

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): Orpheum

WICHITA BEACON

Sunday, December 5, 1920

page

First Sunday edition of the *Beacon*.

1. Article announces plans for new eight story office and theater building at northeast corner of 1st and Lawrence, with theater to carry **Orpheum** and Keith productions. Theater will seat 2,000. Total cost approximately \$800,000. Details.

Wednesday, January 19, 1921

page

1. The **Orpheum** Building Co. of Wichita today applied to the state charter board at Topeka for a charter. Long article with details.

Sunday, January 23, 1921

page

1. Drawing of proposed new **Orpheum** Building (varies from actual appearance as built-- shows it as six story building, etc.)
7. Ground floor plan of new **Orpheum** Theater Building.

Tuesday, April 12, 1921

page

7. Directors of the **Orpheum** Building and Theater met today with John Ebersson, a Chicago architect who specializes in this type of building, at the Wichita Club, and approved his entirely new set of plans and directed him to complete plans and specifications by June 1, with goal of completing the building by March 1, 1922. Office section of the building will be 50 x 150 ft., with six storerooms facing Lawrence Ave. Theater will have Spanish style ornamentation and seating capacity of 1,723. Details.

Tuesday, July 12, 1921

page

1. Contract let today for the new **Orpheum** Theater Building to the Vaughn Construction Co., of Omaha, for just under \$600,000. Details.

Wednesday, July 27, 1921**page**

7. Excavations for the foundation of the new **Orpheum** Theater Building will begin next Monday.

Thursday, July 28, 1921**page**

3. E. E. Kelly was awarded the excavation contract for the **Orpheum** Theater this morning by this afternoon he had moved steam shovel to the site and began actual excavation work.

Sunday, January 1, 1922**page**

- C-8. Article lists major new buildings erected last year in Wichita or under construction.

Also photos. ¶Includes among others:

Orpheum Theater	-	\$700,000
Miller Theater	-	600,000
Hotel Broadview	-	400,000
4th National Bank addition	-	500,000
1st Methodist Episcopal church	-	200,000
Park School	-	120,000
Harry St. School	-	115,000
United Congregational Church	-	150,000
St. Francis Hospital Nurses Home	-	150,000
Mt. Carmel Girls' Dormitory	-	150,000

Residences:

Warren E. Brown	-	\$200,000
Harry Dockum	-	35,000
R. D. W. Clapp	-	75,000
Will G. Price	-	45,000
W. O. Van Arsdale	-	50,000
Dr. R. W. Hissem	-	25,000.

¶Total building permits issued in 1921 set record at \$1,388,109. Previous record was \$4,849,831 in 1919. 1918 was \$3,064,731 and 1920 was \$3,806,831. ¶Photos including **Orpheum** building (photo), United Congregational Church, Miller theater.

Sunday, March 12, 1922**page**

Magazine

1. Drawing of new **Orpheum** Building. Article with details.

Friday, March 31, 1922**page**

13. A number of physicians have taken leases in the new **Orpheum** building. Names listed--including Dr. H. N. Tihen.

Tuesday, August 22, 1922**page**

6. **Orpheum** Theater is to open Monday, September 4. Details.

Sunday, September 3, 1922**page**

Section D

Special **Orpheum** theater section with details, photos, etc. Articles with details. Plans for building prepared by Chicago architect, John Eberson. Contract let early in 1921 to Vaughn Construction Company of Omaha. Building completed April 20, 1922, just seven and a half months after construction was begun. Stockholders, officers and directors listed. Cost approximately \$800,000. ¶To be opened to public (i.e. the theater) on Monday, September 4.

Tuesday, September 5, 1922**page**

9. Report of opening of new **Orpheum** Theater yesterday.

Sunday, March 18, 1923**page**

- B-5. Drawing of the planned new Oscar S. Shirk nine story apartment building at southeast corner of 2nd and Topeka. Architects are Eberson and Weaver. To cost about \$500,000. Details. Also architects for **Orpheum** Building and Theater.

Thursday, February 14, 1924**page**

7. General offices of the Derby Oil Co. are to be moved soon after March 1 to the fifth floor of the **Orpheum** Building, having outgrown its offices in the office and warehouse building at 203 N. Handley.

Sunday, April 20, 1924**page**

9. Formal opening of the new Shirkmere Apartments will be held tomorrow. Photo. The brick used in building was 435,900 brick made by the Noll Brick Co. of Wichita. Architects were John Eberson and Harry Weaver, with offices in both Chicago and Wichita. Mr. Weaver is in charge of the local office and came here as directing

architect for construction of the **Orpheum** Building some two years ago. At present they are completing plans for the York Rite Temple Building. Articles with details. These architects also draw plans for the Kaufman Building in Wichita.

Saturday, June 13, 1925**page**

9. The **Orpheum** Building Company, has regained possession of the lease and equipment of the **Orpheum** Theater from the Interstate Amusement Company, of Dallas, Texas, which took a long term lease on it in the spring of 1922 but is alleged to have defaulted on rent due of \$48,000. Details.

Monday, January 11, 1926**page**

1. The **Orpheum** Building was sold today by the building company stockholders: Richard M. Gray, president, J. Arch Butts, vice-president, and W. A. Vincent, secretary to the Brown-Crummer Investment Company for approximately \$500,000. Details.

Monday, January 11, 1926**page**

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Sunday, April 11, 1926**page**

4. Ad announces rents in **Orpheum** Building have been reduced 20%. Photo.

Thursday, May 16, 1929**page**

3. The **Orpheum** Theater will reopen Monday after installation of sound equipment for its new talking movies policy. Details.

Monday, October 7, 1929**page**

1. A deal was completed Saturday for sale of 40 Kansas and Missouri theaters, including the Miller, Palace, **Orpheum**, and Wichita in this city to the William Fox interests. Details.

Wednesday, October 6, 1937**page**

9. Sale of the Golden Rule Refining Company to the Champlin Refining Company, of Enid, Oklahoma, was announced today by Elbert S. Rule, head of the Wichita concern. The sale includes all Golden Rule properties except its service stations in Wichita and

Colorado Springs which Golden Rule will continue to operate. The company has stations in 23 cities in Kansas and six in Colorado. ¶ Rule started the business in 1914 when he opened a station at Sharon. He is said to have built the second “drive-in” station in Wichita, on the site now occupied by the **Orpheum** Theater. ¶ The Golden Rule refinery in Wichita has been in operation for seventeen years. Details.

Thursday, May 5, 1938

page

1. Report of death today of Francis Walter (“Pop”) Edler, age 62, operator with his wife of the Edler School of dancing. Born in Vienna, Austria and come to the U.S. at age 17. Was a violinist for many years. Married Mrs. Edler in 1921 and came to Wichita in 1922 as orchestra director at the **Orpheum** Theater. His wife opened a school of dancing here and Mr. Edler became manager of it in 1925. A few years ago they adopted a boy. Gustave, now age nine. In addition to his wife he as also survived by a daughter, Mrs. Gladys Coburn, of Bainbridge, Ireland, by a previous marriage. Further biography. Photograph.

Thursday, July 28, 1938

page

11. Photograph of the Mosbacher Motor Company at 220 North Broadway (next to **Orpheum** Building), Hudson and Terraplane dealer.

Wednesday, November 29, 1939

page

1. Article reports that the **Orpheum** Building, operated by the **Orpheum** Building Operations Company and constructed in 1922, has been acquired by the Miller Amusement Company, a subsidiary of the Fox Midwest Theaters, Inc., for about \$500,000. Details. Photograph on page 7.

Sunday, May 12, 1940

page

Magazine

3. Article about new neon signs now being built for the Miller and **Orpheum** theaters by the Claude Neon Federal Company. Details. Drawings.

Thursday, June 6, 1940

page

13. The new neon sign marquee of the **Orpheum** theater has been inaugurated (last evening?). Photo.

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

Keywords: Orpheum

WICHITA EAGLE

Saturday, June 25, 1910

page

5. The George Innes Dry Goods company has taken possession of the building of the former **Orpheum** theater, 119-123 North Topeka, which has been closed for some time.

Thursday, January 20, 1921

page

2. Two sites are being proposed for new vaudeville theaters on N. Lawrence ave.
¶Walter A. Vincent, Oscar Shirk, and others are asking for a charter for a company called the **Orpheum** company which plans to erect a seven story building at northeast corner of 1st and Lawrence. Of \$700,000 needed, \$300,000 has been subscribed.
¶George Theis, Jr. and Warren E. Brown are considering a new theater building on the property leased by George Theis, Jr. for 99 years, on the west side of Lawrence north of the alley between Douglas and 1st st.

Saturday, January 22, 1921

page

5. Charter was given yesterday at Topeka for the **Orpheum** Theater company, capitalized at \$700,000, which proposes to build a seven story theater building at northeast corner of Lawrence and 1st.

Tuesday, March 1, 1921

page

1. Article reports details of progress in financing the proposed new **Orpheum** theater building.

Tuesday, May 10, 1921

page

5. Plans for the new **Orpheum** theater building were completed yesterday by John Ebersson, architect from Chicago, and work will start in a short time. To be seven stories, 140 x 150 ft., with theater seating 1,600. Details.

Wednesday, May 11, 1921

page

3. Drawing of proposed new **Orpheum** theater building.

Friday, July 8, 1921**page**

5. Work started yesterday on demolition of the brick filling station on the **Orpheum** theater site.

Wednesday, July 13, 1921**page**

5. Excavation will begin this week for the **Orpheum** theater and actual construction will start by August 1.

Wednesday, November 9, 1921**page**

8. Article about construction status of new downtown buildings including 1st National Bank, 4th National Bank addition, Broadview Hotel, and **Orpheum** and Miller theaters.

Friday, March 31, 1922**page**

5. Article reporting that physicians have leased practically the entire seventh floor of the new **Orpheum** building.

Monday, April 24, 1922**page**

2. The theater section of the **Orpheum** theater and office building will be turned over to the decorators and seat company May 1. The office section will be ready for interior finishers by June 1.

Thursday, June 1, 1922**page**

2. Partial list of tenants of new **Orpheum** building announced yesterday. Entire seventh floor leased by a number of doctors and dentists. Building to open June 10.

Sunday, July 9, 1922**page**

10. The **Orpheum** theater will open its doors on Monday, September 4th, Labor Day.

Sunday, August 13, 1922**page**

20. Announcement made that new **Orpheum** theater to open September 4.

Sunday, September 3, 1922**page**

Ad announcing formal opening of the **Orpheum** Theatre Monday, September 4 (photo). Special section with articles about it and photos. Seats 1,800. ¶Architect for **Orpheum** Building was John Ebersson of Chicago. Cost \$750,000.

Sunday, November 19, 1922**page**

5. J. F. Tilford will open his fifth drug store in Wichita Monday on the main floor of the new **Orpheum** building.

Thursday, February 15, 1923**page**

2. Tilford Drug Co. has just opened branch store in the **Orpheum** building.

Sunday, March 18, 1923**page**

13. Drawing of proposed nine story family hotel to be built by Oscar S. Shirk on southeast corner of 2nd and Topeka in near future at cost of \$500,000. Architects are Ebersson and Weaver, with offices in **Orpheum** building. Details.

Monday, August 27, 1923**page**

1. Article describing progress and plans for the new Shirkmere apartments to be opened on New Year's Day. Architects are Ebersson and Weaver, who also designed the **Orpheum** building and are preparing plans for the new York Rite Temple building.

Thursday, December 6, 1923**page**

3. Approximately 21,400 people paid admission to Wichita play houses yesterday, as follows:

Forum	-	6,500	(matinee and evening)		
Miller	-	2,500	Kansas	-	1,100
Palace	-	2,500	Marple	-	1,000
Orpheum	-	2,100	Holland	-	1,000
Crawford	-	1,100	Wichita	-	1,000
Princess	-	1,700	Novelty	-	900.

Tuesday, January 12, 1926**page**

7. Stockholders of **Orpheum** building voted yesterday to sell the building to Brown-Crammer Company, bond brokers, for slightly over \$500,000. Through the transfer all liabilities are liquidated, and all first preferred stock with interest is payable on presentation at the Brown-Crammer office.

Sunday, May 12, 1929**page**

10. Advertisement says the finest sound equipment is being installed in the **Orpheum** Theater for the presentation of talking pictures starting May 20.

Tuesday, October 8, 1929**page**

3. The interests of L. M. Miller, president of the Consolidated Amusement Company of Wichita, were taken over yesterday by the William Fox Film Corporation and the Fox West Coast Theaters. In Wichita, the Miller, Palace, and **Orpheum** theaters will pass into the hands of the Fox organization. The sale also includes the Wichita theater. Details.

Monday, October 21, 1929**page**

5. Formal transfer of theaters in Missouri and Kansas acquired recently by the Fox Corporation, will take place November 1. Includes the Miller, Palace, **Orpheum**, and Wichita theaters.

Tuesday, November 26, 1929**page**

5. Fox West Coast Theater corporation yesterday started the operation of the five Wichita theaters it now owns, the Miller, Palace, **Orpheum**. Uptown, and Wichita. Details.

Sunday, December 10, 1939**page**

18. Article says the **Orpheum** Theater building has recently been purchased by the Fox Theaters. Photograph.

Sunday, May 12, 1940**page**

24. Drawing of new marquees to be installed at the Miller and **Orpheum** theaters. The new front for the **Orpheum** will probably be put up next month and that for the Miller as soon as the **Orpheum**'s is finished. They are built by Claude Neon Federal company of Wichita. Details.

Tuesday, June 4, 1940

page

10. Photo of new **Orpheum** theater marquee, which will be lighted for the first time at 9:00 p.m. today. Article with details. The **Orpheum** has recently installed a modern air-conditioning plant.

Sunday, August 17, 1941

page

6. **Orpheum** theater has installed new sound unit and seats.