Subject(s): Sim Park Drive

Wichita Beacon
Tuesday, December 19, 1916
page 1. Report that Arthur B. Sim, of Wichita, age 32, son of Mr. and Mrs. Coler B. Sim, was found dead under the inter-city viaduct in Kansas City early this morning, apparently murdered and robbed. Details.

Wichita Beacon
Wednesday, December 20, 1916
page 1. Further article about Arthur B. Sim death. Indicates he had been drinking heavily and had been separated from his wife several weeks ago and that she was going to Chicago to seek a divorce.

9. Mrs. Arthur B. Sim denied that she was contemplating divorce, but said that she and her husband were estranged and that she had not talked with him for more than two months. They were married about eight years ago. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jackson, 3800 Hyde Park Avenue (in Kansas City?). They had no children.

Wichita Beacon
Saturday, December 23, 1916
page 1. Another long article about the Arthur B. Sim case -- murder suspected.

Wichita Beacon
Thursday, February 8, 1917
page 8. Report that Coler L. Sim is offering to donate 157 acres of land in the bend of the Big River between Central Avenue and 13th Street as a memorial to his recently slain son, Arthur B. Sim. Land to be used as a park and site for a municipal golf course. Details.

Wichita Beacon
Saturday, May 25, 1918
Another article about plans for new Sim Park drive. Says the memorial gateway at end of Murdock Avenue will be erected this summer. Details.

**Wichita Beacon**  
**Monday, December 16, 1918**

Work is being commenced on the drives to the new Sim Memorial Park. It will follow Murdock Avenue from Central Riverside Park until it reaches Sim Park. Trees are being cut down in this area so that the drive may be built.

**Wichita Beacon**  
**Thursday, January 16, 1919**

The city has purchased a strip of ground from 50 to 200 feet wide and half a mile long of the Steinbuchel property west of the Little Arkansas river and about a block north of Central avenue, on which will be built a boulevard drive to the new Sim Memorial Park. Cost was seven to eight thousand dollars. Making the new drive will require considerable grading, cutting, and filling, as the ground is rough. It will connect with the river drive that will be made on the outer edge of the park, the entire drive covering more than two miles. The half mile connecting drive, to be stared probably next week, will run in curved lines along the edge of what was at one time a part of the Arkansas river, forming the island off Central Street Bridge. This is now filled in. ¶ The Memorial Gate to Sim Park is nearing completion. It is a half circle with two immense cut store pillars at each side. Mayor L. W. Clapp is the landscape designer for the new park.

**Wichita Beacon**  
**Wednesday, June 13, 1923**

Report of death last evening of Coler L. Sim, age 64, following weeks of illness. He came to Wichita in 1885 and engaged in the real estate business. He purchased the holdings of the Keene Syndicate, of New Hampshire, which included a great part of the Riverside property and Sim Park. In 1919 he donated Sim Park to the city. Photograph. ¶ Survived by wife, Helen, and a daughter, Mrs. R. W. Hissem, of 321 North Roosevelt. His only son, for whom Sim Park was named, Arthur B. Sim, was accidentally killed in Kansas City.

**Wichita Eagle**  
**Wednesday, December 20, 1916**

Article reports the murder in Kansas City Monday night of Arthur B. Sim, 32, oil man and son of Coler L. Sim.
**Sunday, June 3, 1917**  
**Section B**  
1. Article reporting contemplated donation of a natural park to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Coler L. Sim, to be named Arthur B. Sim park as a memorial to their son, who lost his life in Kansas City last winter. The tract in a big bend of the Arkansas river is 156 acres. Photographs.

**Wichita Eagle**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 1919**  
**page**  
2. Park board yesterday authorized issuance of $150,000 in bonds for improvement of Sim park and connecting boulevards. They are authorized to issue this amount of bonds each year and expect to issue a further $150,000 after first of the year, making a total of $300,000 available for park improvements.

**Wichita Eagle**  
**Saturday, February 21, 1920**  
**page**  
5. Material is to be purchased for a narrow cement stone roadway with a 16 foot body and two feet of sloping sides at each edge to be constructed from the Central avenue bridge and winding around the river banks to the entrance of Sim park. The cost will be approximately $70,000. Original recommendations were for a 27 foot boulevard, but the park board decided 20 feet would be wide enough.

**Wichita Eagle**  
**Thursday, July 29, 1920**  
**page**  
5. The new Sim Park drive is nearing completion. About two-thirds is completed and the entire stretch will be thrown open for traffic by 1st of September. Extends from River boulevard near the waterworks through the park to 11th street. Constructed of sheet asphalt and will cost $75,000.

**Wichita Eagle**  
**Sunday, February 6, 1921**  
**page**  
Rotogravure section  
Page of photographs of Sim park including entrance, drives, and Mr. and Mrs. Coler L. Sim.

**Wichita Eagle**  
**Wednesday, June 13, 1923**  
**page**  
1. Article reports death of Coler L. Sim yesterday at age 64. Came to Wichita in 1886 in
real estate business. After collapse of the boom he was appointed receiver of the
Davidson Investment company, which had gone into bankruptcy. The controlling interest
in this company was owned by banks and individuals in Keene, New Hampshire, who
formed the Keene Syndicate to protect themselves in the disposition of the company’s
assets. The latter were purchased by the new firm and Mr. Sim was appointed as their
representative. Later Mr. Sim purchased the holdings of the Keene Syndicate, which
included a large amount of Riverside property and the plot of ground which he donated to
the city, known as Sim park..

Wichita Eagle
Sunday, November 14, 1926
page 4-A. Map of roadways in Sim Park.

Wichita Eagle
Thursday, June 23, 1932
page 1. Report of death this morning of Mrs. Coler L. Sim, at her home, 3626 E. 1st Street, age
69. She was the daughter of one of Topeka’s founders, Colonel Joel Huntoon, and was
born in Topeka April 16, 1863. Came to Wichita with her husband in 1885. Survived by
one daughter, Mrs. R. W. Hissem, 321 North Roosevelt, and three grandchildren, the
children of Dr. and Mrs. Hissem: Ralph age 15, Suzanne age 14, and Coler age 7. A son,
Arthur B. Sim, was killed in Kansas City some fifteen years ago and it was for him that
Sim Memorial Park was named. Obituary. Photograph.

Wichita Eagle
Sunday, June 7, 1936
page 20. Article about development of Sim Park by the park board. Details. Says first
improvements were made in 1920 when an asphalt driveway was constructed around the
west end of the park skirting the river. A year or so later work was started on the golf
course-at first with only six holes developed, the nine, and finally 18. Another
remarkable feat was reclamation of a large section of east bank of Arkansas river which
was washed away in the 1923 flood for 1¼ miles from the 13th st. bridge to the east edge
of the park. Old car frames and bodies were used as framework for rebuilding the washed
out bank.