

*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): Hillcrest

### Wichita Beacon

Thursday, May 13, 1926

#### page

3. "Hillcrest Apartments" is the name chosen for the large company operative apartment house to be built soon at Rutan and Douglas by Herman Hoffman and others at cost of about \$1,000,000.

Monday, July 12, 1926

#### page

12. Contract for the new **Hillcrest** apartment house at Rutan and Douglas has been let to the Ellis and Singleton Construction Company. The general contract was for \$675,000. Excavation will be started this week. The former residence of George Walker on the site, sold a few years ago after Mr. Walker's death and used for a time as an osteopathic hospital, was recently sold and moved away. Details and drawing.

Thursday, August 12, 1926

#### page

2. Excavation for the basement of the new **Hillcrest** Apartment Building at Rutan and Douglas has been under way since early in July and will be completed tonight. Approximately 12,000 in yards of earth have been removed by E. E. Kelley, excavation contractor, and the cost of excavation a line is \$18,000. Ellis and Singleton have the general contract for construction of the building. Details.

Thursday, December 9, 1926

#### page

10. Ad for the new **Hillcrest** Homes Company-operative Apartments, with Drawing.

Sunday, July 24, 1927

#### page

Magazine

13. Feature article with some history of the new **Hillcrest** Apartments. Details.

Wednesday, September 14, 1927

**page**

- 11-20. Special articles, ads, photos, etc. announcing opening tomorrow of the new **Hillcrest** Apartments. Details.

**Tuesday, February 28, 1928****page**

12. Report of death this morning of Herman F. Hoffman, promoter of the building of the **Hillcrest** Apartments, at age 54 of heart trouble. Obituary. Photograph.

**Sunday, June 30, 1929****page**

- E-1. Aerial photographs of municipal swimming pool (with street car bridge visible), **Hillcrest** Apartments, and Transcontinental Air Transport trimotor said to be the "City of Wichita" -- No. NC9850 (?).

**Friday, February 27, 1931****page**

1. Report of death this morning by gunshot, apparently suicide, of prominent Wichita businessman, J. H. (Jack) Turner, in his apartment at the **Hillcrest** Homes. He was the head of the J. H. Turner Coal and Material Company and has been an active aviation enthusiast, with financial interests in both Travel Air and Swallow. ¶ He was born in Norwich, England March 26, 1877 and came with his family to Runnymede, in Harper County, in 1893. He made the Cherokee strip "run" and staked a claim, but after six months there he returned to Wichita to live and start his "rags to riches" business ventures. Details. He entered the coal business in 1903. Married Bessie May Ritchie May 6, 1930. ¶ Further biography. Photograph.

**Saturday, October 29, 1932****page**

1. Report of death this morning of retired Wichita capitalist Charles W. Bitting, at his home in the **Hillcrest** Apartments, at age 76. Came to Wichita in 1877 from Pennsylvania to join his brother, A. W. Bitting, who had been here about a year. Survived by wife, two daughters, Mrs. Thomas M. Thomas and Mrs. Charles K. Foote, and by his brother, A. W. Obituary. Photograph.

**Tuesday, October 10, 1933****page**

3. Report of death yesterday of prominent Wichita resident, Mrs. Robert M. Piatt, of **Hillcrest** Apartments, at age 78. Born in Bloomington, Indiana and after graduation from University of Indiana in 1873 married the late Judge Robert M. Piatt, who died November 6, 1927. They moved to Iowa and later homesteaded in Kingman County, Kansas before moving to Wichita. Further obituary. Survivors: three sisters and one brother (named). No children. Photograph.

**Saturday, July 21, 1934****page**

1. Report of death yesterday in Washington, D.C., of Mrs. Aldula Pease Ayres, wife of Congressman William A. Ayres, at age 60, after an extended illness. Born in Crab Orchard, Illinois and came to Wichita as a girl from Carlinville. Married Mr. Ayres on December 30, 1896. Formerly lived on N. Waco, but more recently in the **Hillcrest** Apartments. Survived by husband and three daughters, Mrs. H. J. Nichols, of Westfield, New Jersey, Miss Margaret Ayres, and Mrs. Pauline Williams of Washington, D.C. Obituary and photograph.

**Monday, October 15, 1934****page**

2. Report of death yesterday of J. E. Fritzlen, age 80, retired rancher and cattleman, at his home at 3244 Country Club Place. Survived by his widow, Hattie, and two daughters, Mrs. Frances Ebright, of the **Hillcrest** Homes, and Mrs. Christine Christy, of Eureka, Kansas.

**Friday, January 17, 1936****page**

23. Report of death today of pioneer Wichita lumberman, Frank Oliver, at his home at the **Hillcrest** Apartments-at age 81. Born at Waterford, Pennsylvania, and later lived in Illinois before coming to Wichita with his twin brother, Mark J. Oliver, in 1876. He was married in 1879 to Anna M. Stamper, of Decatur, Illinois. His twin brother, Mark, moved to Chicago more than 20 years ago. Survived by wife, one son, Frank, Jr., and brother. Obituary. Photo.

**Wednesday, January 31, 1940****page**

3. Report of death yesterday at her **Hillcrest** Apartment home of Mrs. Libby Hagny, member of a pioneer family and former publisher and owner of the Wichita Beacon for 12 years. She was the former Libby Hinton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hinton, who came to Wichita from Hannibal, Missouri in a covered wagon and established a home near the seventh block on East Central. Her first husband was Frank B. Smith, early owner of the Wichita Beacon, and when he died in the early 90s she became publisher of the paper. In 1895 she married the late Harry J. Hagny, one of the founders of the Wheeler, Kelly, Hagny Company, who died in 1931. Mr. Hagny served as business manager of the Beacon until Henry J. Allen purchased the paper in 1907. Obituary.

**SELECTIONS FROM DR. EDWARD N. TIHEN'S NOTES FROM WICHITA  
NEWSPAPERS  
COPY PROVIDED BY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Keywords: Hillcrest**

*Wichita Eagle*

**Wednesday, June 23, 1926**

**page**

5. Ground is to be broken July 1 for the new **Hillcrest** apartment building at Rutan and Douglas. Bids will be opened June 28. To cost approximately \$1,228,000 and contain 88 apartments from two to six rooms.

**Saturday, July 17, 1926**

**page**

14. Photo of beginning excavation for **Hillcrest** apartments.

**Saturday, July 31, 1926**

**page**

5. Building permit issued yesterday for **Hillcrest** apartments for \$605,000.

**Sunday, September 19, 1926**

**page**

3. Photo shows placement of boilers in basement of the **Hillcrest** Apartments. Footings have been placed and basement walls poured.

**Sunday, November 7, 1926**

**page**

6. Photo of **Hillcrest** Apartments under construction--framework up four stories. Work will start on fifth floor framework this week.

**Monday, November 29, 1926**

**page**

1. Photo of **Hillcrest** Apartments under construction--sixth floor framework being built.

**Friday, December 10, 1926**

**page**

13. Ad with drawing of **Hillcrest** apartments.

**Tuesday, December 21, 1926**

**page**

5. The **Hillcrest** Apartments building is now up nine stories of the framework, and work has started on the exterior brick and stone. It is expected to be opened May 1.

**Sunday, January 2, 1927****page**

1. Photo of skeleton of **Hillcrest** Apartments, now up nine stories.

**Friday, January 14, 1927****page**

5. Approximately 10,000,000 brick were made at the Noll Brick and Tile company of Wichita last year, the record of the plants four year history. ¶Wichita builders are showing a preference for local brick. The **Hillcrest** Apartment building will use 800,000 Wichita made brick. The plant is located six miles north of Wichita on Lawrence avenue, where there is an excellent shale deposit.

**Saturday, February 5, 1927****page**

5. Article about progress on **Hillcrest** apartments. Brick exterior is laid to third floor. Garage to be four stories instead of three, to give capacity of 140 acres. Owners to start moving in about July or August.

**Sunday, February 6, 1927****page**

3. Photo of **Hillcrest** Apartments--framework nearly completed.

**Friday, February 11, 1927****page**

5. Work was started on the **Hillcrest** garage, to be 76 by 107 feet and cost \$50 to 60,000.

**Thursday, April 29, 1927****page**

2. Brick and stone work on the **Hillcrest** Apartments are practically completed, and interior work is progressing. Concrete work on the adjacent garage is nearly finished and brick laying will probably start next week. Details.

**Sunday, July 3, 1927****page**

11. Apartments on second floor of **Hillcrest** Apartments will be opened for public inspection Thursday. Work on the interior of the building is being rushed and is scheduled for completion by August 15. Formal opening of the building will begin the first part of September.

**Sunday, August 7, 1927****page**

14. The **Hillcrest** Apartments will be ready for occupancy September 1, the architects, Schmidt, Boucher, and Overend, said yesterday.

**Sunday, September 11, 1927****page**

- 1-B. Special section announces formal opening of **Hillcrest** Homes. Articles with many details. Photos including one showing street car track on Douglas.

**Thursday, September 15, 1927****page**

10. **Hillcrest** Apartments are being formally opened to the public for inspection today.

**Saturday, February 28, 1931****page**

1. Article reports John H. "Jack" Turner, president of J. H. Turner Coal and Material company and local aviation enthusiast, age 53, committed suicide with gun yesterday in his **Hillcrest** Homes apartment. Article about his aviation interests on page 2.

**Sunday, October 4, 1936****page**

Special Kansas Diamond Jubilee edition

24. Aerial photo of **Hillcrest** apartments from the west.

**Wednesday, December 27, 1944****page**

5. Report of death yesterday of Williston Jacob Stevens, 76, prominent Wichita business man, in his home at the **Hillcrest** Apartments. Born in Quincy, Illinois October 10, 1868. Came to Wichita in 1902. Organized the Stevens-Scott Grain Company from which he retired in 1916. Was first president of the Wichita Board of Trade. With his son, Clifford, he owned the Ross Seed Company. Survived by his wife and two sons, Clifford B., of 14 Lakeside, Eastborough, and Williston L., of Tulsa.

**Thursday, November 21, 1946****page**

5. Report of death last evening of Finlay Ross, Jr., 246 North Market, on his 56th birthday. Was son of pioneer Wichita merchant and former mayor, Finlay Ross, Sr. Survived by a son, Major Finlay Ross III, of the army air corps, a brother, Clayton Ross, of the **Hillcrest** Apartments, and two sisters, Mrs. George Haun, 7 Hampton Road, Eastborough, and Mrs. Fred W. Little, 357 North Roosevelt. Further biography.

**Friday, October 22, 1948****page**

5. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lassen, 78, of the **Hillcrest** apartments, widow of Henry Lassen. Had been a resident of Wichita for 42 years. Born April 25, 1870 in La Porte, Indiana and came to Wichita in 1906. Survived by two daughters, Mrs. C. A. Coley, **Hillcrest** apartments and Mrs R. Ward Magill, 4421 East 2nd, four sisters (named), 11 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Burial to

be in Old Mission mausoleum. Further biography. Photo.

### **Friday, February 18, 1949**

#### **page**

5. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Eunice Scott Pratt, age 80, of the **Hillcrest** apartments, and widow of the late George Pratt, early day Wichita lumberman, whose lumber business was located on the present site of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company at 1st and Broadway. ¶ Born December 9, 1868 in Burlington, Iowa, and came to Wichita in 1890. Survived by a son, Frederick N., 128 North Oliver, two daughters, Mrs. J. J. Jackson, Jr., of Philadelphia and Mrs. George M. Brown, 309 South Clifton, and four grand children and 12 great grand-children.

### **Sunday, August 7, 1949**

#### **page**

3. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Frances R. Bretch, 70, at her home in the **Hillcrest** apartments. She was the wife of William H. Bretch, a founder of the Steffen-Bretch Ice Cream Company and later associated with the investment firm of Shirk, Bretch, and Gossard here for several years. ¶ She was born June 2, 1879 in Indiana and came to Kansas when a child. Had lived in Wichita the past 60 years. She and Mr. Bretch were married August 14, 1898. Survived by husband and two sisters (named -- Kansas City, Missouri and Houston, Texas) and two nieces. Burial in Old Mission mausoleum.

### **Monday, May 14, 1951**

#### **page**

5. Report of death late Saturday night of Wichita pioneer, Miss Hannah Rea Woodman, age 81, of 341 South Elizabeth, following an illness of five months. ¶ Born in Jacksonville, Illinois, February 10, 1870 and came to Wichita as a baby in a covered wagon with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Clayton Woodman. ¶ Long biography. Returned to Wichita in 1927 after an absence of about 30 years in the East. ¶ No immediate survivors, but a cousin, Mrs. J. O. Davidson, resides in the **Hillcrest**, and nephews Clayton Olds and Harold Olds live in Buffalo, New York. A sister-in-law, Mrs. Grant Woodman, lives in Jacksonville, Illinois. Photo.

### **Monday, December 31, 1951**

#### **page**

6. Report of death Saturday of Mrs. Henry J. Allen, widow of the late Senator Henry J. Allen, at her home in the **Hillcrest** apartments. Had been ill for several years. Burial to be in Maple Grove cemetery.

### **Saturday, February 23, 1952**

#### **page**

1. Report of death yesterday of Will Gordon Price, 74, Wichita automobile executive, unexpectedly while dining downtown. Born September 22, 1878 at Cleveland, Ohio and came to Wichita with his parents when less than a year old. Graduated from

Wichita High School in 1896. Married in early part of this century and wife, Eva, survives, as well as two sons, Will G., Jr., and Richard H. Price, both of Wichita and a brother, Harvey C. Price, of the **Hillcrest** apartments. Further biography. Photo. Burial in Highland Cemetery.

**Tuesday, November 4, 1952**

page

5. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Hattie Davis Fritzlen, 80, of **Hillcrest** apartments, widow of J.E. Fritzlen, who died in 1934. Born February 4, 1872 at Doyleville, Kentucky and came here from Kiowa, Kansas in 1915. Survived by two daughters, Mrs. Glen Christy, 7 Park Avenue, Eastborough, and Mrs. A.M. Ebright, of **Hillcrest** apartments. Also by two granddaughters, Mrs. Charles Purnell of Palo Alto, California, and Mrs. John Waltrip, 828 North Dellrose. Further biography. Burial in Kiowa cemetery.

**Tuesday, December 23, 1952**

page

5. Report of death yesterday of Wichita pioneer, Mrs. Emma Louise Knoblauch, 83, a resident of Wichita since 1870, at her home, 141 North Broadview. Born April 4, 1869 in Topeka and in the following year was one of four children brought to Wichita in a covered wagon by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Gribi. Mr. Gribi was an early day contractor. She was the widow of J. F. Knoblauch, an executive of the American Building and Howe Loan Association, who died in 1929. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Vera Hyland, Chicago, Illinois, a sister, Mrs. A. H. Bolte, **Hillcrest** apartments, and a brother, John Gribi, Chickasha, Oklahoma. Entombment in Old Mission mausoleum.

**Monday, April 20, 1953**

page

1. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Harry A. Dockum, 67, of **Hillcrest** Apartments, in Mobile, Alabama from a heart attack while she was on a vacation trip. She was the widow of the late Harry A. Dockum. Born in Wichita May 4, 1885, and maiden name was Mabel Magill, daughter of late Edward S. Magill. Married Mr. Dockum September 4, 1907. Survived by one son and one daughter (named). Biography.

**Sunday, July 8, 1956**

page

- 5A. Report of death yesterday of John Clark Kelly, 83, of the **Hillcrest** Apartments, prominent Wichita financier and business man and chairman of the board of the Wheeler, Kelly, Hagny Investment Company. Born December 10, 1872 at Leavenworth, Kansas and came to Wichita in early childhood. Attended Garfield University. On October 30, 1897 he married Sarah Frances Aldendifer, at Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Their only daughter is deceased. Entered the insurance business with the late H. V. Wheeler here on June 1, 1901. Survived by his wife, two granddaughters



and one grandson (named). Further obituary. Photo.

### **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.

### **Friday, March 8, 1957**

#### **page**

- 4C. Report of death yesterday of Miss Josephine Getto, 80, of 4001 East Douglas, daughter of pioneer Wichita businessman, Peter Getto. Born February 2, 1877. Survived by two sisters, Miss Rose Getto, of the home, and Mrs. T. J. McDonald, **Hillcrest** Apartments. Burial to be in Highland Cemetery.

### **Sunday, March 24, 1957**

#### **page**

- 5A. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Pauline Gribi Bolte, 83, of **Hillcrest** Apartments, daughter of an early Wichita pioneer family, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Gribi, who came here in a covered wagon. Born August 20, 1873 in Wichita. Her husband, A. H. Bolte, was a prominent furniture dealer here. He died 32 years ago. Survived by a nephew and four nieces (named-only one in Wichita, Mrs. Karl Mosbacher, 434 North Belmont). Entombment in Old Mission Mausoleum. Photo.

### **Saturday, August 3, 1957**

#### **page**

- 5A. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Clydia Price, 77, **Hillcrest** Apartments, wife of Harvey C. Price, vice-president and secretary of Dick Price Motors. Born September 4, 1879 in Callao, Missouri, and came to Wichita in 1882. Survived by husband, two nephews, Will G. Price, Jr., and Richard H. Price, and a niece Mrs. Christine Smith, Los Angeles, California. Photo.

### **Sunday, November 3, 1957**

#### **page**

- 4A. Report of death yesterday of W. C. Coleman, 87, pioneer Wichita manufacturer, of an apparent heart attack. Resided at the **Hillcrest** Apartments. Born May 21, 1870 in Chatham, New York and came to Kansas as an infant with his parents, Robert and Julia

Coffin Coleman, traveling by train and covered wagon to Labette, Colorado. His Wichita offices were opened in December 1901. Further biography.

### **Friday, December 6, 1957**

#### **page**

- 3A. Report of will of Will K. Jones, **Hillcrest** Apartments, who died November 29 in Wichita. Survived by two sons, Gordon N. Jones, 3208 East 14th, and Warren B. Jones, and one daughter, Katherine E. Reidell, of Wichita.

### **Monday, January 26, 1959**

#### **page**

1. Report of death yesterday of Lloyd B. Ferrell, Jr., 21, member of a pioneer Wichita family, in an auto collision near Endora, Kansas. He was a student at the University of Kansas, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd B. Ferrell; his father was a prominent Wichita banker before accepting a position with a Topeka bank several years ago, where he now resides. Born in Wichita April 3, 1927. Survived by parents, two sisters, Mrs. James Fasset, Dayton, Ohio and Nancy Lee Ferrell, Topeka, and paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Garland P. Ferrell, **Hillcrest** Apartments. The Ferrell family originally came here in 1875. Further details. Photo.

### **Friday, November 6, 1959**

#### **page**

- 12A. "Wichita Silhouettes"-biography of Paul Ross, vice-president of Kansas Milling Company and secretary of Ross Industries. Born at Alden, Kansas on April 18, 1893. Graduated from Alden High School in 1910. Moved to Whitewater in 1918 and lived there 30 years. Married his first wife while teaching school in Casselton, North Dakota in 1917. She died in 1935 and he was remarried in Wichita in 1942 to Leah Dean Kirkpatrick. In 1948 they moved to Wichita from Whitewater, and they reside in **Hillcrest** Apartments. He has one son, Paul R. Ross, associated with him in business, and one daughter, Mrs. Lorraine Ross Thiessen, of Hutchinson, Kansas. Photo.

### **Tuesday, June 20, 1961**

#### **page**

1. Report of death yesterday at his home in Long Beach, California, of W. B. Harrison, 84, former Wichita bank president. Born in October 1876 in Canada. Moved at early age to Michigan, and after graduating from college at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1899, to Kansas City, Missouri and then to Oklahoma. Later was with a St. Louis bank before coming to Wichita in 1919. ¶ He was named president of Union National Bank on March 1,

1919 and retired from banking in 1948. ¶ Has lived in California less than four years. ¶ Survived by wife, Daisy, **Hillcrest** Apartments, a son, Wilbur, Long Beach, California, and a daughter, June Harrison Mayer, Long Beach. Further biography. Photo. To be

cremated.

### **Sunday, March 4, 1962**

#### **page**

6A. A Wichita landmark, the Kirby Castle, 1201 West River Boulevard, is to be torn down and replaced by a group of garden apartments. ¶ It will be open to the public for a last look from 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Tickets are \$1.00 and benefits are for the Occupational Therapy department at Wesley Hospital. ¶ The red stone castle was built in 1888 by the late J. O. Davidson. Mrs. Davidson, 96, resides in the **Hillcrest** Apartments. Her two children are Mrs. Ray G. Harris and James O. Davidson. Dr. George Kirby was the last owner of this gracious mansion. It contains 18 rooms including a ballroom on the third floor. Photo.

### **Tuesday, November 13, 1962**

#### **page**

1. Report of death yesterday of John Rigby, former Wichitan, now Beverly Hills, California, after brief illness. He resided in Wichita from 1929 to 1935. He together with the late Richard Gray built the Lassen Hotel in 1918, opening it for business on New Year's Day, 1919. Later, in 1929, the two of them purchased the radio station which they renamed KFH. He sold his Lassen interests in 1933 but retained his interest in the radio station. Survivors include wife, Lola, two daughters (named -- neither in Wichita), nine grandchildren, and a niece, Mrs. C. E. Carey, of **Hillcrest** Apartments. Further biography. Photo.

### **Sunday, March 7, 1965**

#### **page**

1D. Feature article about the **Hillcrest** Apartments with history, etc.

### **Sunday, March 14, 1965**

#### **page**

1D. Article describing the seventh floor home of Mrs. Paul Ross in the **Hillcrest** Apartments. Details. Photos.

### **Tuesday, March 23, 1965**

#### **page**

1. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Fanny Sheldon Coleman, 92, widow of the late W. C. Coleman, founder of the Coleman Company, in her apartment at the **Hillcrest** Apartments. Born September 9, 1872 at Ottawa, Kansas, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Franklin Sheldon. Lived in Wichita since 1902. Married W. C. Coleman on January 1, 1901, in Ottawa. Further biography. Survived by two sons, Sheldon, and Clarence W., a brother and a sister (named), six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Photo. Entombment in Old Mission Mausoleum.

### **Wednesday, March 29, 1967**

**page**

12C. Report of death yesterday of Ralph E. Lightner, 83, **Hillcrest** Apartments, owner of the Lightner Insurance Agency, 219 North Market. ¶ Born at Canton, Kansas and came here in 1900 from Norwich, Kansas. ¶ Survived by three sons, Ralph S., Robert S., and Eugene, and two sisters, Mrs. James Moore and Mrs. Elsie Keller, all of Wichita. Further obituary. Photo. Entombment in Old Mission Mausoleum.

**Tuesday, January 13, 1981****page**

13Z. Feature article about living at the **Hillcrest** Apartments — also pages 6Z and 7Z.