

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): Lassen

BEACON 1917

Monday, July 2, 1917

page

1. Decision was made Saturday to go ahead with building of the **Lassen** Hotel despite high building costs at this time. Details. Drawing on page 8.

Thursday, July 26, 1917

page

8. Article reports contract for **Lassen** Hotel has been let for \$570,000 to John Denny, of Wichita. Architect is C. E. Richards, of Columbus, Ohio. To be ten stories and have 260 rooms. Details.

Thursday, August 9, 1917

page

7. Illness in his home has compelled John Denny to give up his contract to build the **Lassen** Hotel, and it has instead been given to the Selden-Breck Construction Company, of St. Louis, which built the Beacon Building. Details.

Friday, September 7, 1917

page

5. The Anchor Trust Building at corner of 1st and Market, formerly the old Turner Hall, is being torn down to make way for the new **Lassen** . Details.

Saturday, November 3, 1917

page

5. Actual construction work on the **Lassen** Hotel started today with pouring of concrete piers for the building.

Saturday, December 29, 1917

page

1. Summary of Wichita building permits during past year -- total was \$3,741,749. Major buildings included the Skaer Apartments at Lawrence and English, \$100,000, the Virginia Apartments on North Topeka, \$40,000, the **Lassen** Hotel, \$500,000, the

Derby Building at 2nd and Lawrence, \$110,000, the Cathedral and Interdale Apartments on North Lawrence, \$125,000 each, and the Kansas Masonic Home, \$225,000.

BEACON 1918

Saturday, February 23, 1918

page

7. Workmen started pouring concrete for the third floor of the **Lassen** Hotel this morning.

Wednesday, May 8, 1918

page

4. Workmen began pouring the ninth floor of the **Lassen** Hotel this morning.

Saturday, June 29, 1918

page

7. Photograph of **Lassen** Hotel under construction. Article with details. Excavation was begun October 7, 1917. Building is 100 by 140 feet. To be opened January 1.

BEACON 1919**Wednesday, January 1, 1919****page**

1. Report of opening of **Lassen** Hotel last night. Details.

Saturday, April 19, 1919**page**

7. Telford Drug Store No. 2 in northeast corner of **Lassen** Hotel is holding formal opening today.

Saturday, May 17, 1919**page**

2. Stockholders Thursday approved a ten story addition to the **Lassen** Hotel , but no date has been set for its construction. Details.

BEACON 1920**Tuesday, April 6, 1920****page**

8. A 100 room addition is being planned for the **Lassen** Hotel . Details.

BEACON 1921**Tuesday, June 14, 1921****page**

7. Plans and specifications for the hundred room addition to the **Lassen** Hotel were given to contractors today. Bids to be opened June 24.

Wednesday, August 17, 1921**page**

5. The Meridian Auto Stage Line, operating bus service between Wichita and Salina, was opened this morning by Fay Jones, 519 West 10th Street. He will maintain daily service, except Sunday, between the two points. At present two seven passenger cars are in use, leaving Wichita and Salina simultaneously at 9:00 a.m. and arriving at the other city at 3:00 p.m. The fare to Salina will be \$4.50. Wichita headquarters are at the **Lassen** Hotel . Details.

BEACON 1922**Tuesday, February 21, 1922****page**

7. Construction of addition to **Lassen** Hotel is to start not later than April 1, according to John Rigby of the Rigby-Gray Hotel Company. Architects are Richards, McCarty, and Bulford, of Columbus, Ohio. Addition will have 100 rooms. To be completed by

September 1. Hotel now has 233 rooms, and will be increased to 333. Cost about \$150,000.

Sunday, April 16, 1922**page**

B-3. Advertisement with drawing of **Lassen** Hotel lobby.

Tuesday, May 30, 1922**page**

1. The **Lassen** Hotel will build a second addition as soon as the addition now under construction is completed. It will be on the south side of the building facing Market Street, 50 by 100 feet, two stories, with store rooms on the ground floor and a large ballroom on the second floor. Cost approximately \$75,000.

Tuesday, July 4, 1922**page**

2. Concrete work for the nine story addition to the **Lassen** Hotel was completed in slightly more than six weeks. All the brick work will be completed by July 5 and the addition should be completed in August.

Thursday, July 27, 1922**page**

6. Work will proceed promptly on the second new addition to the **Lassen** Hotel , facing Market Street south of the main Hotel , which will provide a large ballroom on the second floor. The new addition will cost \$65,000 to \$75,000.

Sunday, August 6, 1922**Magazine****page**

1. Drawing of the new ball room addition to be built on the **Lassen** Hotel to the south on Market Street. Details.

Wednesday, September 6, 1922**page**

7. The new addition of the **Lassen** Hotel will open September 15.

BEACON 1923**Wednesday, October 24, 1923****page**

8. John T. Sever, real estate dealer, has purchased a half interest in the A. M. McClellan Building, southwest corner of Lawrence and William, for \$150,000. Building has been leased for 30 years by the Rigby-Gray Hotel Company, owners of the **Lassen** Hotel .

BEACON 1925**Friday, September 18, 1925****page**

12. The **Lassen Hotel**'s new radio station is expected to be on the air by November 1st, with a power of 500 watts. Two steel towers, each 100 feet high, will be placed on the roof of the Hotel to carry the aerial. Details.

BEACON 1926**Saturday, January 2, 1926****page**

1. John Rigby and Richard M. Gray of the Rigby-Gray Hotel Company, lessees of the **Lassen Hotel**, have purchased nearly all the stock of the Hotel building for \$600,000. They have succeeded in working out a refinancing plan for the Hotel. It has not earned dividends during the last three years due to the fact that there is more Hotel space in Wichita at this time than is warranted by the demand. Details. Richard M. Gray has been personally in charge of the Hotel's operation since its completion.

BEACON 1928**Friday, July 20, 1928****page**

1. Report of death this morning of Richard M. Grey, Wichita Hotel man (**Lassen Hotel**), at Santa Barbara, California, after an illness of more than a year, at age 52. Born in Omaha, Nebraska September 12, 1875. Became manager of the **Lassen** when it opened in January 1919. Biography. Survived by wife. Had no children. Photograph.

BEACON 1934**Sunday, October 14, 1934****page**

1. Report of testimonial dinner at **Lassen Hotel** last evening sponsored by Wichita Art Association in honor of civic leader, Mr. L. W. Clapp. Details and photograph.

BEACON 1935**Saturday, July 27, 1935****page**

1. A newly formed single owning and operating company, the **Lassen Hotel Company**, has taken over the building and real estate, owned by Mrs. Richard M. Gray and John Rigby, of the Rigby-Gray Hotel Company, and the lease and fixtures, owned by L. S. Seymour, of the Seymour Hotel Company. The same owners (above) are the principal stockholders of the new company. About \$200,000 will be spent in remodeling and

refurnishing the Hotel . In the new consolidation all ownership is severed with the Wichita radio station, KFH. Public rooms will be air conditioned. Details.

Wednesday, August 7, 1935**page**

1. Roy Moulton, of New York City, is coming to Wichita to manage the **Lassen** Hotel under direction of its new ownership company. Details.

BEACON 1936**Sunday, March 8, 1936****page**

1. Three hundred thousand dollars is to be spent on remodeling of the **Lassen** Hotel . Details. New coffee shop is to be built to south side of Market St. entrance to replace the present location on the 1st St. side.

BEACON 1937**Sunday, January 24, 1937****page**

13. Article announcing opening of the new **Lassen** Hotel Coffee Shop on Wednesday, January 27. Advertisement with photographs.

BEACON 1942**Wednesday, January 14, 1942****page**

9. The Aero Parts Manufacturing Company has purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Stanfield, of the **Lassen** Hotel , 140 acres of land southwest of the city on Highway 42 on which a new plant will be built. The company is a large aircraft industry subcontracting company and at present is occupying three buildings here in addition to its main plant at 225 North Water. J. A. McCullough is president. ¶ The land is located about a mile west and two miles south of Maple and West Streets. Highway 42 goes through the property, leaving some 90 acres to the north and 50 to the south.

Thursday, May 14, 1942**page**

1. Reliable reports received today stated that the **Lassen** Hotel has been sold by the Massachusetts Life Insurance Company to Abe, Walter, and Bernard Schimmel, brothers, of Lincoln, Nebraska, for approximately a million dollars. Details.

EAGLE 1917**Friday, January 26, 1917****page**

5. It has been suggested that the name of the proposed Travelers Hotel be changed to the **Lassen Hotel** for Henry **Lassen** , a miller, who has bought stock in the company and who has been induced to put the deal over.

Thursday, February 1, 1917**page**

6. The new Hotel will have a frontage of 100 feet on Market and 140 feet on 1st street. It was announced yesterday that the name of the Hotel would be changed from The Travelers to The **Lassen Hotel** .

Saturday, June 30, 1917**page**

5. Bids opened yesterday on new ten story **Lassen Hotel** but were \$150,000 over the estimated cost of \$500,000.

Thursday, July 26, 1917**page**

5. Contract awarded yesterday for the new **Lassen Hotel** to John M. Denny of Wichita. To be ten story brick and reinforced concrete building, 100 feet by 140 feet. To be completed by October 1, 1918 at cost of \$700,000.

Monday, August 13, 1917**page**

2. Buildings on **Lassen Hotel** site are being vacated preparatory to tearing them down.

Sunday, September 16, 1917**page**

7. Article reporting on the razing of historic Turner Hall, also known as Turners Opera House, to make way for the **Lassen Hotel** . It was built in 1879. ¶ Long article giving history of the hall.

Sunday, September 30, 1917**page**

9. Photograph of start of construction on **Lassen Hotel** .

Friday, December 21, 1917**page**

12. Article reporting most of the concrete work for the basement of the **Lassen Hotel** has been completed.

EAGLE 1918**Friday, May 24, 1918****page**

5. **Lassen** Hotel lessees proposed to the board of directors of the Hotel company the building of a two story addition on the 50 feet of ground immediately south of the Hotel , the first floor to be used for a restaurant and the second as a ballroom, with foundations permitting it to be built up to ten stories at a later date.

Tuesday, December 31, 1918**page**

8. Photograph of **Lassen** Hotel. Advertisements announcing opening today.

EAGLE 1919**Wednesday, January 1, 1919****page**

1. Article reporting on opening of **Lassen** Hotel last night.

Saturday, January 4, 1919**page**

5. Article reporting death of Henry **Lassen** at 12:45 a.m. Friday, January 3 at age 57 -- presumably heart attack. Born in Germany. Was president of Kansas Milling Company, of the Wichita Terminal Elevator Company, and of the **Lassen** Hotel Building company.

Sunday, September 28, 1919**page**

Special Edition for Fall Wheat Show

Many special articles

Many special photographs include:

3. Calvary Baptist Church -- Water and Elm.
3. Wichita Hospital.
5. Cathedral High School under construction.
7. **Lassen** Hotel -- shows street car loop 1st street and Market.
12. Salvation Army Soldiers' and Sailors' club (old Frisco depot).
13. Various apartments and business buildings.
16. Cudahy Packing company.
21. Hamilton school.
22. Horace Mann school.
25. Kansas Sanitarium.
36. Wichita theaters.
39. Campbell Bread Company

41. Downtown view.

EAGLE 1921**Wednesday, February 9, 1921****page**

5. Plans for a 100 room addition to the **Lassen** Hotel, to be on the south side of the building, are practically completed and bids are to be asked for at once by the Rigby-Gray Hotel company.

EAGLE 1922**Saturday, June 24, 1922****page**

5. The largest electric sign in the state, 36 feet high and 50 feet long, with letters nine feet high, is being constructed for the **Lassen** Hotel .

Saturday, July 1, 1922**page**

5. Concrete work for the nine story addition to the **Lassen** Hotel has been completed in slightly more than six weeks time. First concrete was poured May 5 and the last was set June 23rd.

Wednesday, July 26, 1922**page**

11. Ground will be broken on the second addition to the **Lassen** Hotel , fronting on Market street, early next week.

EAGLE 1923**Wednesday, September 5, 1923****page**

1. A Wichita man, Dewey Kuehl, leaves the **Lassen** Hotel today to inaugurate his planned bus service from Wichita to Los Angeles. He has just one bus, a Cunningham bus, and will carry nine passengers. The fare from Wichita to the coast is \$35 and the trip is to be made in seven days. He will return to Wichita on September 25 and the second trip to Los Angeles will depart on October 1.

EAGLE 1924**Sunday, February 24, 1924****page**

4. A new enterprise, the bus line of D. E. Sauder between Wichita and Wellington, although but a few months old, is very popular. The Wellington-Wichita Motor line operates two large Reo buses, with three or four round trips daily, and a fare of 75 cents. Time for the 30 mile distance is one hour fifteen minutes. Leaving stations in Wichita are the **Lassen** Hotel, Lawrence and Douglas avenues, and the Princess

Pharmacy, 209 South Lawrence.

Sunday, June 29, 1924

page

9. Advertisement with schedule of the "Interurban Coach," bus service between Wellington and Wichita with six trips daily in each direction, operated by Sauder Motor and Truck Company of Wellington. Coach leaves from **Lassen** Hotel and from Douglas and Lawrence.

Sunday, November 16, 1924

page

11. A new bus line from Wichita to Arkansas City will start tomorrow with four new 27 passenger buses making three trips daily. Operated by P. H. and T. A. Kennedy. Buses will leave from Broadview and **Lassen** Hotels.

EAGLE 1925

Sunday, May 3, 1925

page

2. The **Lassen** Hotel has purchased Wichita Board of Trade radio station WEAH. A completely new plant will be installed on the eleventh floor of the **Lassen** with an aerial on the Hotel building 190 feet above the street. Until the new transmitter is installed it will be operated from its present location on the Wheeler-Kelly-Hagny building.

EAGLE 1926

Sunday, May 9, 1926

page

- 5A. Rotogravure:
Photograph of Wichita skyline from **Lassen** Hotel .

EAGLE 1927

Sunday, May 29, 1927

page

Special section with articles about Wichita institutions and businesses.

- 14-A. Photograph of KFH towers atop **Lassen** Hotel .

EAGLE 1928

Friday, December 7, 1928

page

5. KFH announced plans to build a new, more powerful transmitter, located at a new site away from the **Lassen** Hotel . The towers and antenna now on top of the Hotel building will be scrapped. A remote control studio will be maintained at the **Lassen** .

EAGLE 1929**Wednesday, January 2, 1929****page**

5. Article refers to the new link between KFH radio station and the *Eagle*. The station's towers, now on the **Lassen** Hotel , will be moved to the station's new site just west of the Travel Air flying field.

EAGLE 1932**Wednesday, May 4, 1932****page**

1. Article reports dinner at **Lassen** Hotel last evening honoring Walter Beech. Details and photograph on page 2.

EAGLE 1933**Friday, April 21, 1933****page**

2. Ownership of the business and furnishings of the **Lassen** Hotel was sold yesterday by John Rigby to the Seymour Hotel Company, L. S. Seymour, president. Mr. Seymour has been manager of the Hotel since late 1927, when he succeeded the late Richard M. Gray. Mr. Rigby and Mr. Gray, forming the Rigby-Gray Hotel company, took over the business when the Hotel was opened. Mr. Gray died in 1928. ¶ Associated with Mr. Seymour in the company organized for the purpose of operating the Hotel are Edwin N. Carlson, Wichita oil man, and Dr. C. E. Tuttle.

Sunday, April 30, 1933**page**

12. Article about **Lassen** Hotel. Photograph. Interior photographs and article on pages 13, 14.

EAGLE 1934**Sunday, October 14, 1934****page**

1. Article reports banquet at **Lassen** Hotel last night in honor of Lewis W. Clapp's many years of civic leadership. Details.

EAGLE 1935**Saturday, July 27, 1935****page**

1. A new corporation, the **Lassen** Hotel Company, has been formed to consolidate the former Rigby-Gray Hotel Company, owner of the building and ground, and the

Seymour Hotel Company, holder of the lease and owner of the furniture and fixtures. About \$200,000 will be spent on remodeling and redecorating. Details. Includes air conditioning of all public rooms.

Sunday, July 28, 1935**page**

Special sixty-third anniversary edition of the *Eagle*.

28. Photograph of **Lassen** Hotel (by Edgar B. Smith).

EAGLE 1936**Sunday, March 8, 1936****page**

3. **Lassen** Hotel is starting \$300,000 modernization program immediately. Includes a new coffee shop along south side of Hotel facing Market st., with seating capacity of 250. New marquees to be installed on 1st and Market st. entrances. Details. Photo.

Saturday, September 19, 1936**page**

2. Wichita's newest radio station, KANS, will start broadcasting at 6:30 A.M. today from its 183 ft. radial tower on top of **Lassen** Hotel . Details.

Sunday, October 4, 1936**page**

* **Special Kansas Diamond Jubilee edition.**

- 5-C. Photo of **Lassen** Hotel .

EAGLE 1937**Sunday, January 24, 1937****page**

- 4-A. The new **Lassen** Hotel coffee shop will open to the public Wednesday. Details.

Sunday, October 3, 1937**page**

- 5-A. Photo of **Lassen** Hotel showing sign of Hotel on opposite corner-apparently Stith Hotel .

Thursday, November 25, 1937**page**

5. Wichita Club voted yesterday to sell its property at 1st and Market to Farmers and Bankers Insurance Co. for \$90,000 and to move the Clubquarters to the 10th and 11th

floors of **Lassen** Hotel next April 1.

EAGLE 1938**Sunday, January 9, 1938****page**

6. Article reports Henry J. Hayn has come to Wichita from Chicago to become manager of **Lassen** Hotel , succeeding Roy Moulton who resigned to take a position in New York City.

Sunday, April 17, 1938**page****Chamber of Commerce Section**

6. Photograph of **Lassen** Hotel . Shows sign of Stith Hotel on southeast corner of 1st and Market.

EAGLE 1942**Tuesday, June 2, 1942****page**

3. Ad announcing that the **Lassen** Hotel is now under Schimmel direction, with Walter Schimmel as managing director.

EAGLE 1946**Sunday, March 17, 1946****page**

7. The York Rite building, purchased early in 1945 by Radio station KFH Company, will henceforth be known as the KFH Building. ¶ John Rigby is president of the KFH Company, Marcellus M. Murdock is vice-president, and Mrs. Anna Scott Gray is secretary. Rigby and the late Richard M. Gray, then operators of the **Lassen** Hotel, operated the station in 1925 at 50 watts power after purchasing it from WEAH. In January 1926 the station went to 500 watts at 1220 kilocycles, and the present company was formed January 1, 1929 when The Wichita Eagle became associated with KFH. The ownership has been the same since that time. ¶ In October 1929 KFH became the CBS outlet in this area and broadcast programs on 1300 kilocycles at 1000 watts, sharing time with WIBW in Topeka. In December of that year the station went on a five-sevenths time sharing basis with WOQ in Kansas City, and the studios were maintained in the Wheeler-Kelly-Hagney Building annex. KFH was granted a full time permit on 1300 kilocycles in June 1933. In July 1935 the downtown studios were moved to the present location in the KFH building, and in July 1936 the station was granted a power increase to 5000 watts daytime and 1000 watts at nighttime. In September 1941 the Federal Communications Commission granted an increase to 5000 watts power output day and night. ¶ Further details.

Sunday, July 14, 1946**page**

5. Effective Tuesday, Continental Air Lines will double its service on the Denver-Wichita-Tulsa-Oklahoma City route, flying two trips daily in each direction instead of one. Details. All flights are with DC-3 equipment. ¶ Last week the company completed work on installation here of a new ticket office in the **Lassen Hotel** .

EAGLE 1949

Saturday, January 1, 1949

page

5. Report of death Thursday night at her home in Piedmont, California of former Wichitan, Mrs. Anna Scott Gray, widow of Richard M. Gray, who with John Rigby, now of Beverly Hills, California, formerly of the Rigby-Gray Hotel Company, which managed the **Lassen Hotel**. The Grays came to Wichita in 1919 from Chicago. Mr. Gray died in 1924. No children survive. Biography. Photo.

Tuesday, May 24, 1949

page

8. The newly formed Petroleum Club of Wichita, with nearly 300 members, will hold the grand opening of its club rooms Thursday in the **Lassen Hotel** in what was formerly the grill and grill annex. Details.

EAGLE 1950

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.

WICHITA EAGLE 1957

Sunday, June 16, 1957

page

- 23C. Photo showing steel framework in place remodeling the lobby of the **Lassen Hotel** from two stories in height to one story. A new dining and meeting room will be constructed on the second floor where the two story ceiling is closed over. Completion is expected September 1.

Saturday, November 30, 1957

page

- 4A. Operation of the McClellan Hotel , at Broadway and William, will be taken over tomorrow by Jack Van Gundy, assistant manager of the **Lassen Hotel**. The Hotel , a part of the C. C. Stanley estate, has been under direction of Mrs. Wrenna Benson since it was built in the 1920s. Mrs. Benson is retiring. Mrs. Virginia Shoup, principal heir of the property, decided to lease the Hotel for the first time. Remodeling and redecorating of the Hotel are planned soon. Van Gurdy will leave his position at the

Lassen to take over operation of the McClellan.

WICHITA EAGLE 1958

Monday, December 8, 1958

page

- 1C. Modernization of the exterior of the lower two floors of the **Lassen** Hotel is now in progress. The exterior of the building in this area is being refaced with Granex on the north and east sides. The work involves taking off a combination of stone and an old type of tile which was popular when the **Lassen** was built. Architects are Thomas, Harris, Calvin and Associates.

EAGLE 1959

Sunday, June 14, 1959

page

Magazine

1. Photo of **Lassen** Hotel .
2. Photo of lobby of **Lassen** Hotel .

WICHITA EAGLE 1960

Thursday, November 17, 1960

page

- 11A. "Wichita Silhouettes" -- biography of Jack Van Gundy, manager and lessee of the McClellan Hotel , 229 East William. Born in Kiowa, Kansas October 9, 1932. Moved to Wichita as a child. Graduated from North High School in 1949. Worked at **Lassen** Hotel while attending college. Graduated in 1956. Leased the McClellan Hotel in November 1957 and has managed it since that time. Married in 1950 and has one child, Terri Lynn, 5. Resides at 5332 East Central. Photo.

EAGLE 1962

Friday, March 9, 1962

page

1. The Wichita Club, now housed on the tenth floor of the **Lassen** Hotel , is to occupy new quarters on the eighteenth floor of the new Wichita Plaza Building. Occupancy is expected in October 1962. Details.

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.

EAGLE 1964**Friday, September 18, 1964****page**

8B. Report of death Wednesday at St. Petersburg, Florida of Henry J. Hayn, 56, former Wichitan and manager of the **Lassen** Hotel from 1937 to 1940. Survived by widow, Ethel, and a daughter (named). Further biography. Photo.

THE WICHITA EAGLE AND THE BEACON 1969**Sunday, February 23, 1969****page**

1G. Plans are ready for refurbishing of the **Lassen** Hotel , and work is scheduled to begin immediately. To cost \$250,000 and will take 12 months. Details.