

The Hotel Kimball



News item during construction

The work of
itor buildings
that part of the
church property was
day, and when this is
cleared the site will be re-
erection of the structure
to have 120 feet frontage on
street and a depth of 185 feet on
Bridge street running down to the
Springfield Printing and Binding com-
pany a big building.
The exterior plans have all been
decided on, as have the interior ar-
rangement in a general way, and
neither expense nor trouble are to be
spared in making the hostelry modern
in every particular and adaptable
to a varied patronage. There will be
eight stories above the basement,
which means nine stories from the
street level on Bridge street, and each
of the 300 guest rooms will be sup-
plied with a bath—a convenience so
seldom provided for all the guests of
even first-class hotels, that it may al-
most be called an innovation.
The first floor will be built of Ohio
sandstone with marble trimmings,
while the remainder of the edifice
will be of brick with marble and
sandstone trimmings.
The dining room will be at the
southwest corner on the ground floor
with dimensions of 100 by 40 feet
and a 30-foot ceiling. It will have a
seating capacity of 300 people. In
the northwest corner of the basement
will be a Rathskeller, or men's cafe,
the entrance being on Bridge street.
Besides this entrance there will be
two main ones for guests, one on
Bridge street and the other on Chest-
nut street.
Near the Rathskeller, and on the
same side of the building a banquet
hall has been arranged for, where 400
guests may be served. This room is
to be used, also, for balls, and will be
richly decorated, probably in white

eral storage rooms.
While every class of patronage
be catered to, the manage-
give special attention to
for private families and autom-
and many applications for rooms
been received from the former
at this early date.
From the manner in which the pro-
ject is being pushed, there is every
reason to suppose that this city soon
will have a new hotel of very large
capacity and of faultless arrangement.
For the purpose of exploiting the en-
terprise, a stock company has been
organized with a capital of \$500,000.
Charles H. Tenney is the president,
William H. McClintock the vice-pres-
ident, Charles T. Shean the treasure
and William M. Kimball the mana-
ging director. The above officers, with
the addition of Frederick Harris, con-
stitute the board of directors.



THE HOTEL KIMBALL, CORNER OF CHESTNUT AND BRIDGE STREETS, A
 the health
 at the
 swimming

dining room

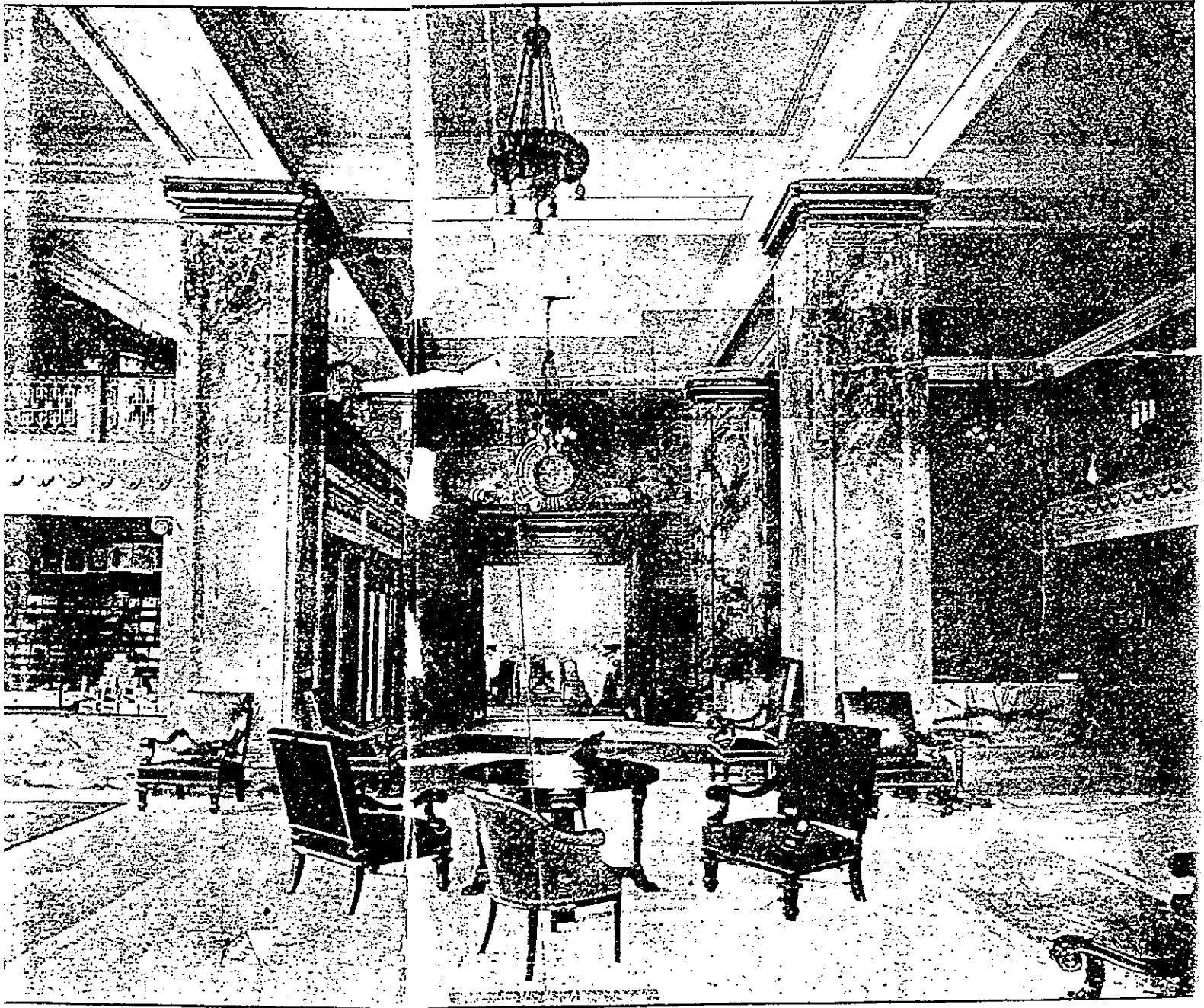
Springfield



Home

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1911

Lobby of Springfield's Newest Hostelry, The Hotel Kimball



Springfield's Finest New Hotel Will be Open to the Public Today

Robert E. Bosworth, Official Photographer for the Hotel Kimball.

(See Also Page

CITY LIBRARY
SIDE DOOR
NO. 1075 N. STATE ST.
JAN 15 1915
GREENBERG

Springfield



Thirty-third Year. No. 33. 24 Pages SPRINGFIELD, MASS., SATURDAY

THOUSANDS VISIT HOTEL KIMBALL

Banquet Attended by City Officials, Prominent Business Men and Representatives of the Press

LAUDATORY SPEECHES MADE

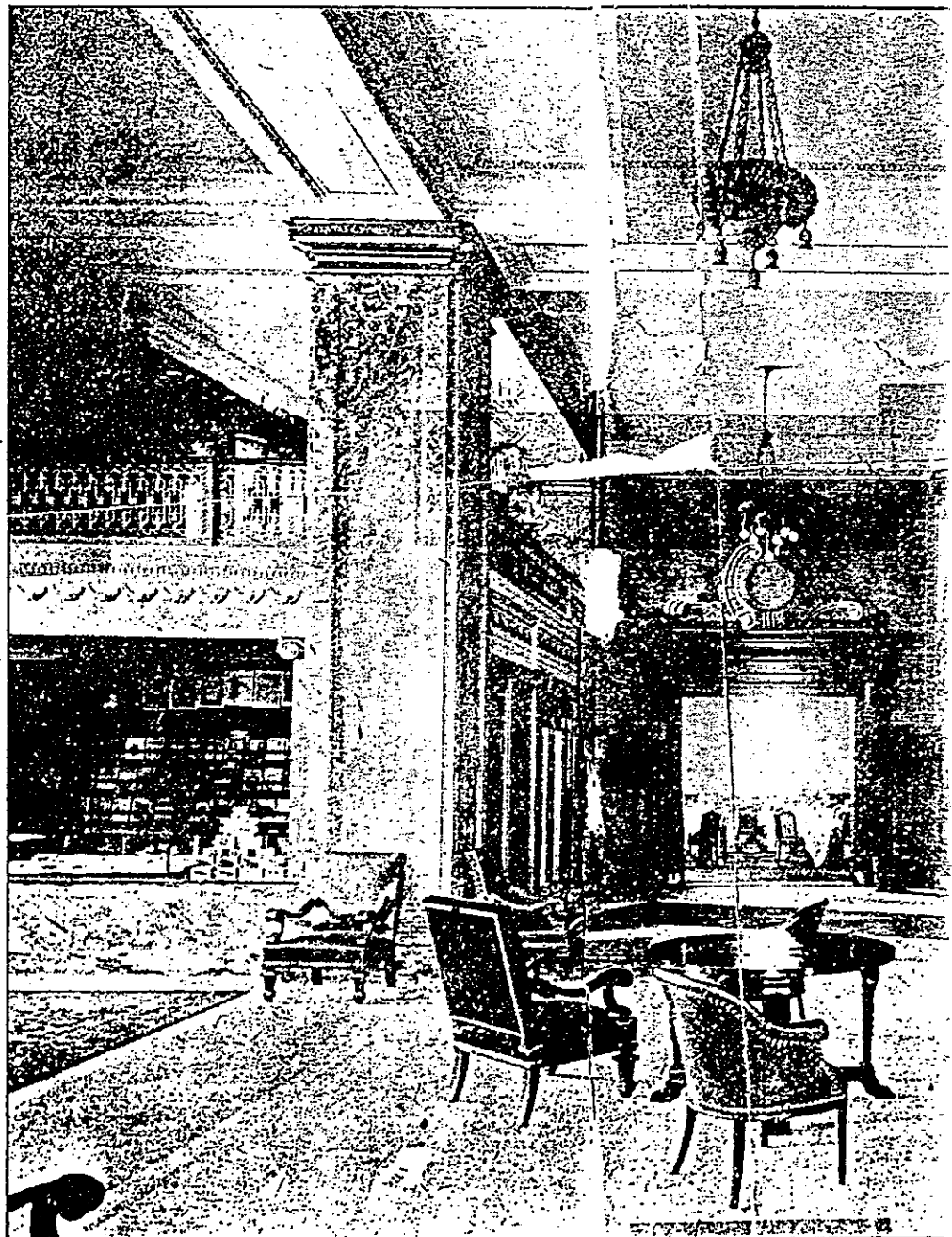
Springfield's New Hostelry Open to Public Today

The formal opening of Hotel Kimball took place yesterday, when the magnificent hostelry was invaded by thousands of Springfield people and invited guests from surrounding towns and cities—the hotel attaches gave up counting when the number reached 15,000—for an inspection of the appointments during the afternoon, and last evening the first banquet was served when the hotel management gave a dinner to the contractors, at which Mayor Lathrop and other city officials, prominent business men and representatives of the newspapers were present.

The hotel will be opened to the public and another crowded dinner is assured. Already all of the room space has been reserved for people who wish to partake of the dinner served and many of those who have arranged to live at the hotel will move into their suites during the next few days, so that Springfield's newest and most pretentious hotel is fairly launched upon its career.

Managing Director William M. Kimball, for whom the hotel is named and Treasurer Charles T. Shean, who originated the enterprise and whose enthusiasm in the venture has never waned, and other officers of the company received informally the guests, or as many as could get to them, as they passed in a steady

Lobby of Springfield's Newest Hostelry



Springfield's Fine New Hotel Will Be Open

SPRINGFIELD

NEW HOSTELRY

The Hotel Kimball Commodious and Up-to-Date in All Its Appointments

ITS MANY SPECIAL FEATURES

Special Provision Made For Families and Traveling Men

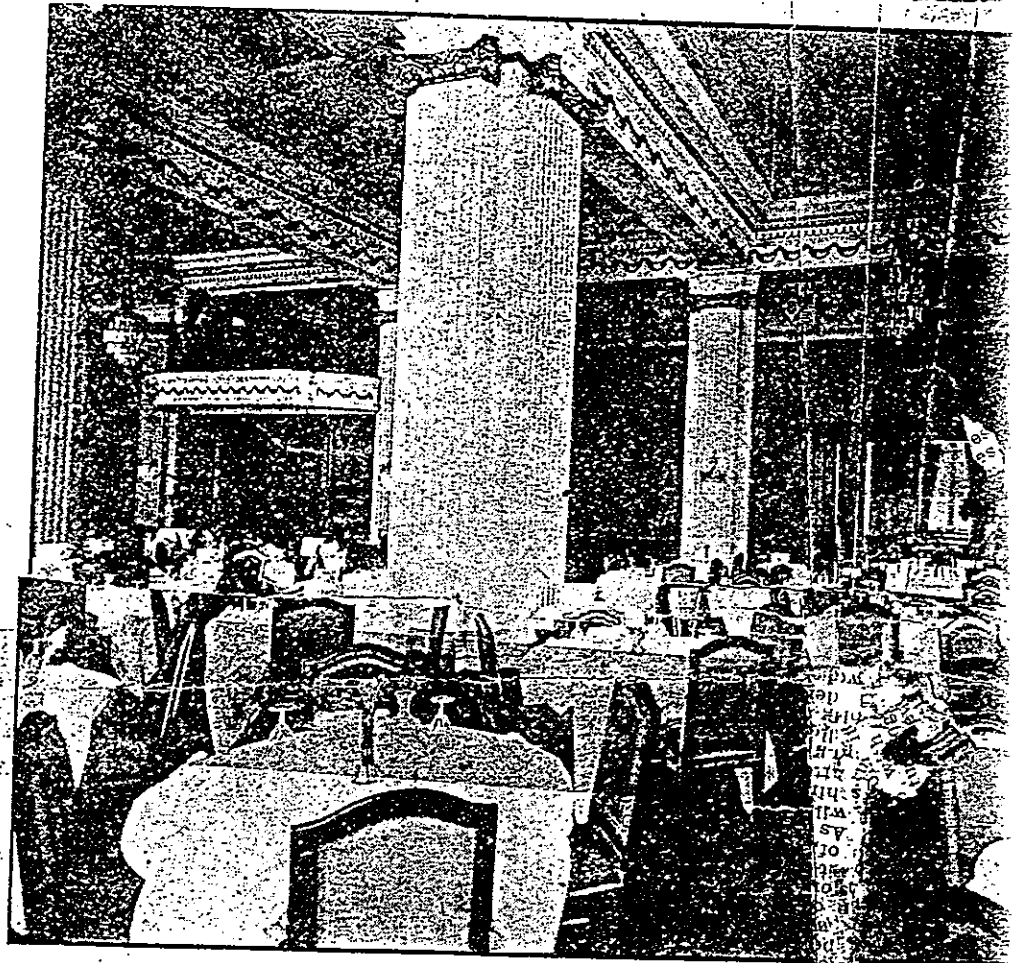
The Hotel Kimball has been built to meet what is believed to be a real demand for a modern metropolitan hotel in Springfield. The rapid growth of the city during the past decade and its increasing importance as railroad and highway center has made increasing demands for hotel accommodations and this demand has now been met by the location of a hotel which will rank with the finest in the country and unexcelled in New England. In the chosen site at the corner of Bridge and Chestnut streets the managers believe they have an ideal location. Situated on the dividing line between the mercantile and residential districts of the city the new hotel is just far enough removed to escape the noise and dust of the business streets, yet only two blocks distant from the Union Station and equidistant from the business heart of the city. Being built on a slight elevation above the commercial district the hotel will have pure sweet air on all sides and rising above all surrounding buildings it commands a superb view of the Connecticut valley and the grand old hills to the west.

From an architectural point of view the Hotel Kimball is a distinct addition to the city. It is a handsome dignified structure of eight stories, besides a mezzanine floor, basement and sub-basement, the basement being in reality a ground level floor because of the slope of Bridge street. The hotel is built of granite and fine tooled limestone, with steel and concrete floors and fireproof tiled partitions, affording five hundred guests every possible safety, comfort and convenience. Being built on an eleva-

MARCH 18, 1911

THE SPRINGFIELD HOMESTEAD, SAT

Dining Room of the Hotel Kimball



Was Formally Opened to the Public This Morning

The Hotel Kimball has been built to meet what is believed to be a real demand for a modern metropolitan hotel in Springfield. The rapid growth of the city during the past decade and its increasing importance as railroad and highway center has made increasing demands for hotel accommodations and this demand has now been met by the location of a hotel which will rank with the finest in the country and unexcelled in New England. In the chosen site at the corner of Bridge and Chestnut streets the managers believe they have an ideal location. Situated on the dividing line between the mercantile and residential districts of the city the new hotel is just far enough removed to escape the noise and dust of the business streets, yet only two blocks distant from the Union Station and equidistant from the business heart of the city. Being built on a slight elevation above the commercial district the hotel will have pure sweet air on all sides and rising above all surrounding buildings it commands a superb view of the Connecticut valley and the grand old hills to the west.

From an architectural point of view the Hotel Kimball is a distinct addition to the city. It is a handsome dignified structure of eight stories, besides a mezzanine floor, basement and sub-basement, the basement being in reality a ground level floor because of the slope of Bridge street. The hotel is built of granite and fine tooled limestone, with steel and concrete floors and fireproof tiled partitions, affording five hundred guests every possible safety, comfort and convenience. Being built on an elevation and towering above all buildings in that section of the city it will be a landmark, looming large on the city's sky line and being visible for miles around.

Before even the preliminary work on the hotel was begun a thorough study was made of modern metropolitan hotels of the country as far as practical the good points of each were embodied in this new Springfield hotel. In its construction, its arrangement and equipment the Hotel Kimball is as nearly perfect as time, thought, skill and money can make it. No reasonable expense has been spared, not only to afford its guests every modern convenience and luxury, but many little things not commonly found even in the best of hotels have been adopted to insure its guests every possible comfort. Of the first importance has been the precaution against the possibility of fire. The hotel is practically built of steel, stone and plaster with absolute fireproof construction throughout, the only woodwork in the house being the doors, windows, and baseboards. From sub-cellar to roof garden only materials of enduring strength have been used and the hotel will stand for a century as a monument to the wisdom and skill of its builders.

Next in importance to the fireproofing, in looking out for the welfare of its guests, the management places the heating and ventilating of the house and they believe they have in the Hotel Kimball the most perfectly heated and ventilated hotel in America. Another feature which the management believes its guests will appreciate is its filtration system by which every drop of water that enters the house for all purposes is carefully filtered and purified. A point of immense importance, but which the casual guest might not appreciate, is the planning of the interior of the hotel so that the work can be carried on with the greatest possible convenience and economy.



Was Formally Opened to the Public

deur of the room. The walls are hung in olive green Japanese burlap, the spaces paneled by handsome Louis XVI designs. The ceilings are done in soft tone of buff and ivory with a simple but effective mosaic border. The cornice capitals of the marble columns are gilded and lacquered. The windows are hung with cut valances of deep green velvet and a broad band for embellishment, the wall and side hangings are in verdure tapestry, all in harmonious colorings. The entire floor of the lobby is terrazo marble, the greater part of the room being covered with luxurious Hartford Saxony rugs in harmonizing tones. The furniture is all in solid mahogany—magnificent luxurious pieces of the holstered in the finest of hand tooled Louis XIV period, many of them upholstered in the Kimball coat of arms, others upholstered in rich mohair plush. The lobby is lighted by eight seven-light fixtures of verde green, with all of the fixtures of the room in this same finish. Over the entrance of the main dining room is a big clock set in a massive ornamental gold frame. This clock, together with all clocks in the working portions of the house, is connected with a master clock by which all are automatically set by electricity at standard time. The telephone exchange has the largest private keyboard yet installed in England and this had to be made expressly for the Kimball. With it are four telephone booths which connect with the ventilating system of the house, insuring perfect ventilation—a feature which all people who have occasion to use public telephone booths will be quick to appreciate.

At the left of the main entrance and occupying the southeast corner of the building is the main dining room, beautiful in its proportions and most pleasing in its treatment. The room will comfortably accommodate 250 guests and with its abundant light, its cheerful furnishings and its splendid height makes a most inviting room. The decorative scheme of the room is rose and gray. The ceiling is finished in gray panels with a rich Louis XVI border with an old rose background, and the rest in lighter gray. The cornice columns and pilasters are in chamois gray with ornamental plaster work embellished with Roman gold. The frieze between the corners and the heavy mahogany moldings is in old rose with Louis XVI cartouches and appropriate designs of the period. The side walls are of linen damask in old rose, with draperies of old rose velvet with embroidered Louis XVI border in gold and tapestry effects. The floor is covered with Hartford Saxony carpets in a tone to harmonize with the old rose color scheme and the chairs of solid mahogany are upholstered in panne plush to match. Eight beautiful electroliers of Roman gold and crystal glass depend from the ceiling which, with twelve wall electroliers of the same design, light the room most

brilliantly. The side walls are reseda green Tekko silk. The chandeliers have the same treatment as the dining room and banquet hall. The chairs in this room are of the Louis XVI period in Circassian walnut holstered with figured silk damask with valance on the back of the chair. From the main lobby the handsome grand stairway leads to the mezzanine floor where are located the ladies' reception room and tea room, the writing room and the public stenographer. This floor is decorated in the same scheme carried out in the lobby, but done in a smaller effect to harmonize with its proportions. A pleasing feature of the ladies' reception room is a beautiful art glass ceiling effect through which a soft diffused light is cast both night and day. Saxony rugs cover the mezzanine floor, the furniture of the tea room consisting of chairs of satinwood in a dainty English design and in the writing room are chairs and double French writing desks of solid mahogany in Sheraton design. On this mezzanine floor are three balconies, one overlooking the lobby, the second the main dining room and the third affording a view of the banquet and dancing hall. It is believed that this floor will prove especially convenient for the ladies' corner for afternoon tea and dancing. The rear floor is shut off from the public and is devoted to the office accommodation for the private office of the president and addresser and bookkeeping departments of the hotel.

brilliantly.

metropolitan hotels of the country and as far as practical the good points of each were embodied in this new Springfield hotel. In its construction, its arrangement and equipment the Hotel Kimball is as nearly perfect as time, thought, skill and money can make it. No reasonable expense has been spared, not only to afford its guests every modern convenience and luxury, but many little things not commonly found even in the best of hotels have been adopted to insure the most every possible comfort. Of the first importance has been the precaution against the possibility of fire. The hotel is practically built of steel, stone and plaster with absolute fireproof construction throughout, the only woodwork in the house being the doors, windows, and baseboards. From sub-cellar to roof garden only materials of enduring strength have been used and the hotel will stand for a century as a monument to the wisdom and skill of its builders.

Next in importance to the fireproofing, in looking out for the welfare of its guests, the management places the heating and ventilating of the house and they believe they have in the Hotel Kimball the most perfectly heated and ventilated hotel in America. Another feature which the management believes its guests will appreciate is its filtration system by which every drop of water that enters the house for all purposes is carefully filtered and purified. A point of immense importance, but which the casual guest might not appreciate, is the planning of the interior of the hotel so that the work can be carried on with the greatest possible convenience and economy.

Entering from Chestnut street under an ornate marquis of verde green iron and glass the guest passes through the massive doors of solid mahogany into the vestibule and thence immediately into the lobby, a room of magnificent proportions and impressive grandeur. Six huge marble columns rising to the full height of the room, 22 feet, divide the lobby into attractive architectural units and give the keynote of the whole structure—strength and solidity. Polished plate glass windows extend the room with light on two sides, making it most cheerful and attractive. Immediately opposite the main entrance is the office desk with its long, broad counter of beautiful Numidian marble, and base of Sienna marble with its beautiful mottled markings. The screened portion of the office is in bronze and plate glass etched in the heraldic emblems of the house. The interior of the office, including the key rack, is in solid mahogany and this serves as a screen for the manager's private office located in the rear. The office is so located that the clerk on duty can have an unobstructed view of both entrances of the hotel, and of the dining room and banquet hall and elevators, the cloak room and porters' desk, and the grand staircase. In fact he is the man on the bridge and from it he can direct the management of the entire main floor. On the Chestnut street side of the lobby is a massive fireplace, 14 feet long, designed on modified Colonial lines which will add to the cheer of the room. Immediately at the right of the entrance is the news stand and flower booth, and in the northwest corner of the room is the telephone exchange and booths.

The entire first floor is finished in solid mahogany, plain and rich, the only ornamentation being a fine line of white holly in the panels of the doors. The decorative treatment is in perfect keeping with the simple gran-

itephone private keyboard yet installed in New England and this had to be made expressly for the Kimball. With it are four telephone booths which connect with the ventilating system of the house, insuring perfect ventilation—a feature which all people who have occasion to use public telephone booths will be quick to appreciate.

At the left of the main entrance and occupying the southeast corner of the building is the main dining room, beautiful in its proportions and most pleasing in its treatment. The room will comfortably accommodate 250 guests and with its abundant light, its cheerful furnishings and its splendid height makes a most inviting room. The decorative scheme of the room is rose and gray. The ceiling is finished in gray panels with a rich Louis XVI border with an old rose background, and the rest in lighter gray. The cornice columns and pilasters are in chamois gray with ornamental plaster work embellished with Roman gold. The frieze between the corners and the heavy mahogany moldings is in old rose with Louis XVI cartouches and appropriate designs of the period. The side walls are of linen damask in old rose, with draperies of old rose velvet with embroidered Louis XVI border in gold and tapestry effects. The floor is covered with Hartford Saxony carpets in a tone to harmonize with the old rose color scheme and the chairs of solid mahogany are upholstered in panne plush to match. Eight beautiful electroliers of Roman gold and crystal glass depend from the ceiling which, with twelve wall electroliers of the same design, light the room most brilliantly.

The banquet and dancing hall is perhaps the architectural gem of the hotel—a room of the same splendid height of the entire first floor, 22 feet, and with accommodations for 350 guests. With no supporting columns the room seems particularly spacious. It is finished in white and gold and when lighted it is as handsome a room as can be found in the country. The ceiling is of soft cream white paneled in appropriate Empire border, and the moldings are in the same style. The walls are hung with a soft grass cloth, paneled in Empire style in soft golden brown, the cornices and capitals richly embellished with gold leaf and the woodwork and pilasters done in a soft cream white with gold capitals and plaster ornaments in Roman gold. The draperies are a combination of cut and draped valances with rich side hangings in yellow damask. To its lighting the room owes its chief charm. A series of beautiful Roman gold chandeliers send a flood of light to the ceiling which is then reflected, making the whole room brilliantly lighted, yet with a soft mellowness that is most entrancing. The room has a hard wood floor and the 350 Vienna chairs are of the Louis XVI period in a satin walnut finish. It is in this room that the ventilating system of the hotel will be most appreciated. So perfectly has this system of ventilation been worked out that with the room filled with smokers the clouds of smoke will be instantly carried off by the powerful fans connected with the ventilators in the ceiling, leaving the air as fresh and pure as when the cigars were first lighted.

Opposite the elevators in the main lobby is the ladies' waiting room, handsomely finished in satin walnut. The ceilings are paneled with a neat empire border, the prevailing tones being green and ivory on light green grounds. The cornices are in light

te el... The rear of the... door is shut off from... devoted to the... accommodation for the private office of the president and cashier and bookkeeping departments of the hotel.

The basement—or what is really the first floor because of the elevation of Bridge street—is devoted to the English room, the large billiard room, the bar entirely separate from all other rooms, a model barber shop and a ladies' hair dressing parlor. The English room looks out on ridge street and makes a most attractive cafe. This room is treated in simple decoration in modern English style with panel ceiling tinted in dark buff, the beams in lighter buff and the side walls hung with Hodges Elber Cloth, made by the Hodges Elber Carpet Co. in iridescent gold and burnt orange tones, paneled in modern English style. On either side of the columns are modern English touches in subdued colorings. The chairs and tables are in a soft gray, the chairs with heavy saddle seats covered with hand tooled leather. The bar is finished in English oak with the ceiling in leather tones and tiled with narrow mosaic designs. The side walls are in reddish tan in English Renaissance style. The bar is a handsome solid mahogany with fixtures of German silver and of the wine chests are cooled by refrigeration. The entire floor is Terrazo marble. The billiard hall is a spacious room, 50x75 feet, with accommodations for ten billiard and pool tables. The room is treated in dull tones of old blue and green in a strictly modern decorative scheme, the windows hung with friar's cap and draperies with tapestry borders. The grand staircase leads from the basement to the mezzanine floor, a continuous design of verde green of iron with mahogany hand rails, solid steel risers and marble tread and wainscoting.

The hotel will have the... barber shop in the city fitted with the very latest fixtures and mosaic... Terrazo marble... the walls... in white and other shop is equipped with the most modern appliances for sterilizing all tools and implements. The room is located just beneath the main lobby on the Bridge street corner with a perfect light on two sides. Adjoining it but entirely separated from it, is the ladies' hair dressing parlor with a most modern equipment. The basement also accommodates the dining room for the men and 200 steel lockers for their use. On this floor also is the valet's room where clothes will be pressed and cleaned by electricity. Opposite the Bridge street entrance on the basement level is the mail chute reaching every floor of the hotel. Just inside this entrance is the taxicab office where the director of the service will be on duty at all hours.

The entire house above the mezzanine floor with the exception of the spacious private dining rooms on the second floor with accommodations for parties up to fifty people, is devoted to guest rooms and the splendid size and height of the building together with its slightly location makes possible the arrangement of 300 rooms which will compare most favorably with the finest hotels in the country. These are arranged singly or en suite, nearly all with private baths, some 70 of these rooms being fitted with shower baths. There are no inside

... and 22 feet high. ceilings and all exposed surfaces are in snow making possible absolute cleanliness. All the things are raised on the refrigerators are of solid concrete so the floor of the kitchen, of concrete, can be water and given the most nsing with the greatest The entire kitchen is led, all doors and win- s nearly air tight as is powerful fans are con- the air from the pical flues are arranged ing apparatus through rate fan draws the air fous force making it possible for any odor of cape into the other parts For use in extreme hot auxiliary system of ven- rovided by which fresh t from the outside passed ys of cool water and then he kitchen, cooling and e air.

ly at the left of the en- the main dining room. ; the checker, the waiter e service bar, where or- nes and liquors are filled ated chests without going -bar on the floor beneath. the oyster bar where all kept in refrigerated com- then comes the section milk, cream, butter and to this is the department s with its big refrigerator slide metal drawers with x linings. All the several the kitchen are screened ch other like a bank tel- ie divisions being of white ill work. At the rear of then and completely shut is the bakery, a model -very known convenience out delicious breads and ry description. The fea- e bakery is a big brick

... that the baker- cess of his baking. s also the brine ice in which ice-cream is ut a particle of ice. Here e the ice cream in the aking, the entire top be- and the inner working nan silver. The ma- or driven and with it king becomes an exact e, too, is all the candy d complete confection- a this room are also lo- s' toasters, waffle irons,

ter of the rear part of are the cooking ranges ne five-section range and on broiler, each connected ain chimney of the hotel draft that would delight exacting housewife. Be- the huge soup kettles and boilers in which the cook- ie by steam from the en- boilers. Beside the cook- are four sections of plate here the dishes are kept dy for instant use. Close vegetable refrigerator, and aring machine where pared by motor power. he dish washing machine y motors, and next in order lass and china pantries and pantry. The equipment of

levator, by which trains can be brought to and from the chambers with the least possible labor or loss of time. In the basement are the steward's store rooms for groceries and supplies, which are delivered direct to the door and adjoining it are the butcher's refrigerator, with a capacity of a whole carload of beef, and separate refrigerated store rooms for fish and vegetables. All garbage from the hotel kitchen passes directly into the basement and is there frozen into a solid mass and kept frozen until removed, thereby avoiding any odor, even in the hottest weather.

The hotel is equipped with one of the most elaborate and highly perfected ventilating systems to be found in any hotel in the country. This great plant, which with its many ramifications, extend from cellar to roof, reaches every room in the hotel. The machinery for operating this ventilating system is grouped in a separate room completely shut off from the rest of the hotel, and the machinery is so constructed that it will be not only noiseless but free from vibration. The fresh air is first drawn in from the outside by giant fans, then passed over heated coils, drawn into the eliminator, which removes all impurities and is then heated to the desired temperature. The system will supply the hotel with 25,000 cubic feet of pure air every minute of the day and night. For removing the foul air from the building a great ten-foot fan on the roof draws the air from 17 different air shafts into which is an opening from every room, bath and corridor of the hotel. A separate fan on the mezzanine floor draws the air from the large rooms on the main floor. This combined suction, with a capacity greater than that of the fans which force the air into the hotel, will change the air in each room every few minutes, making the system as nearly perfect as possible.

The Hotel Kimball is a Springfield enterprise. The plan had its origin in the minds of Springfield men, it has been financed entirely by Springfield capitalists, designed by a Springfield architect, furnished by Springfield houses, decorated by a Springfield artist and it is to be managed by a Springfield hotel man.

The personnel of the Hotel Kimball is of a character to inspire confidence in its financial standing and general good name. The Hampden Hotel Co., the corporate owner of the property, is composed of eighty of the leading citizens of Springfield, fairly representing the best professional and business interests of the city.

Its officers are:

President—Mr. Charles H. Tenney, President of the Springfield Gas Light Company.

Vice-President—Mr. William H. McClintock, Attorney.

Treasurer—Mr. Charles T. Shean, Capitalist.

Managing Director—Mr. William M. Kimball.

The above officers with the following constitute the board of directors: Mr. Frederick Harris, cashier of the Third National Bank of Springfield.

Mr. Everett H. Barney, President, Barney & Berry.

Mr. William H. Dexter, real estate operator.

Mr. Henry L. Bowles, proprietor the Baltimore Lunch.

Mr. George W. Sweeney, of The Victoria Hotel of New York city, Hotel Lafayette of Buffalo, N. Y.,

and Sweeney... the chamber floors with Forbes & Wallace, of other sheets, pillow cases, and counterpanes. A Steiger & Co. furnished the incidental supplies for the housekeeper's department. The handsome Chickering grand piano and the two Sohmer upright pianos were supplied by Taylor's Music House. Other furnishing contracts included nickelware from the Manning-Bowman Company of Meriden, Conn.; silver from the Meriden Britannia Co. of Meriden, and the kitchen equipment from Duparquet Huot & Moneuse Co. of New York.

Through the courtesy of George W. Sweeney of the Victoria Hotel of New York, and himself a director in the Hampden Hotel Company, the Kimball has secured a notable opening attraction in the Holland trio who will play for the opening festivities and remain with the house a week or more. The Holland trio comes from The Hague, Holland, and consists of Jan Geerts, violinist, Nol Cornelissen, pianist, and Andries Cornelissen, cellist, all graduates of the conservatory of music in Amsterdam, Holland. They came to this country in 1907, after touring Europe and they have been in great demand, making a specialty of hotel concerts. They play the latest comic opera selections as well as the most classic music, including more than 50 grand opera selections in their repertoire.

Since the hotel was practically completed it has been inspected by hotel experts and they have been unanimous in declaring it a model of convenience, arrangement and construction. One of the leading hotel men of Massachusetts made a careful inspection of the hotel ten days ago and frankly said that he could find no single point at which it could be improved and pronounced it in his estimation ahead of any hotel in New England. Of particular satisfaction to the stockholders of the hotel is the prediction of George W. Sweeney, himself a director in the company, that the shrewdest hotel man in the country. He told the directors, that speaking from an experience of having built several large hotels, the stockholders of the Hotel Kimball had in his opinion more for their money than the owners of any hotel property of his acquaintance.

Work on the building of the Hotel Kimball was begun in October, 1909, but delay in the arrival of structural materials made the early progress slow and it was not until April of last year that things really began to move. From that time the construction has been pushed as rapidly as was consistent with good, lasting work. Since then no serious delays have halted the progress of the construction. It is worthy of note that this million-dollar building has been completed without a serious accident of any description. The story of the building of the Hotel Kimball would be hardly complete without a word of appreciation from the man who has borne the brunt of the work in superintending its construction. William L. Holyoke, chief engineer for Samuel M. Green, Inc., has been "the man on the job," and since last April he has practically lived in the building overseeing every detail of construction and to him is due no small credit for the even progress and successful completion of a building of which Springfield has every reason to be proud.



ly all are big light
with large windows
views up and
A special feature of
ors is the beautiful
d that they can com-
any desired number.
he guest room floors
e northwest, northeast
rners are given up to
lor, from which lead
is making three and
as of uncommon ar-

interesting features of
el are the working
sees the machinery
undred guests are to
fed. Every corner
g parts of the house
ed to save steps and
the most expeditious
rvice. This excellence
well illustrated in the
the hotel, pronounced
e experience the most
nd in the country. The
ted immediately south
ning room and east of
l also that either room
with equal ease. The
ned so that each sec-
ed in its logical se-
waiters entering from
om pass in a circle,
hout possibility

the latter includes a motor driven machine for buffing the silver and grinding the knives. All of the provisions and supplies are brought to the kitchen from an elevator conveniently located near the court through which they are delivered, avoiding all needless steps. This same elevator runs to the sub-basement from which it receives the supplies from the main refrigerating plant and storerooms. In no part of the hotel is there greater evidence of thought and foresight than in the planning of this most important department.

Down in the sub-basement is located the heart of the whole establishment—the power plant with its three 150 horse power boilers and two powerful engines directly connected with two 125 K. W. generators, which furnish heat, light and motive power for the entire building. Either engine is capable of carrying the entire load of supplying the house with heat, light and power, so that if one should be disabled the other can take up the work at a moment's notice. The power for lighting is distributed on a three-wire system, controlled by a balancer, which makes possible the maintaining of an even voltage throughout the house, no matter how many or how few lights are in use. Any two of the boilers are equal to the entire task, so that there is always one spare boiler to fall back upon. The lighting system has direct connection with the city service, with a large switch board by which the outside electric current can be turned on at any time to light any portion of the working departments of the house. Connected with the power plant is a complete vacuum cleaning system, with 112 outlets in the hotel corridors by means of which, with a 70-foot hose, every room in the house can be thoroughly and quickly cleaned. The house is heated by the Warren-Webster system of vacuum pumps, using exhaust steam, which passes through radiators at only one pound pressure. Provision is also made for the use of live steam, but this will not be necessary, except in the severest weather, if at all. By the system of vacuum pumps the steam is brought back to the boilers, maintaining a perfect distribution of heat throughout the entire house and affecting a tremendous saving in coal consumption, over the gravity system commonly used. By the same system of exhaust steam hot water is supplied to every room ready for instant use. Also located in the sub-basement are the working parts of the elevator system. The Otis plunger elevators are used with pressure and reducing tanks and elevator pumps, by which the same water is used over and over, the daily water consumption of the entire system amounting to practically nothing. The refrigeration plant is another important adjunct of the power system. This has been installed by the Creamery Package company of Chicago, and has a refrigerating capacity equivalent to the use of 20 tons of ice a day. The laundry, equipped by the Troy Laundry Machinery company, is considered a model of its kind. It consists of two large washing machines, two extractors, a Juge Trojan ironer, and an all steel drying room, all the smaller irons being heated by electricity. Every drop of water entering the laundry is filtered, insuring the best results. In the sub-basement are also the wine cellar and the humidor, in which the hotel's reserve supply of cigars is kept at just the proper degree of humidity. The entrance

and the New Rochester of Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. Kimball has long been identified with the hotel business of New England, and has earned a reputation which amply justified his selection as manager of this splendid hotel enterprise.

Mr. Shean, the Treasurer, and largest shareholder in the company, is one of Springfield's most successful business men, and enjoys the highest standing in the financial circles of the city.

Mr. Kimball will have as assistant manager, Joseph F. MacGowan, with the following staff: Room clerks, M. A. Reardon, P. B. Brackett; room cashiers, F. W. Lawrence, Wm. DeDrew; night clerk, Franklyn DeLorme; mail clerk, H. A. Brooks; private bookkeeper, Eugene Franchere; supt. of service, J. T. Brown; steward, John Haggerty; assistant steward, J. J. Chamberlain; chef, Louis Surdez; pastry chef, Joseph W. Welton; head waiter, Joseph Frierber; chief engineer, L. F. Viner; housekeeper, Margaret J. Day; chief porter, J. P. White; head barber, Wm. DesLauriers; ladies' hair dresser, Miss Jessie Touper.

The architect and designing engineer of the building is Samuel M. Green, Inc., and Fred T. Ley & Co., Inc., were the contractors. The chief subsidiary contractors were:

E. H. Friedrich Co., Holyoke, Mass., plumbing.

J. J. Cotter Co., Springfield, Mass., steam.

Geo. H. MacLean Co., Springfield, Mass., general piping.

Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., Meriden, Conn., electric fixtures.

Bowman & Gregg, Springfield, Mass., electric wiring, etc.

Jewett Refrigerator Co., Buffalo, N. Y., refrigerators.

Creamery Package Co., Chicago, Ill., refrigeration.

Brunswick, Balke-Collender Co., New York, billiard room equipment.

Bishop & Babcock Co., Boston, Mass., bar.

Troy Laundry Machinery Co., New York, laundry.

Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co., New Britain, hardware.

American Electric Switch Co., City, electric sign.

Otis Elevator Co., New York, elevators.

Standard Electric Time Co., Boston, time clocks.

E. F. Sturtevant Co., Hyde Park, vacuum system.

Cutler Mail Chute Co., Rochester, N. Y., mail chute.

The Chisholm Co., New York, barber shop.

Federal Huber Co., New York, bathroom fixtures.

E. Stebbins Mfg. Co., Brightwood, Mass., plumbing fixtures.

J. L. Mott Iron Works, Trenton, N. J., bath tubs.

Trenton Potteries Co., Trenton, N. J., bath tubs.

N.-E. Tel. & Tel. Co., phone system.

Deane Steam Pump Co., Holyoke, Mass., pumping system.

The furnishing of the hotel has been done almost entirely by Springfield concerns. The entire contract for carpets and rugs, furniture, mattresses, pillows, blankets, spreads, table linens, glassware, silverware, window shades and pictures was filled by Meekins, Packard & Wheat, nearly the entire order being from special designs made expressly for the hotel. The H. H. Carterman

Page 1-2-1932 p. 3

THE SPRINGFIELD DA

*Baroness Helene on Hindenburg
And Gov Ely at Blue Cross Dance*



(Photo by The Republican Staff Photographer)

Baroness Helene Nostitz Von Hindenburg, niece of President Von Hindenburg of the German republic, and Gov Joseph B. Ely, who were guests of honor at the annual tea-dance of the American Blue Cross society last night at the Hotel Kimball.

5/16/40
 TILL TOLLING
 SUNDAY PUBLIC
 HOTEL KIMBALL
 OPENED DOORS
 40 YEARS AGO
 15,000 Persons Visited
 First Day; Many Notable
 Guests

Forty years ago yesterday, March 17, 1911, Hotel Kimball opened its doors. More than 15,000 persons visited the hostelry on that gala occasion.

The Hampden Hotel Co. that Hotel Kimball was headed by Charles T. Shean and Col. Charles H. Tenney both of this city, and George W. Shean of Hotel Commodore, New York. William F. Kimball was manager the first year and was succeeded by Charles W. Peirce. Fred W. Peverley who had been assistant manager, succeeded Peirce in 1914 and held the post until last week when the director appointed F. Coolidge Peverley his son. The senior Peverley will over the son's former duties as assistant manager.

During its lifetime the hotel has been host to many important figures in politics and the stage. Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Franklin Roosevelt stopped there. Leading theatrical and sports figures and operatic stars have made the hotel their headquarters when they visited Springfield.

There was a tall, slender man who looked as though he had been quite shaken all the way out of his tumbled hair, who went around in the early 50's, shaking everybody's hand and telling them his name was Kennedy. John Fitzgerald Kennedy. And so many other times have seen another favorite son of Massachusetts, Iverett Saltonstall, moving sedately through that lobby. . . and others that have since passed away. . . figures like David L. Williams, James Michael Curley, Calvin Coolidge, Frederick Gillett, Iver Cabot Lodge and Winton Murray Crane, about whom the political life of Massachusetts swirled for so many years.

Needless to say, there were some figures so long identified with the old hotel that they will be remembered by Springfield people for many years to come. . . men like the sedate general manager, Fred W. Peverley, always meticulously dressed, his wing collar as crisp at 11 p. m. as it was in the morning, his pink skin gracefully complementing his perfectly groomed white hair, his manner as precise, courteous.

Then there was Charles T. Shean, veteran hotelman who lived at the Kimball for years, a close tie with the city's history, when the Hotel Commodore was the stopping-off place for the nation's great, a gathering place for sportsmen and salaried men; a man who tried hard, and successfully, to make Springfield a great city.

There was Gentleman Jim Curtis, who occasionally can be seen in the hotel, the maid's note, the head waiter to a manner born, a close friend of most of the city's great, known by thousands.

Then there was old Frank Linnehan, the hotel's guard, a familiar figure in his grey uniform with its sergeant's chevrons for many years, and a great exuberant giant of a doorman, Cue Brown, who greeted more world luminaries than any other man in the city's history.

There were others, like night clerk Elmer LaFleur, bartenders Joe Lucia and Rene St. Martin, and Patrolman Pat Heffernan who had the somewhat unhappy task of being the official bouncer in the hysterical night immediately following repeal of the Prohibition Amendment.

Those were the days when the old hotel was virtually throbbing with activity every night in the week. Banquets, dances, meetings, conventions. Every room in the house packed, dining rooms filled to capacity and bellhops kept scurrying around like mad.

On New Year's Eve it was almost impossible to move in the

MILESTONE:

BIG HOTEL

SPRING IS HUSHED VERTICAL FILE

Kimball Towers' Hundreds Of Rooms Empty; Function Rooms Are Deserted

Kimball Towers today took over the 9½-story former Sheraton-Kimball Hotel in a Halloween-like ghostly atmosphere, with its hundreds of rooms empty and its public function rooms without a living soul in sight.

This is obviously not the normal modus operandi of the Richman Associates of Dorchester, now the owners of the big building at Chestnut St. and Bridge St. But the transition will require settlement with at least one local labor union as well as extensive renovations of the building, due to start on Nov. 5.

Motor Inn

In the meantime, the Sheraton Motor Inn, down the street, will handle some of the activities formerly held at the Kimball, and a few are due to stay at the Sheraton hotel on a permanent basis.

The Kwanis Club held its meeting this noon at the Sheraton Motor Inn and intends to hold its next two weekly luncheons there until its board of directors decides on whether the club will return to the Kimball building.

Similarly, Rotary Club members will be going to the Sheraton Motor Inn on Friday and its future meeting place is still undecided.

Arrangements are being made for possible future meetings of the Joint Civic Agencies Women's Division, but the larger JCA Breakfast Club, due to hold its next gathering on Nov. 6, may have a problem.

With between 200 and 300 expected each month, the Motor Inn might have difficulty accommodating the club meeting, a JCA official said, and other quarters may have to be obtained or the meeting omitted entirely.

PA 10/30/63

SV 643

Reporter's Notebook

By FRANK B. MURRAY *pp 9-863.*

Hotels - Kimball

In sharp contrast to the many years it served as the lively hub of Springfield's social and civic activity, the old Kimball Hotel has taken on the appearance of a one-time proud grande dame who has suddenly come upon hard times. Once its hundreds of windows were aglow with light, and the huge neon signs on its rooftop served as beacons for miles around a Buffalo, N.Y. more.

We walked through the lobby of the old hotel the other day and felt as though we were walking through a deserted village. Except for a girl clerk at the reception desk and another at the counter of one of the airlines, the place was empty.

The lighting was subdued, in contrast to the brilliant lights that always flooded the place. No one was sitting in the luxurious chairs and divans in the plush lobby, the newsstand was closed up, there were no signs of life in the dining rooms—a rather sad commentary, almost unbelievable when you consider that the hotel has been the center of the city's social life for so long.

If it were a down-in-the-heels place that just fell into a Class C category from neglect, it might be different, but the Sheraton people sank a lot of money into the place and it looked better than it has in years. . . We can think of scores of internationally known figures that we've seen there in years past.

place, it would be thronged with merrymakers, dancing through the gaily festooned halls and banquet halls, and the place would be mad with shrieking horns, laughter and music.

On more sedate occasions a string ensemble might hide behind the potted palms and play some unobtrusive airs to which nobody ever really bothered to listen, or the place might glide with soft waltzes as high school students, or more sophisticated adults, danced serenely to the tender music of Phil Spitalny or Guy Lombardo or Isham Jones.

On a Saturday afternoon you'd find men like John J. Duggan there with former Dist. Atty. Thomas F. Moriarty, along with some imported genius like John Kennedy of Collier's Magazine, or an atomic energy expert. Yes, that was the Kimball's heyday, and we regret to see it go.

We can never quite forget the picture of New York's dapper Mayor Jimmy Walker, smiling and shaking hands with throngs mobbing him. . . or the great Katherine Cornell, then first lady of the theater, unconcernedly walking through the same lobby, a sweater draped about her shoulders. . . or the great Walter Hampden, one of the greatest Shakespearean actors of all time, trudging unnoticed to an elevator.

Or genial Jim Farley, one-time postmaster general and master campaigner for the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt, carrying on an animated conversation with some scrubwomen. . . or the soft-spoken, delicate genius, George Gershwin. . . or the good-natured, cigar-smoking Jack Benny, as genial off stage as he is on. . . or the sturdy, immaculately dressed Lawrence Tibbett, in full evening dress, leaving for a concert at the Auditorium.

There have been countless others, of course, giants such as Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and Harvey Firestone. . . all of whom were in the hotel at the same time, years back. . . There were men like Lt. Gen. Knudsen, whom the government lured from General Motors to get its war production running during World War II.

There was a tall, slender kid who looked as though he hadn't quite shaken all the Harvard

Gunnery's Discotheque Something New for Area

Un 7/8/64
"La discotheque" comes to the Gunnery Music Hall at the Kimball Towers tonight.

"Discotheque"—its most popular pronunciation is "disco-take"—is best described as a new kind of night club, originating in Paris and now considered the biggest thing going in San Francisco, New York and London.

In Special Booth

The music for dancing is provided by a disc jockey in a specially constructed three-turntable booth, with 2000 stereo records at his disposal. At the Gunnery Music Hall Mike Connors of Radio Station WACE presides over the turntables, although for tonight's opening, beginning at 8, Harold Richman of Richman Associates will pick the tunes.

Richman, associated with his father in the operation of Kimball Towers, conducted a "Sounds in Jazz" radio program while attending the University of North Carolina.

What do they dance, at the discotheque?

"You name it and we have the music for it," Richman said. "The fox trot, the rumba, the samba, the meringue, the bossa nova, the frug, the surf, the watusi, the hitchhiker, the shake, the stomp."

With 2000 stereo records, Richman said, you can match the dancing mood of any audience, "and that's why the personalized touch—the disc jockey—is provided, so that the right music is played at the right time. The

discotheque caters to any age group."

Richman said he believes the Kimball Towers discotheque will be the fourth in the United States.

He said the discotheque will be open Monday through Friday from 8 p. m. to 1 a. m. and Saturday nights from 8 to midnight.

KIMBALL TOWERS BALLROOM OPENS

SR 8/10/64
Banquet Hall Enlarged
To Accommodate
600 Persons

The main ballroom at Kimball Towers opened Saturday night, after an expansion and remodeling program that provided the city with "the largest ballroom in its history," according to Harold A. Richman of Richman Associates, owners.

Brighter crystal chandeliers hang gracefully from the ceiling and rich red velvet flock wallpaper accented by gold drapes and gold brocade adorn the room according to Richman.

Richman said a new oak parquet floor has been installed, and also a new 30-foot bar constructed of old wooden paneling.

According to Richman, the ballroom, which formerly provided banquet facilities for about 350 persons, now comfortably accommodates 600.

"We've built a new kitchen downstairs and turned the old kitchen into additional ballroom space," Richman said.

A new banquet kitchen has also been installed adjacent to the ballroom, according to Richman.

Richman said the ballroom will be known as the Ballroom.

Richman estimated that the ballroom is now accommodating the ballroom. He said an entire phone sound system and conditioning system installed.

100 of Kimball's 114 Apartments Rented

Sp Uu 4-18-66
Complete Transformation of Former Hotel Achieved Since Acquisition in 1963

The 100th Kimball Towers apartment has been rented and only 14 more apartments remain available, it was announced by Moses I. Richman and Harold A. Richman, who purchased the former hotel on 1, 1963.

Full Occupancy Near

"We already have received inquiries about the remaining 1 1/2 and 2 1/2-room apartments, and anticipate that we will be fully occupied within the next few months," said Moses Richman.

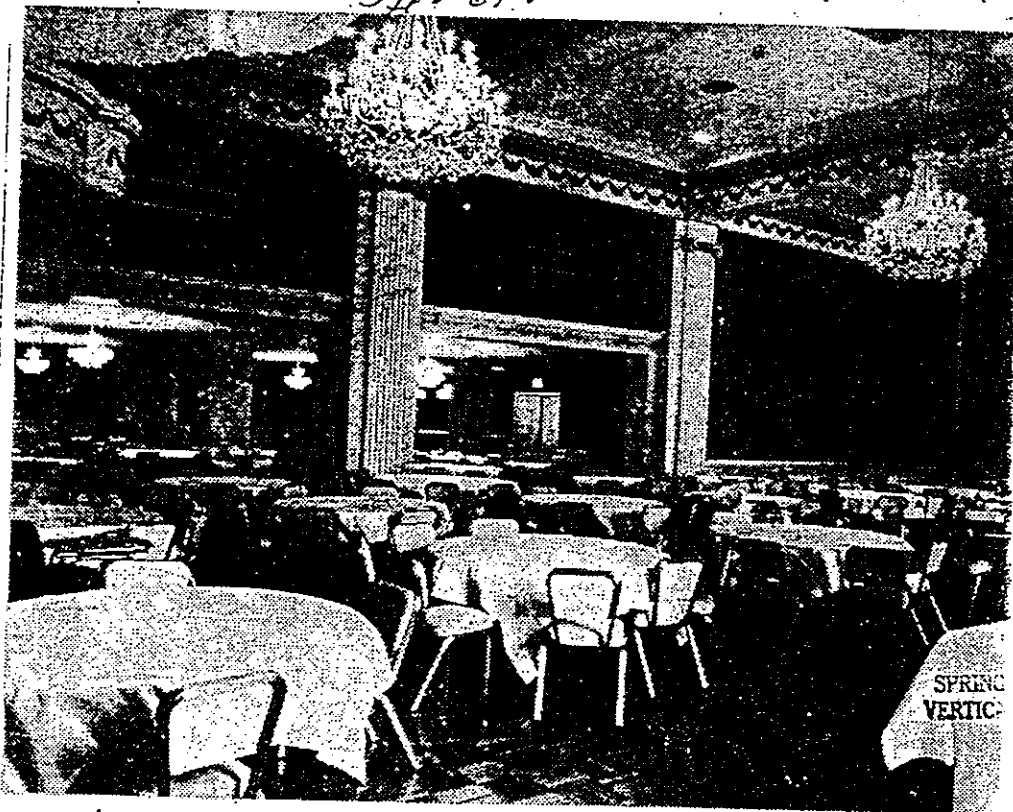
"During the 2 1/2 years that we have owned the Kimball Towers, a lot of money has been spent, a lot of hard work has been done, and we have sought — successfully, we believe — to bring imagination and creativity to the operation of the Kimball Towers and to The Gunnery food and beverage rooms," Richman said.

He said the high occupancy "proves what we have believed from the beginning: the great attraction of luxury living in a centrally located, quality building, at a moderate rent. In addition, our residents like the parking facilities, the services that are available, such as beauty and barber shops, and the full food and beverage facilities where they may obtain anything from a sandwich to a complete gourmet dinner."

Soundproof, Fireproof

The complete transformation of the building began within days after Richman Associates acquired the downtown landmark in 1963. The upper, residence floors received first attention as the apartments.

Hotels-12
SAP 64
Kimball Towers Ballroom Opens



The main ballroom of the Kimball Towers opened Saturday night, following a renovation and remodeling program estimated at \$45,000. According to Harold A. Richman of Richman Associates, the expanded ballroom has banquet facilities for more than 600 persons. Ric

Lobby of Kimball Towers Is Renovated



The main lobby of the Kimball Towers in Chestnut St. was one of the last of the renovation projects in the building to be completed by Richman Associates, owners. The restoration of this part of the main floor included the installation of the oak fireplace at left background, brass and crystal chandeliers, antique furniture, oriental rugs, full window drapes and wood paneling. When the Richmans first purchased the building, the marble floor was covered with asphalt tile, the marble pillars were covered with painted wood and the windows were closed.

off.
 4-13-1965
 Y 640

MON Jan 28 '81

No Luxury Apartments Downtown? Wrong!

The Tradition Of Comfortable, Affordable Apartment
Living Has Returned To Downtown Springfield

With full time maintenance,
your own parking lot and se-
curity, each apartment also
has beautiful parquet floors
and all modern appliances.

Studios, one and two bedroom
apartments with utilities all
included. And every one has a
full kitchen complete with
dishwasher and disposal.

Rental Office Open 7 Days A Week - Call 732-1121

846
Kimball Towers Apartments - 140 Chestnut St - Springfield.

The Hotel Kimball

By LARRY GORMALLY

The Hotel Kimball, located on the corner of Chestnut and Bridge streets, was an institution in Springfield for several decades. During its lifetime, thousands of visitors were its paying guests. Countless others attended meetings at the hotel, or enjoyed the hospitality of the grille, dining rooms, and bar. Its fame spread both far and wide throughout the United States, and overseas. Presidents and kings, entertainers from stage and screen, dignitaries from many foreign countries, military personnel, prominent business men and women, politicians, local, state, and national were among the guests at the famous hotel.

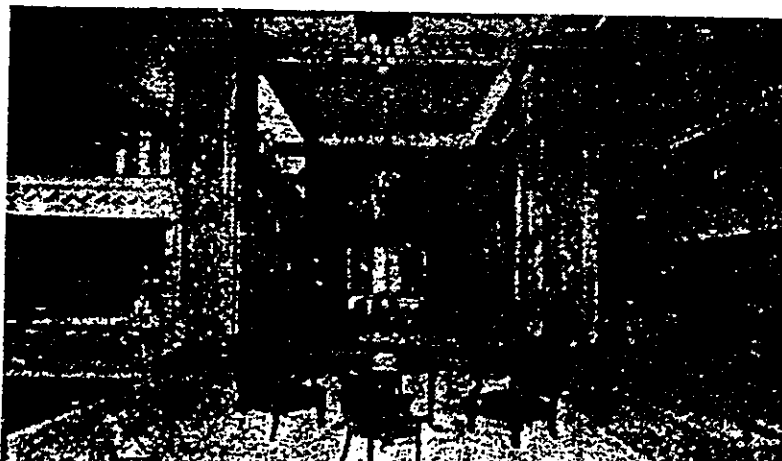
The Springfield Republican reported on May 9, 1909, that Charles Shean, and a well known local capitalist, William Kimball, were attempting to purchase the St. Paul's Church property on the corner of Bridge and Chestnut streets, as a site for a hotel. Dr. Lawton Brooks, a neighbor, offered to sell an adjacent strip of land, 10 ft. wide, if necessary. A few days later, the Republican reported that the sale of St. Paul's Church to Kimball and Shean was completed. Fred T. Ley, a major local contractor was awarded the contract to build a new hotel.

Springfield was growing rapidly during the early part of the century. One of its problems was a lack of hotel accommodations. Although there were several hotels in the city, including The Worthy, Cooley's,

Clinton Hall, Massasoit, Henking — many were small, and in total, were considered inadequate to meet the demands of our growing, "City of Homes." The Hampden Hotel Company, was formed consisting of 50 local businessmen, who provided the stimulus, capital, and know-how to develop and operate the new venture. Charles Tenny, President of the Springfield Gas Light Company, was president. A local attorney, William McClintock, was vice president, Charles Shean the largest shareholder, was treasurer. The Managing Director was William Kimball for whom the hotel was named. Kimball had been active in the hotel business in New England for several years.

The Hotel Kimball formally opened on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1911. The Springfield Homestead, reported in great detail, the following day, on the opening events, when thousands visited the new hostelry. According to the report in the Homestead, hotel employees gave up counting when the number reached 15,000. A banquet was held in the evening, hosted by the hotel management, to honor the contractors who were involved in the building's erection. Mayor Lathrop, and other city officials, and prominent local businessmen were included among the 77 guests.

Visitors entered the building on Bridge Street, were escorted through the house, and went out through the main entrance on Chestnut Street.





The Hotel Kimball when Chestnut Street was still primarily a residential neighborhood. The roof sign faces the Union Station a source for most of their customers. The auto on the right may be a Knox Runabout, commonly used by doctors for home calls. Courtesy of Local History Room, City Library.

The architect and designing engineer of the building was a local firm the Samuel M. Green Company. The Fred T. Ley Company, also local, was the building contractor. Standard Electric Time Company supplied the clock. Many of the other sub contractors were out of town firms. The furnishings were supplied primarily by local companies. The carpets, rugs, furniture, bedding, glassware, silverware, shades, and pictures were supplied by Meekins, Packard, and Wheat. Much of the order was of special design made exclusively for the Kimball. Lace curtains and some bedding was supplied by Forbes & Wallace. Steiger's furnished the housekeeping department supplies. Taylor's Music House

to procurement problems on structural materials. Total cost of land, building and furnishings was slightly in excess of one million dollars.

Chestnut Street was considered an ideal location for what was destined to be Springfield's finest hotel. The dividing line between the business and residential neighborhood, Chestnut Street was basically residential, where many of the city's finest old homes were located. Built on an elevation, the hotel had a superb view of the Connecticut River. It was believed that the site would be free from the noise, and dust for the downtown area, while only two blocks from Union Station, and the business district. The Homestead reported that the air

absolutely fireproof eight story building made of steel, plaster, granite, brick, and fine tooled limestone, with fireproof tiled partitions. The hotel contained 300 sleeping rooms, with a capacity for 450 people. The basement, with an entrance from Bridge Street, contained the English Room, a billiard hall, the bar, a spacious barber shop, ladies' hairdressing parlor, storerooms, and staff dining room.

The first floor was the lobby, with its towering marble columns, the main dining room comfortably seating 250 guests. The banquet and dancing hall 22 feet high was a gem, with accommodations for 350 guests. There were no supporting columns in

assign. There were three balconies on the second floor, one overlooking the lobby, the second the main dining room, and the third the banquet and dancing hall. It was considered an ideal spot, particularly with the ladies, for afternoon tea. The hotel executives' offices, and bookkeeping departments were located in the rear of the second floor. All of the sleeping rooms were located on the upper floors. Rooms could be arranged for suites, nearly all with private bath, and some of them were fitted with shower baths, more of a novelty, in that period. The top floor contained sample rooms for salesmen to display their products. The roof garden overlooking the river was used during the summer months.

The main kitchen was located between the main dining room, and banquet hall, so that equal service could be provided to both rooms. The kitchen refrigerators were built on concrete bases to make it easier to flush the floor with water. The room was sealed and provided with large fans to prevent food odors from entering other parts of the building. The hotel had its own bakery, with an oven, 10x14 feet, with interior light so that the baker could watch goods baking. The bakery also contained an ice cream making machine, plus candy and confectionery making equipment. Dishes were kept warm in special heaters. Electric dishwashers were installed to ensure clean dishes, silver, and glassware. The power plant, coal fired, was located in the sub-basement. Nothing was left to chance, for example, all garbage went to the basement where it was frozen into a solid mass, and remained so until removed, to eliminate any possibility of odor.

The hotel was open to the public on March 18, with every

and colleges held their proms, and later reunions at the Kimball. An endless list of business clubs and organizations enjoyed the food and hospitality when they held their monthly luncheon there.

Famous personalities and politicians called it home in Springfield. Countless conventions were headquartered at the Kimball, and the bartenders, waiters and waitresses were kept busy until closing time. Bellhops, desk personnel, and telephone operators, such as Hattie Strazzari were kept hopping during peak activity. Hattie worked as a telephone operator for 38 years, leaving in the early sixties. Cue Brown was the doorman for many years, greeting with a smile, more dignitaries than any other person in Springfield. Fred Pevereley, always with a flower in his button hole, was manager for many years; well dressed, and in complete control. Parking was a problem, in later years, as the number of autos increased, and more guests arrived by autos requiring overnight parking. A radio station, Westinghouse's WBZ, was anchored there for several years.

Business practices changed after World War II. Inner city hotels throughout the country felt the impact quickly. The Restaurant and Bartenders Union struck area hotels in 1953, causing a disruption in service; the Kimball remained open, serving customers with a reduced staff. At the time the Kimball had a staff of 190, of which, 160 were on strike. The strike occurred prior to the holiday season forcing many groups to shift monthly meetings to other locations. F. Coolidge Pevereley was manager at the time, having succeeded his father Fred, in 1951. The strike was ultimately

when General S.L.A. Marshall, head of the Army's Historical Division, visited Springfield to speak at a "Bonds for Israel" dinner. Marshall was still on active service, and had recently returned to the United States after service as an U.S. observer with the Israeli Army. I had read most of his books, including *Pork Chop Hill*, and *The River and the Gauntlet*, probably the finest history of the Korean War. A friend, Irving Kimball, was chairman of the dinner. A call to Irving resulted in an invitation to meet General Marshall, who was staying at the Kimball. We drove the General back to the Kimball, and spent a very informative two hours with him.

You can ask any number of area residents about the old hotel. June Haskins remembers many happy events at the Kimball. Her graduating class from the High School of Commerce held their class banquet there, on her birthday, June 12, when Joe Boyer, a member of her class, and his band furnished the music for the banquet serenading June with *Happy Birthday*. June went on to a career in the banking industry as an executive with Springfield Institution for Savings. She was active in the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce which held its monthly luncheon meetings at the Kimball. There are many couples who will remember wedding receptions, tea dances and so many other memorable occasions.