

*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):** Roller skating rinks

### **Wichita Beacon**

**Wednesday, October 17, 1883**

**page**

3. Frank Dale fell last Thursday at the roller skating rink, and broke one of the bones in his left leg, near the ankle joint.

**Wednesday, November 21, 1883**

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3. The skating rink is crowded nearly every evening.

**Wednesday, January 2, 1884**

**page**

3. Chambers and Anderson are erecting a frame building 60 by 140 feet on 1st and Water streets where the old Daly house stood, for a skating rink.

**Wednesday, January 23, 1884**

**page**

3. The new skating rink had a grand opening last night.

**Wednesday, March 12, 1884**

**page**

3. Chambers and Anderson proprietors of the Wichita skating rink, began on Monday to relay the floor with hard maple lumber three inches wide and one inch thick. The corners will be mitered so that the skaters will travel with the grain.

**Wednesday, May 7, 1884**

**page**

3. Article reports fire which destroyed the Methodist church starting last Saturday shortly before 1:00 a.m. Raises question whether it was due to arson. Details. ¶ The Methodists will have their services in the Wichita Rink next Sunday.

**Thursday, October 30, 1884**

**page**

4. The usual services of the Methodist Episcopal church will be held at The Rink next Sunday (i.e., while new church being built).

**Thursday, May 21, 1885****page**

4. The rink is now nearly completed, and when finished will be a very pretty theater.

**Saturday, May 30, 1885****page**

4. Article describing some of the recent improvements in the Rink theater. Details.

**Wednesday, June 10, 1885****page**

4. The finishing touches have been put of the Bijou theater (i.e., the rink).

**Wednesday, July 15, 1885****page**

4. Article about the financial failure of the Bijou theater, (ex-Rink).

**Friday, October 9, 1885****page**

4. The Congregational church has changed its place of meeting to the rink. Plans are in hands of contractors for their new church at Lawrence and 2nd.

**Monday, November 30, 1885****page**

4. The Congregationalists held their usual services at the rink yesterday.

**Thursday, December 24, 1903****page**

6. The old natatorium building in second block on South Topeka has been purchased by M. and Fred D. Aley for \$3,100 and will be made into a modern hotel. It is a relic of boom days and was put up in 1888 by Joseph Koenig and contained a large swimming pool and a gymnasium. Later H. G. Toler and sons converted it into a skating rink, but it fell into disuse and was unoccupied for years. At present it is being used as an implement storage house. Mr. Aley is a wealthy farmer living near Wichita on the South Seneca road and is a nephew of Fred D. Aley, superintendent of the Wichita Water company.

**Friday, October 18, 1907****page**

6. The Wonderland Park skating rink will open for the season next Monday. Since the park closed last month workmen have been preparing the floor of the big coliseum for the

winter's opening.

**Wednesday, November 3, 1909**

**page**

5. The Wonderland Park skating rink opened last night. Four hundred pairs of skates were out.

**Friday, October 14, 1910**

**page**

9. Wonderland Park closed its season October 2. The season has been a good one and it is said that as many as 225,000 people have been admitted at the gate. During the winter only the skating rink will be open, by November 1. The directors are considering converting the large theater in the north part of the park into a swimming pool for the next season. The statuary in the center of the grounds is to be removed and replaced with more substantial attractions. The statuary yet in place was executed by Frederick V. W. Shiff, of Chicago, who had charge of the fine arts display at the St. Louis fair, but though the work was of the highest grade, the material used was not lasting enough for outdoor exposure and has worn considerably in the six years it has been in place. Details.

**Friday, January 12, 1917**

**page**

10. The First Methodist Episcopal board decided yesterday to build a new church at a cost of about \$75,000, immediately to the north of the present building, on North Lawrence Avenue. Details. The present building was built in 1884 for \$22,000, after its predecessor was destroyed by fire in 1883 and for months a skating rink on the site of the present Interurban depot on 1st Street was used as the first Methodist Church.

Wichita Eagle

**Thursday, September 27, 1883**

**page**

3. Next Friday evening there will be a carnival at the rink.

**Thursday, January 3, 1884**

**page**

3. Chambers and Anderson are erecting an immense skating rink on 1st street just west of the county building covering 60 by 140 feet of ground. The roof is self-supporting, and the floor will be laid in cement.

**Thursday, May 1, 1884**

**page**

3. A temperance rally will be held May 10 at the Wichita skating rink, one-half square west of the county building.

**Wednesday, March 4, 1885**

**page**

4. Some weeks ago Mr. G. H. Blackwelder came here from Illinois and thought he saw an opening for a first class roller skating rink. Yesterday he purchased three lots, 75 by 140 feet, on Market street a few steps south from Douglas avenue and joining the Peter Getto business block for \$4000. He plans to break ground at once for a brick building that will cover the space and will cost \$10,000.

**Friday, June 12, 1885**

**page**

4. The Rink, Bijou Theater, was crowded last night.

**Friday, November 13, 1885**

**page**

4. Article discusses the fight for obtaining the location of the government building. A stubborn fight is being carried on between the Main street and Douglas avenue business interests. The Main street crowd seems to have concentrated on the Rink, and the Douglas avenue folks on south Main or Market street. Details.

**Wednesday, February 10, 1886**

**page**

4. The rink, which has been converted into a theater to be known as the First Street, was opened last night for the season.

**Thursday, September 30, 1886**

**page**

4. The post office is now settled for a brief season at the corner of 1st and Water in the building known as the G. A. R. building in the rear of Masonic Temple, directly west of

the McKinzie carriage works and south of the old rink building, now occupied by Dr. Snooke as a livery and feed stable.

### **Tuesday, September 19, 1905**

#### **page**

6. Work on the west bridge to Wonderland park island has been finished and work on the east bridge has been started. It will be a substantial structure with a 16 foot driveway with five foot walks on each side. Work on the "figure 8" roller coaster will be started today. ¶ The Wichita Amusement Park company has received plans for a coliseum 75 feet by 140 feet to be built of cement blocks and seat 2,500 people. It can be used for meetings, conventions and for a roller skating rink.

### **Tuesday, October 3, 1905**

#### **page**

7. Article describes progress of the Wichita Amusement Park company in building Wonderland park. Majority of the stock is held by Wichita people. ¶ The ticket offices are to be of cement block 12 feet by 15 feet over which a half circle sign will span the entrance. A cement walk 20 feet wide and 70 feet long will extend to the entrance of the coliseum, which is to be 75 feet by 140 feet in the clear, with balcony in the front and elevated seats in the rear and a 20 foot by 40 foot stage, the building to be constructed of cement block. The corners of the building will be round, with towers and flag pole, and it will seat 2,500 people and be equipped for a roller skating rink. ¶ Further details.

### **Saturday, December 2, 1905**

#### **page**

5. The coliseum at Wonderland park will be opened to the general public Monday evening to be used as a roller skating rink. The building is completed and is one of the largest halls in the city. The skating surface on the coliseum is 50 feet by 94 feet.

### **Tuesday, December 3, 1907**

#### **page**

5. The city council yesterday decided that Wonderland park should be placed outside the city limits, which would allow the skating rink to run on Sunday, etc.

### **Thursday, January 26, 1961**

#### **page**

- 5A. Report of death of Horace M. Howard, 89, 519 South Topeka, early day Wichitan, Tuesday evening. Born January 13, 1872 in LaSalle County, Illinois, and came to Wichita with his parents at age two. Married the former Cecil I. Lane in Wichita in 1893, and at that time began farming the "Old Howard Homestead" just east of Hillside between Central and Douglas. Later became a partner in the Howard and Kice (?) retail meat and grocery store on East Douglas, and later opened a wholesale meat packing house on the current site of the Alaskan Roller Rink on South Hydraulic. Survived by wife, a daughter Mrs. Jack Reynolds, Shreveport, Louisiana, and a grandson. Further

biography. Photo.

**Saturday, April 21, 1962****page**

5A. The 30 acre sports center recreation area at 3833 East Harry will operate this season under new management. It was sold during the winter by the four Consolver brothers, George, J. L., B. G. (Tex), and N. C., who started it in 1945. The new operators are Meadowlark, Inc., a corporation composed of area business and professional men. The property includes two miniature golf courses, a driving range, a kiddie amusement park, two swimming pools, and a skating rink.

**Wichita Eagle-Beacon****Tuesday, September 27, 1966****page**

8A. After 15 years in a temporary chapel, Church of the Magdalen parish broke ground yesterday for a \$548,651 circular permanent church building, to be completed within a year. Magdalen parish was started in July 1950 by Bishop Mark K. Carroll. The parish held services in the now defunct Roll-O-Rena skating rink at 6400 East Kellogg until a school and temporary chapel were built in February 1951. The new church will be at the northwest corner of Woodlawn and Kellogg and will seat 850. Architect is Robert Kirsch. Details.

**Thursday, June 6, 1968****page**

3F. Sports Center — Kiddieland, 3833 East Harry, is now being razed to clear the site for construction of the Mall Shopping Center. The driving range and miniature golf course at the site will continue in operation this summer, but tearing down of the amusement ride area, skating rink, and swimming pool has already started. The park has been in operation 21 years. The driving range was opened in 1946 and the amusement rides and miniature golf were added in 1947. The Mall Shopping Center was proposed in 1961 by Melvin Simon and Associates, Indianapolis, Indiana. Major tenant is expected to be Montgomery Ward and Company, which is expected to vacate its downtown store when it moves to the Mall in spring of 1969. Details.