

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: Allis (Hotel)

WICHITA EAGLE

Sunday, August 25, 1929

page

1. Drawing of proposed new hotel at southeast corner of William and Lawrence. Article with details--to be built by the Progressive Building Company, Walter P. Innes, president, and leased to the Allis Hotel Company of Kansas City, Barney L. Allis, president. To have 350 rooms and cost \$1,000,000. The building company has 99 year lease on the site. Building will be rented unfurnished to the Allis Hotel Company for 30 years for \$90,300 per year. Architects are Schmidt, Boucher and Overend. ¶ The building site is occupied by the Minnich building, formerly occupied for some years by the E. J. Rodda Motor company.

Friday, September 27, 1929

page

3. Stockholders in the new hotel company decided yesterday to incorporate under the name of the Allis Hotel Building Company instead of the Progressive Building Company, as previously known. A charter will be applied for immediately. Details.

Friday, January 10, 1930

page

5. Final approval of plans for new Allis hotel were approved yesterday. Bids to be opened January 30. Details.

Sunday, March 2, 1930

page

6. Workmen will start tomorrow to raze the buildings now occupying the site of the Allis hotel. The hotel, costing total of approximately \$1,100,000 and having 300 rooms, is to be completed in October or November. Details. To have frontage of 125 feet on Lawrence and 140 feet on William. The 125 feet on Lawrence is owned as follows: 50 feet by the Progressive Building Company, 50 feet by Miss Eva Minnich, and 25 feet jointly by Standish Hall, J. O. Heskett, and Mrs. Francis Howard. Contract let to Siedhoff Construction company.

Thursday, March 6, 1930

page

7. Razing of two story buildings on Allis hotel site will start tomorrow. Footings and foundation walls of the new Roosevelt hotel have been completed.

Friday, March 7, 1930

page

2. Photograph of start of razing of two story building on Allis hotel site.

Wednesday, April 16, 1930

page

2. Photograph yesterday of progress on Allis hotel--concrete poured for basement forms and for part of the ground floor.

Thursday, May 29, 1930

page

7. Photograph of progress on Allis hotel -- framework up five stories.

Sunday, June 15, 1930

page

6. Photograph of Allis hotel with framework for nine stories up.

Sunday, June 22, 1930

page

2. Photograph of downtown Wichita from air showing new Allis hotel under construction, with approximately twelve stores of framework up.

Thursday, July 10, 1930

page

10. Photograph of Allis hotel with fifteen stories of framework up and brick exterior up ten stories.

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.

Tuesday, August 5, 1930

page

5. Exterior brick laying on Allis hotel will be completed Thursday. Interior work will start this week.

Wednesday, August 6, 1930

page

3. Aerial photograph of downtown shows completed exterior of Allis hotel.

Wednesday, August 13, 1930

page

4. Photograph of completed exterior of sixteen story Allis hotel.

Sunday, August 24, 1930

page

6. Chamber of Commerce advertisement with large aerial photograph of downtown Wichita from southeast. (Allis framework up about eleven stories.)

Sunday, August 31, 1930

page

Rotogravure

Aerial photograph of downtown from near southwest showing exterior of Allis hotel complete.

Friday, November 14, 1930

page

5. Allis Hotel to be opened Wednesday, December 3. Details.

Sunday, November 30, 1930

page

- 34-38. Articles about new Allis hotel with details and drawings.

Tuesday, December 2, 1930

page

1. Luncheon and preview to be held today at Allis hotel. Details.

Wednesday, December 3, 1930

page

4. Photograph of entire staff of new Allis hotel -- about 200. Hotel opens today
8. Photograph of first group of business and civic leaders to dine at Allis hotel in ballroom yesterday.

Thursday, December 4, 1930

page

5. Article about opening of Allis hotel yesterday.

Sunday, January 18, 1931

page

Rotogravure

Photograph of sign on top of Allis Hotel.

Sunday, July 12, 1931

page

- 3-B. The Allis hotel ballroom has been newly equipped with an air conditioning system similar to that in use in the Kit Kat Coffee Shop.

Sunday, November 22, 1931

page

Rotogravure

Aerial photograph of Allis Hotel from west.

Wednesday, February 15, 1933

page

7. Robert W. Campbell, son of R. B. Campbell of the Arkansas Valley Interurban, is the new catering manager of the Allis hotel. Photograph. Graduated from Wichita High School in 1921.

Friday, March 27, 1936

page

5. TWA will open a new downtown office on April 1 at 208 South Broadway, in the Allis Hotel building. The office will also handle tickets and reservation for Braniff Airways in downtown Wichita. ¶At present TWA uses space in the Postal Telegraph office at 114 North Market for a downtown office.

Sunday, January 2, 1938

page

16. Full page Allis Hotel advertisement with interior photographs.

Sunday, January 23, 1938

page

5. Barney L. Allis announced plans to start soon on air conditioning of the Allis Hotel. Eight floors and the public rooms will be air conditioned at this time.

Tuesday, May 3, 1938

page

2. Carroll F. Little started work yesterday as new Braniff traffic representative in Wichita, the first time Braniff has had a permanent man here. Previously the Transcontinental & Western Air traffic representative, R. E. Montgomery, also handled sales of Braniff tickets. Little came here from Kansas City. He will work in the office maintained jointly by Transcontinental & Western Air and Braniff in street level lobby of the Allis Hotel.

Sunday, June 26, 1938

page

- 5-A. Allis Hotel has completed its new air-conditioning installation.

Sunday, January 1, 1939

page

3. Allis Hotel advertisement says 11 floors of the hotel were air conditioned during 1938.

Tuesday, March 7, 1939

page

5. The Transcontinental & Western Air ticket office was moved into larger quarters on the north side of the Allis Hotel entrance yesterday from its old location on the south side of the hotel entrance.

Sunday, March 19, 1939

page

2. John P. Davidson was elected president of the Sedgwick County Pioneer society yesterday at its annual meeting at the Allis Hotel, succeeding Omrah Aley, who has served in that capacity for several years. Photograph. The society's big annual reunion will be held June 3 at the Forum.

Thursday, January 4, 1940

page

8. The Kit-Kat Coffee Shop at the Allis Hotel has undergone a complete modernization.

Monday, July 12, 1943

page

12. Report of banquet at Allis Hotel ballroom yesterday honoring Walter Beech on the 29th anniversary of his first solo flight which was made in a Curtiss pusher biplane near Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 11, 1914. Details and some biography. His mother, Mrs. Cornelius Beech, was at the banquet in addition to his sisters, Miss Maude Beech and Mrs. Connie Peacock, and his brother, R. K. Beech. Details.

Thursday, May 25, 1944

page

5. Well known Wichita business man and public figure, John L. Powell, was honored at a dinner last night at the Allis Hotel by the Wichita Chamber of Commerce on his 85th birthday. Details. Biography. Photo. Came to Wichita in 1887.

Sunday, November 18, 1945

page

5. The Santa Fe Railway will move its passenger offices to the corner location of the Allis Hotel building today from its location at 314 Union National Bank building and will open for business at the new location tomorrow. Details.

Thursday, July 15, 1948

page

1. A severe thunderstorm last night was accompanied by winds up to 100 mile per hour

causing considerable damage including blowing down the large vertical sign on top of the Allis hotel. Details.

Sunday, October 29, 1950**page**

11. Report of resignation of Frank L. Ripple, manager of the Allis Hotel for the past 13 years. Before that he had worked for a number of years at the Lassen Hotel. Details.

Tuesday, July 7, 1953**page**

- 3A. The razing of several buildings adjacent to the Allis hotel was virtually complete Monday. Plans are being prepared for a parking garage to be built on the property.

Tuesday, July 28, 1953**page**

- 3A. An 85 car parking lot adjacent to the Allis Hotel in the 200 block on South Broadway will open at 7:30 a.m. today. The concrete area is 75 feet by 140 feet.

Saturday, September 3, 1955**page**

1. Announcement made yesterday that the Allis Hotel has been sold by the Trianon Hotel Company of Kansas City, Missouri, whose president is Barney L. Allis, to the Boss Hotels, Inc., of Des Moines, Iowa, a chain of 34 hotels in six midwestern and southern states, whose president is Edwin A. Boss, of Des Moines. Long time Allis manager, Frank L. Ripple, is leaving, and will be replaced by M. E. Lamberti, from Des Moines, of the Boss chain. The Allis was opened on December 3, 1930. Article gives further details. Photo.

Thursday, November 24, 1955**page**

- 2A. Report of death yesterday by suicide (gunshot in a room at Allis Hotel) of Wichita clothing merchant Adolph H. Brick, 53, of 154 North Edgemoor, attributed to despondency over ill health. His place of business was Brick's Men's Wear, 127 West Douglas. ¶ Born March 29, 1902 at Kansas City, Missouri and had lived in Wichita for 50 years. Married Ellen Gordon here in 1942. Took over management of the clothing store in 1940 after the death of his father, Herman, who founded the firm in 1916. ¶ Survived by his wife, a son, Robert J. Brick, of the home and one brother, Sidney Brick, 331 North Parkwood. Member of Temple Emanu-El. Burial to be in Highland Cemetery.

Thursday, December 29, 1955**page**

- 5A. At a Kansas Corporation Commission hearing at the Allis Hotel yesterday, a Santa Fe Railway auditor reported that the railroad company is losing \$21,848 to \$38,318 a year

on passenger operations on the Wichita-Englewood branch. The Santa Fe is seeking authority to discontinue its motor passenger train service on this route. Instead it proposes to add a passenger-baggage car to its freight train Numbers 71 and 72 westbound from Wichita on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and eastbound from Englewood on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Several witnesses challenged the Santa Fe figures. Details.

Friday, August 3, 1956**page**

- 4A. A large new neon sign atop the Allis Hotel was turned on last night. It is 60 feet long and seven feet high, with "Hotel Allis" in individually lit letters and faces south. Cost approximately \$10,000.

Sunday, December 30, 1956**page**

- 6B. Report of death Thursday night of Miss Eva Minnich, 87, of 915 South Main, pioneer Wichita school teacher and owner of the site on which the Allis Hotel is now located. Born at Tuscarawas, Ohio, April 9, 1869 and came to Derby with her family at age three and later to Wichita. Taught in Wichita elementary schools for many years. Survived by three nieces (named-two in Wichita). Article gives details of her ownership of the property at William and Broadway. Further biography. Burial to be at Derby.

Friday, March 1, 1957**page**

- 5A. Report of death yesterday of Harrison George Overend, 65, of 318 Oakwood, well known Wichita architect, after a long illness. Born August 13, 1891 at Peoria, Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1917. Came to Wichita in 1919. Married Miss Pearl Stewart here August 24, 1924. Designed many prominent buildings here, including Allis Hotel, two Innes buildings, Hillcrest Homes, Union Center, Petroleum Building and others. Survived by wife, a son, Dr. Donald S. Overend, of Kansas City, a grand-daughter, two sisters and one brother (named). Further biography. Photo. Entombment in Old Mission Mausoleum.

Tuesday, December 10, 1957**page**

- 1B. Building permit issued yesterday for \$15,000 remodeling project at Allis Hotel on the front, which will include installation of new doors and provide space for two new shops.

Saturday, February 7, 1959**page**

- 4A. "Wichita Silhouettes" -- biography of Ming Lamberti, general manager of the Allis Hotel. Photo.

Tuesday, August 11, 1959**page**

- 9A. Building permit issued yesterday for a \$46,000 remodeling of the coffee shop in the Allis Hotel. The restaurant facing Broadway, will be known as the "Country Kitchen" and will require an additional sum of about \$30,000 for new equipment according to M. E. Lamberti, Allis manager.

Sunday, November 8, 1959**page**

- 2A. The newly remodeled restaurant at the Allis Hotel, known as the "Country Kitchen" restaurant, will open to the public tomorrow. Details.

Friday, December 2, 1960**page**

- 13A. Full page ad announcing opening of the "Pancake Palace" restaurant in the Allis Hotel tomorrow. Photo.

Friday, November 17, 1961**page**

- 5A. Report of death yesterday of Emmett Victor Johnston, 91, of 115 South Rutan, Wichita business man and founder of Domestic Laundry. Born in Indianola, Iowa February 15, 1870. Moved here in 1898 with his wife, Lucy Caswell, whom he married in 1893. Founded his business in the first block of South Main in 1904. Moved it in 1908 to the corner where Allis Hotel now stands. Built the present building on East Douglas in 1915. First wife died in 1924 and he married Beth Van Meter in 1925. Survived by widow , a son, Russell, 522 Hampton Road, a daughter, Mrs. Elmer K. Musick, Kansas City, Missouri, a step-son and a step-daughter, and two sisters (all named), five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Further biography. Entombment in Old Mission Mausoleum.

Monday, January 9, 1967**page**

1. The Allis Hotel will be sold January 16, it was announced yesterday by Edwin Boss, president of Boss Hotel Company, owner of the hotel for the past 12 years. The building is being sold to the Equitable Life Assurance Company, of New York. Two and a half years of financial loss and increasing competition from an expanding number of motels was given as reason for the sale.

Tuesday, January 17, 1967**page**

1. The Sheraton Corporation of America worked out an agreement with the Equitable Life Assurance Society to operate the Allis Hotel for an undetermined period of time. Joseph Knott, former manager of the Sheraton Jefferson in St. Louis was appointed general manager of the Allis. ¶ Edwin Boss, president of the Boss Hotel Company,

owner of the Allis the past 12 years, announced a week ago that he was letting the hotel to the insurance company to be known as the Allis Hotel, Inc., which will be the legal owner of the Allis. Details.

Saturday, March 18, 1967**page**

- 14A. Refurbishing of the Allis Hotel is under way, according to Joseph C. Knott, director of the hotel for the Sheraton Corporation of America. Details. ¶ Edwin Boss, president of Boss Hotel Company, owner of the Allis for 12 years, sold the 289 room Allis to The Equitable Life Assurance Society on January 16. The Equitable worked out an agreement with Sheraton a week later.

Saturday, July 8, 1967**page**

1. The Sheraton Corporation of America has purchased the Allis Hotel after operating it six months and deciding the hotel has a good future. The price was undisclosed. A \$400,000 "second stage" refurbishing of the structure will now be initiated. Details.

Monday, October 23, 1967**page**

- 10A. Ad for the Sheraton-Allis Hotel, formerly the Hotel Allis.

Sunday, December 31, 1967**page**

Special Section D giving highlights of 1967.

- 1D. Article about downtown building projects. The \$2.6 million library opened this year. Eby Company indicates the \$12.6 million auditorium will be completed by September. Under construction is the \$2 million, five story parking garage and drive-in bank for First National Bank. Twenty-seven story Holiday Inn is to be built in the Garvey Center. Remodeling is under way at the Sheraton -- Allis Hotel. Further details. Aerial photo shows exterior of Century II complete, only the R. H. Garvey building constructed in Garvey Center (photo on page 20D). Further details.
- 14-15D. Chronology of major events in Wichita in 1967:
July 7: The Sheraton Corporation of America bought the Allis Hotel from the Boss Hotel Company and started a \$400,000 refurbishing job.

Tuesday, February 6, 1979**page**

- 5B. Greater Downtown Wichita, Inc., has approved use of the Allis Hotel site and adjoining property for the proposed Downtown Transit Center.

Wednesday, February 21, 1979**page**

- 1C. City Commission yesterday endorsed the concept of a downtown transit center at the vacant Allis Hotel, William and Broadway. Renovation of the site is estimated to cost \$1.1 million. The Allis Hotel building is owned by Gotham Hotel Limited, New York City, and the land is owned by others. Details. Photo.

Thursday, April 26, 1979

page

- 1D. Article about an inspection of the Allis Hotel, which was closed in 1970, by city officials yesterday in connection with consideration of using it for a proposed downtown transit center. Details. Photos.

WICHITA BEACON

Tuesday, October 9, 1928

page

1. Drawing of a proposed new nineteen story hotel to be erected at southeast corner of William and Lawrence. Article with details (varies from the Allis).

Sunday, August 25, 1929

page

1. Announcement of a new hotel, probably twenty stories, to be erected at corner of Lawrence and William and leased for ninety-nine years by the Allis Hotel Company. Details.

Monday, August 26, 1929

page

12. Photograph of buildings now on site on which the new Allis Hotel is to be built. Details.

Thursday, September 12, 1929

page

5. Wichita's new hotel at Lawrence and William will be called the "Hotel Allis." Details.

Sunday, December 1, 1929

page

6. Drawing of new Allis Hotel. Article with details. Contract to be awarded soon

Friday, February 28, 1930

page

1. George Siedhoff is probable winner of the contract to build the new Allis Hotel. Details. Drawing on page 26.

Monday, March 10, 1930

page

15. Excavation for the basement of the new Allis Hotel will start next Monday. Work on wrecking the three old buildings on the site has been proceeding very rapidly, and the two story Minnich Building on the corner will probably be completely torn down by Saturday night. Details. (Later report indicates excavation did start today.)

Sunday, March 16, 1930

page

- D-5. Photograph of excavation site for basement of Allis Hotel. All old buildings on site now gone.

Tuesday, April 22, 1930

page

18. Photograph of construction site of Allis Hotel. Working on framework of second floor.

Sunday, June 8, 1930

page

- B-7. Photograph of Allis Hotel under construction with six stories of framework up.

Sunday, July 6, 1930

page

6. The George H. Siedhoff Construction Company is setting a new record for rapid construction on the Allis Hotel building. Work began March 4, 1930 and the company is now engaged in pouring the cement for the sixteenth floor. Details. List of many major buildings in Wichita built by the Siedhoff Company.

Sunday, July 6, 1930

page

Magazine

25. Photograph of Allis Hotel under construction; framework up thirteen floors and brickwork about six floors.

Thursday, August 7, 1930

page

1. Flag raising ceremonies on top of the seventeen story building marked completion of the Allis Hotel structure this morning. Details.

Thursday, October 16, 1930

page

8. The Allis Hotel is to have a 75 feet high neon sign above the roof flashing the name of the hotel. Contract signed yesterday with the Claude Neon Federal Company. To cost over \$15,000. Details.

Sunday, November 23, 1930

page

- C-5. The new Allis Hotel will open for business Wednesday, December 3.

Sunday, November 30, 1930

page

Special Section

- E. Special Section about Allis Hotel, which will open for business Wednesday, December 3. Details. Photographs.

Sunday, January 4, 1931

page

5. The huge Neon sign on top the Allis Hotel was turned on for the first time New Year's

Eve.

Sunday, February 12, 1933**page**

8. Robert W. Campbell, son of R. B. Campbell, has returned to Wichita to become catering manager of Allis Hotel. Was catering manager of Lamar Hotel at Salina two and a half years and then at Muehlbach Hotel in Kansas City. Is married and has five year old daughter, Constance. Photograph.

Friday, December 28, 1934**page**

3. Robert W. Campbell, for the past two years assistant manager and catering manager for the Allis hotel, has purchased an interest in the Sunflower Hotel at Abilene and will go to Abilene January 5 as the hotel's manager. Photograph.

Thursday, March 26, 1936**page**

22. TWA will establish a downtown ticket office in the Allis Hotel on April 1. Through an arrangement with TWA, Braniff Airways tickets and reservations will also be obtainable at the TWA office. R. S. Little, district TWA traffic agent, will be in charge.

Wednesday, April 22, 1936**page**

7. Photo of new TWA downtown office on ground floor of Allis Hotel, which opened April 1.

Thursday, April 22, 1937**page**

1. The Allis Hotel Corporation, which has operated the Allis Hotel under a 30 year lease with 24 years yet to run, today announced the purchase of the real estate, building, and leaseholds upon which the hotel is built for a reported one million dollars. Details.

Thursday, November 24, 1938**page**

3. A committee of five persons was named at the Allis Hotel Wednesday night to draw up a constitution and by-laws and make application for a charter for the Wichita Museum Society and make a report September 8. ¶ Committee members are H. M. Cauthoru, Dr. Claude Holmes, Omrah Aley, Bertha V. Gardner, and Dr. David M. Edwards. ¶ Details.

Sunday, December 4, 1938**page**

16. The commission appointed to organize a new historic museum in Wichita will make its public report at a meeting at the Allis Hotel at 7:30 p.m. Monday. Details.

Tuesday, March 14, 1939

page

11. Braniff Airways will open a modern ticket office tomorrow at 208 South Broadway in the Allis Hotel Building. Details.

Wednesday, July 12, 1939

page

10. Report of banquet last evening honoring Walter Beech on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his first flight. Held at Allis Hotel. Many prominent people there. Details. Photograph.

Thursday, January 4, 1940

page

9. Article about remodeling of Kit Kat Coffee Shop at Allis Hotel recently. Photo of interior.

Sunday, February 11, 1940

page

10. Howard Furs, formerly located at 209 Brown Building, is now located in its new quarters at 200 South Broadway in the Allis Hotel building. Article with details. Photo.

Friday, June 13, 1941

page

7. Article about proposed refinancing of the present Allis Hotel Company bonds at a lower interest rate with a view of possible enlargement of the hotel. Details.

Monday, April 6, 1942

page

14. An Interstate Commerce Commission hearing on the application of the Arkansas Valley Railway, Inc. to abandon its entire line of railroad from Wichita to Hutchinson and branch lines will be held April 27 at the Allis Hotel. Details.

Saturday, May 16, 1942

page

2. The newly remodeled Pup Lunch at the Allis Hotel is now open to the public with service 24 hours daily. Details. Photo of interior.

WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON**Saturday, October 1, 1966****page**

1. Article about proposed sale of Allis Hotel to the Defenders of the Christian Faith for use as a retirement home. Plans deferred by death of president of the Defenders organization. Details. The hotel is owned by Boss Hotels Inc., Edwin A. Boss, Des Moines, Iowa, president. Boss Hotels bought the property in 1955 from Trianon Hotel Company, of Kansas City. Details.

Thursday, March 21, 1968**page**

- 5A. Trans World Airlines will open its new downtown ticket office in the Bitting Building, 111 North Market, today. Trans World Airlines was formerly in the Allis Hotel. Photo.

Friday, October 2, 1970**page**

1. Announcement made yesterday that the Allis Hotel will be closed after tomorrow. The 289 room hotel is owned by Gotham Hotels, Inc., of New York City. ¶ The Allis opened on December 3, 1930 and has had a stormy financial history. It was sold six years after it opened and was traded again in 1955, twice in 1967, and again in 1968 when Gotham purchased it from Sheraton Corporation of America.

Sunday, January 3, 1971**page**

- 1B, 4B. Calendar of major events in Wichita in 1970:
October 1: Announcement that the Allis Hotel is closing its doors.

Wednesday, November 17, 1971**page**

1. Article about plans of Gotham Hotels, Ltd., owners of the former Allis Hotel, to pay of some of the hotels creditors. Details.

Friday, July 22, 1977**page**

- 1C. The Allis Hotel may be auctioned off soon for nonpayment of taxes, which have been delinquent for three years and total \$28,664. The hotel is owned by Gotham Hotels, Ltd., of New York. Disposition of the hotel has been complicated by split ownership of the land and building. The latter has a 99 year lease which runs to 2027. Details.

Wednesday, September 21, 1977**page**

1. Photo of fire escape on south side of Allis Hotel.

