Subject(s): Sullivan, O. F.

Wichita Eagle
Thursday, January 2, 1936
page
1.   O. F. Sullivan yesterday announced plans to build a new theater on West Side at Osage and Douglas at cost of about $60,000. Seating capacity 1,000. Construction to start in February. To be named the Civic theater. Details.

Tuesday, April 14, 1942
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5.   O. F. Sullivan elected mayor by city commission yesterday.

Friday, August 22, 1947
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3.   The 54 Drive In Theater located one and one half mile east of Wichita's city limits is nearing completion according to O. F. Sullivan, owner and general manager. It is located at the intersection of East Kellogg (new route of Highway 54) and the first all-weather north-south road east of Eastborough city. Construction was begun on July 12. Details. Photo of screen with scaffolding.

Thursday, July 4, 1957
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4A.   The Tower Theater, at Central and Oliver, will operated for the last time Sunday, July 14. It will then be permanently closed. The theater property has been leased by Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Sullivan to Frank T. Priest, Jr., 229 North Terrace Drive, who will remodel it for other types of commercial business. Photo.

Monday, January 26, 1970
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10A.   Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Mary Jane Sullivan, 69, of 936 Back Bay Boulevard, wife of former Wichita mayor, O. F. Sullivan. Born in Stella, Missouri. Came to Wichita in 1925. Other survivors are a son, William, and a daughter, Mrs. George Fooshee, Jr., both of Wichita. Photo. Entombment in Wichita Park Mausoleum.

Monday, January 1, 1973
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1. Report of the last performance early this morning at the Civic Playhouse, formerly the Civic Theater, on West Douglas. The theater and site have been purchased by Wichita State Bank for expansion. Transfer of the property will become effective March 1. ¶ Owner O. F. Sullivan opened his first Wichita movie house, The West Theater, in 1925. In 1936 he built the Civic Theater, which was converted into the Playhouse in 1960. He acquired the Crawford Theater in 1941, built the 81 Drive-In Theater, Kansas' first drive-in, and in 1947 built the 54 Drive-In Theater. In 1950 he opened the Crest Theater on East Douglas.

Thursday, February 3, 1977
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1D. Article about demolition of the Civic Theater, 725 West Douglas, which is underway to permit expansion of the Wichita State Bank. Built in 1936 for $100,000 by O. F. Sullivan, now 79. Opened its doors October 21, 1936. Seated 1000. It remained a theater until 1960 when it was remodeled to become a multipurpose entertainment center. The property was sold to Wichita State Bank in 1973. Bradburn Wrecking Company began razing the building December 15, and work will be completed in another month. Details. Photos.

Tuesday, January 13, 1981
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1B. Report of death Friday of O. F. Sullivan, 83, of 936 Back Bay Boulevard, former Wichita city commissioner and mayor, and operator of several theaters in the city. Born in northwest Arkansas in 1897. He built the 81 Drive-In Theater in August 1946, said to be Kansas' first such theater. He also built the Civic Theater, 725 West Douglas, in 1936, and ran the Tower, Palace, Crawford and Crest theaters. Elected to City Commission in 1941, became acting mayor that year and mayor in his own right the following year. Survivors include his widow, a son, William F., a daughter, Marjean Fooshee, and a stepson, Jerry Kemnitz, all of Wichita. First wife, Mary Jane, died in 1970. Remarried Agnes Kemnitz.