions, a Raphael "Madonna," was said at one time to be worth \$500,000.

His clubs were the Worcester club and the Lake Shore Athletic club of Chicago. His home was "Knollwood" in Worcester.

Mr. Ellis made his home at "Knollwood" a large estate on Salisbury street, which he purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Pierpont L. Stackpole on June 26, 1928.

MAYOR REGRETS DEATH OF MR. ELLIS

Mayor Mahoney issued the following statement today on the death of Mr. Ellis: "I learn of the death of Theodore T. Ellis with a great deal of regret. He was a member of the Parks & Recreation commission and his service was of a high type. Mr. Ellis gave faithfully of time and effort to the enlargement and beautification of our large recreational system, displaying the real true spirit of a public servant. I have proudly called him one of my best friends. His loss will not only be a personal one but will be felt city-wide for his influence, friendship and generosity had no bounds. He will be missed."