TIHEN NOTES FROM 1873 WICHITA BEACON

Wichita Beacon
Beginning with Vol. I, No. 6
Wednesday, January 15, 1873

page 1.
List of County Officers
Judge, 13th Judicial District -- W. P. Campbell
Board of County Commissioners -- H. C. Ramlow, R. N. Nessly, Sol. H. Kohn, chairman
County Treasurer -- S. S. Johnson
County Clerk -- Fred Schattner
Sheriff -- John (sic) Meagher
Clerk, District Court -- John McIvor
Probate Judge -- William Baldwin
Superintendent Public Instruction -- W. C. Little
Register of Deeds -- John McIvor
County Attorney -- H. C. Sluss
County Surveyor -- John A. Sroufe

5. The residence of W. A. Shuman is fast approaching completion. It is tasty brick with Mansard roof, to be finished in modern style.

Mail service is advertised by the government between Solomon City to Wichita, a distance of 90 miles. Schedule given.

There are nearly 300 children in attendance at our public schools, 80 in one room. As a consequence, order is out of the question, health jeopardized, and the whole affair falls short of the aim and intent. The present school building will have to be enlarged and that within three or six months at the latest. The school has grown in attendance beyond all expectation.

There will be a meeting of the business men of Wichita on Tuesday, January 21st, 1873 in the room under the First National Bank for the purpose of considering establishing a Board of Trade for the city of Wichita.

Sheriff Meagher and his bride, formerly Miss Jennie Fitzpatrick, were married in Leavenworth at the Cathedral last Thursday, January 9th.
The oldest grocery house in Wichita is the Diamond Front, formerly Black and Nixon, now sailing under the sign of J. M. Black, who is alone in the enterprise.

List of prices at city markets.

**Wednesday, January 22, 1873**

Streets have been crowded with buffalo hunters’ wagons nearly all week, coming, going, and selling their skinning.

The stock yards are being enlarged and an extensive receiving yard built on the bank of the Big Arkansas River to accommodate drovers.

The total sum required to build the brick block on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Street has been taken in stock. The election of officers, then the characteristic of Wichita-business.

A new bridge is to be built by the county over Chisholm Creek near the farm of Dan Hoover.

The stockholders of the Wichita Building Association are called to meet in the back room of the United States Land Office this Wednesday evening. Shareholders are requested to come prepared to pay in five percent of their subscription. Immediate work is contemplated, business is business.

List of Wichita Public Schools honor roll members for week ending Friday, January 17th. List of names for High School, Intermediate, and Primary classes.

The City Council at its meeting on Monday night refused to shoulder the expense of grading Douglas Avenue upon the city, hence the property holders on Douglas Avenue and those to the center of blocks jutting thereon will have to pay the expense. If we remember rightly the city paid the fixing up of Main Street at a greater expense, if so they should have the money refunded and property holders on Main Street in honor, ought to pay for the work done upon their street last summer.

The council on Monday evening employed a man to keep on the trail all summer to prevent if possible, if not to assume damages done settlers by Texas cattle along the trail, in the name of the city of Wichita. An arbitrator opted to settle for such damages assessed to the city, on the most reasonable terms possible. We trust our settlers will not try to enlarge on the amount of damage done but fix them at actual loss. The cattle business is of more importance to them for the coming few years that they properly estimate.

**Wednesday, January 29, 1873**

List of city officers by name.
5. The ice is 13 inches thick on the Little Arkansas River.

Corn is being extensively used for fuel here, in consequence of a coal famine.

Our meat markets are well supplied with beef, buffalo, venison, and turkey.

Over 20,000 head of beeves have already started from Texas toward Wichita. The first herds will reach here about the 25th of March.

Teams have been busy since Saturday last hauling stone for the foundations of the new brick block to be built on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Street.

Two excellent fords have been established on the Big Arkansas River here for Texas cattle drovers. These fords are about a half mile below the bridge south of town and almost on an air line with the stock yards. They can be forded easily allowing for the highest water we have yet had, or known to the oldest settlers.

The First National Bank building is the rallying point on Main Street now. It is the point of demarcation for a block either way -- locations are said to be so many doors from the opposite, back of, above, below, etc. the First National Bank. It is the most imposing public building in our city.

Last Thursday evening the subscribers to the capital stock of the Wichita Building Association met in the back room of the United States Land Office. The committee on subscription of stock reported that $20,000 had been subscribed and five percent paid in. By-laws were adopted and directors and officers elected (all named; J. C. Fraker is president). The association has secured the four lots on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Street and will commence the erection of a three story brick hotel 100 by 90 feet as soon as the weather will permit. It is intended to have ready for occupancy by June 15th.

Article, complaining that a large part of Wichita's legitimate trade is driven away to Hutchinson and other points owing to the tolls charged for crossing the river at Wichita. Article urges that Sedgwick County should either arrange to buy the present bridge or to build one.

**Wednesday, February 12, 1873**

5. Joe Allen is building a fine store room 22 by 50 feet on Main Street, second lot from the corner of 1st Street. It will be completed with modern show windows and other amusements.

Col. Greiffenstein is a happy father.

**Wednesday, February 19, 1873**
5. Last week a wagon load of fish was seined from the Little Arkansas River at one haul.

We have two extensive ice houses packed to the gorge on the banks of the Little Arkansas River. One is owned by Mr. Harris and the other by Mr. Bear. They contain over 800 tons of ice each, in cakes from eight to 12 inches thick.

The bridge petitions were thrown out by the county commissioners at their meeting Saturday, as it was though that too many fictitious names were attached, and too much of a sameness in the signatures. The name of the celebrated Dr. Ayers of Lowell is what broke the camel's back.

Assurances continue to come up from Texas that the entire trade will be centered here the coming season. Every preparation is being made for them by our citizens.

The committee on by-laws and permanent organization appointed at the meeting for creating a Board of Trade in Wichita, reported at a public meeting at Eagle Hall Tuesday evening, 18th last, at which a permanent organization was effected and a good working Board of Trade established at Wichita.

Jim Dagner has moved into his excellent and commodious store room four doors from Douglas Avenue, on Main Street. Jim has just received a large invoice of bourbons and whiskey straight. His extensive stock represents all brands and kinds of liquors, bar goods, ornaments, faucets, etc.

Report of meeting at Eagle Hall Saturday, February 15th, for the purpose of organizing a permanent Agricultural Society to establish county fairs for Sedgwick County. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the Sedgwick County Agricultural Society. Details.

Report of meeting of the Board of Education on February 12th. A committee was appointed to procure plans and specifications of a wing to be added to the present school house building and to report the amount of bonds to be submitted to a vote of the people at the next regular city election. Details.

**Wednesday, February 26, 1873**

5. The new hotel corner is cleaned up for the large three story brick building to be erected this spring.

Douglas Avenue will build up rapidly this season. Many business houses are already under contract for this broad handsome thoroughfare.

Honor roll for Wichita public schools listed.

**Wednesday, March 5, 1873**
The finishing touches are being put upon W. A. Shuman's residence.

The number of buffalo hides bought at this point is simply enormous. Hays and Brother, C. M. Garrison, and Todd and Royal have been the largest buyers here this winter.

Advertisement for bids to be received by 13th instant for the erection of a three story brick hotel, 100 feet front by 80 feet deep. Plans and specifications can be seen at office of W. and N. McLees. Payment will be $2000 in the stock of the association and the balance in cash. Signed by J. C. Fraker, Pres., and S. McClees, Secr.

Attention of voters is called to the proposition of the Board of Education to enlarge our school facilities by adding a wing to the present building, at a cost of $3000, to be voted on at the coming city election. The bonds are needed to alleviate the over crowded condition of the present school.

Episcopal Church service will be held in the old court house on Main Street.

Report lists names of students on the roll of honor in Wichita school the week ending Friday, February 28th. Weekly enrollment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>333 (sic)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wednesday, March 19, 1873

There are only 22 “busy marts of commerce” in our city, where benzine, commonly called lemons and stuff, is sold. It may be of some comfort to the thirsty to know that three more will be in full blast by the time the long horns begin to arrive.

About 375 persons young and old are attending the three Sabbath schools in Wichita every Sunday. A statement which speaks well for our town.

Our public school is crowded with upwards of 300 scholars. The building should either be enlarged or ward school houses erected.

Our old friend John Davidson married a Scotch lassie by the name of Maggie McGee who just arrived from Scotland four days previous to the marriage.

Todd and Royal broke ground on Monday for the cellar and foundation of their large brick store room, to be built on the corner opposite the First National Bank, next to West and Mann's hardware store.
Article reports amendments by the last legislature of the law governing cities of the second class. Details.

The bids for the construction of the brick hotel to be built on the corner of 2nd Street and Main Street, were opened last Thursday as follows:

- Kullak, Millis and Stem $31,200
- Schweiter and Davidson 31,203
- Fisk 31,650
- Martsolf 31,950
- Reese and Sawyer 32,500

The hotel contract was not let as the lowest bid was more than the stock subscribed, which is $30,000; it will probably be let to parties negotiating at this figure. The following were the bids on the new brick store rooms of William Greiffenstein:

- Schweiter and Davidson $3181
- Newcomer and Adams 2850
- Con Ludlum 3100
- Kullak, Millis and Stem 2900
- F. C. Martsolf 2925
- Reese and Sawyer 2790

The contract was let to Reese and Sawyer.

**Wednesday, April 2, 1873**


**Wednesday, April 16, 1873**

The corner stone of the mammoth hotel on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Street, was laid Thursday, April 10th, with imposing and appropriate ceremonies, John Exton officiating in person.

The Valley House, near the depot, is gaining the reputation of being one of the neatest, cleanest, and most desirable stopping places in the city. Jackson Boland is the proprietor.

One of the pleasant places to make a call is the Wichita Public School, under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Fees, and Miss Higday. Article refers to the exercises in the
high school last Friday afternoon. Details.

Report of the marriage Thursday evening, April 10th, 1873 of Mr. W. A. Shuman and Miss Maggie Du Bois, both of this city, at the residence of H. J. Hills, by the Rev. J. F. Nessly.

Wednesday, April 23, 1873

Main Street is now built solid from 2nd Street to Douglas Avenue.

The foundations for the new $30,000 brick hotel are completed and carpenters are already at work on the first floor timbers.

Announcement of annual meeting of stockholders of the Wichita and Southwestern Railroad Company, to be held at the office of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in Topeka on Thursday, May 22nd, 1873.

The show window of A.J. Cooke's seed store are redolent with the perfume of a variety of beautiful flowers. Mr. Cook has all the favorite kinds. He also has endless packages of garden seeds. Store next to the St. Louis Hardware Store, Main Street.

Wednesday, April 30, 1873

Uncle Munger, the pioneer landlord of the Arkansas Valley, returned last week bringing with him his excellent little wife who has been absent over a year visiting numerous relatives in New York State. Their daughter, Mollie, also returned with them. It is a treat to have them back once more, to see lights in the deserted house, and to know that our neighborhood is again to be enlivened with the presence of these most agreeable and warm hearted people.

Wednesday, May 7, 1873

The Varieties Theater building is nearly finished. The scenery will be here next week.

The Southern Hotel has had a change of proprietors, Messrs. Cox and Smith having bought out the interest of L.D. Gunn.

William Greiffenstein with his usual pluck concluded after the first story of his new brick block was up, to add another story to the building immediately. When completed this will be one of the most modern and substantial brick blocks West of Kansas City. The finish will be in brown stone, caps, columns, and cornice. Several other splendid business houses on Douglas Avenue will be built by other parties as soon as the brick can be procured.

Report of recent trip of Mr. Adams, of the firm of Cooke (sic) and Adams, to the Texas cattle area. Details.
Mail train schedule, saying also that trains connect at Wichita with Southwestern Stage Company, for Augusta, Douglass, Winfield, Arkansas City, Oxford, Belle Plaine, Sumner City, Wellington, Pond Creek, Turkey Creek, Cheyenne Agency, Wichita Agency, and Fort Sill.

The Sedgwick County Agricultural Society held a meeting last Saturday and elected N. A. English president. They accepted Mr. Neely's bid and will purchase of him 40 acres southeast of the city, on Chisholm Creek, for a fair ground.

**Wednesday, June 4, 1873**

5. Election yesterday on bonds for enlarging the present school house resulted in their defeat by 145 majority. The people don't feel like squandering their perspective wealth on the present worthless structure.

**Wednesday, June 25, 1873**

4. Editorial reprinting a letter to the *Newark Advertiser* about a recent visit to Wichita. Details. Mentions hotel runners competing for business at depot.

5. Report of meeting of Sedgwick County Agricultural Society on June 21st, 1873. Because of society's financial condition, it was decided to relinquish the idea of buying the ground of R. A. Neely for a fair ground site. Details.

Forty-five car loads of cattle have been shipped during the past week.

**Wednesday, July 9, 1873**

4. Letter to *Kansas City Times* about a visit to Wichita. Details.

5. Long article reporting on a public meeting last Sunday evening at the Methodist Church to discuss the question of the vices that endanger the welfare of Wichita. Details.


**Wednesday, July 23, 1873**

5. The Metropolitan Hotel is up to the third floor, and presents a colossal appearance on Main Street.

Report of the Board of Education for the year ending July 7th, 1873. Details.

High School  132
Intermediate  110
Wednesday, July 30, 1873

The ground was being cleaned on Monday, houses moved off, etc., preparatory to the erecting of a large brick block on the corner of Main Street and Douglas Avenue. The stock is all taken, the building to be 90 by 150 feet, two stories high. The contract was closed at $25,000.

A bridge has been built over Cowskin Creek on Section 9, Township 28, at the crossing of Fritz Schnitzler's place.

Wednesday, August 6, 1873

The roof is being put upon the new hotel structure, which rises on Main Street.

Report of marriage Thursday afternoon, July 31st, at his residence of Mr. Fred Schattner to Mrs. Mary Jackson, of St. Louis.

Wednesday, August 13, 1873

S. E. Glover is here delivering the “Birds Eye View” of our city and environs, sketched by him last May. Mr. Glover is doing the delivery in room of Mr. Latta, who took the names some four months ago, but who is now lying very sick at Chicago. This sketch of the city of Wichita is in the shape of a beautiful colored lithograph and is almost as exact as a photograph. It shows up our beautiful little city nestled in the valley, not a house in the town or vicinity that is not represented, the river, bridge, and even West Wichita is portrayed truthfully and exact. Mr. Glover is now engaged selling these ornamental and useful pictures among our citizens, and we trust he will meet with the success his work warrants.

The 40 acre tract bought by the Sedgwick County Agricultural Society is now being transformed into a modern fair grounds.

Wednesday, August 20, 1873

Last night the gambling rooms in Hope's Building on the corner of Main Street and Douglas Avenue were closed on complaint made by Henry Walters, and all the tools and implements were taken in possession of by the Sheriff. The gamblers have determined to...
betake themselves to West Wichita, where there is no town organization and no moral officers to interfere.

Married at the residence of Judge Parsons, on the 12th instant, Mr. Henry W. Vigus of Wichita, to Miss Hattie Quarrels, of Kansas City.

**Wednesday, August 27, 1873**

7. Thirty-two car loads of cattle left Wichita yesterday.

**Wednesday, September 3, 1873**

3. Letter from L. Hays, who is visiting his parents in Germany after an absence of 14 years. Says the transatlantic crossing took 12 days, and he landed at Bremer Haven. Details.

**Wednesday, September 10, 1873**

4. Report from *Hutchinson News* of a visit to Wichita: We had not been to Wichita for over a year until Monday. We found the city had grown largely in size, indicating a prosperous interim. Among other things several fine brick buildings have gone up, including the Eagle Block, the First National Bank, the United States Land Office Block, and a magnificent hotel now in process of construction.

5. Mrs. H. J. Hills and daughter Emma, Mrs. R. L. West and Mrs. W. A. Thomas left for Cincinnati yesterday, in company with Mr. Hills and J. S. Stevenson, to attend the Cincinnati exposition, visit friends, etc.

**Wednesday, September 17, 1873**

5. Mead and Mathewson's train arrived from Fort Sill this morning, John Strange in charge.


Kohn has repainted and refitted the old New York Store.

**Wednesday, September 24, 1873**

5. From the *Daily Beacon* of September 18th: Mead's train left for Fort Sill this morning with ten wagons.

8. H. J. Hills, of the extensive dry goods firm of Hills and Kramer, returned today from the East, where he has bought the most fashionable and largest stock of dry goods ever shipped west of Topeka.
Wednesday, October 1, 1873
This issue is missing.

Wednesday, October 8, 1873
page 4.

The *Daily Beacon* ceased to act on Tuesday this week. Details.

5. Oak Davidson has returned from the East looking smilingly and happy. He has bought, he says, the largest and best selected stock of dry goods ever railroaded west of Topeka. Three cheers for Little Oakey.

6. Long article giving report of the Sedgwick County Fair. Details.

Wednesday, October 22, 1873
page 5.

Oak Davidson's, Hotel Block, has ladies shawls in great abundance.

The Richey House is full to overflowing all the time. Their register shows from 39 to 50 arrivals daily.

Report of return to Wichita Thursday of Leopold Hays, of the clothing store of Hays and Brother, from his trip to Europe, with his new bride, formerly Miss Clara Marx, to whom he was united at Trier, Prussia on September 21st last.

Wednesday, November 5, 1873
page 5.

Our community has been gladdened this week by the arrival of Uncle and Aunty Waterman, two of our wandering pioneers, who have probably more of the heart of Wichita in keeping than any other pair in this valley. They arrived here from Arizona and New Mexico Sunday, where they have been for over six months in search of a new home. Welcome, thrice welcome, is everybody's voice at their return.

The prince of jolly old time landlords, the pioneer settler and hotel keeper of this valley, D. S. Munger, is after a year's rest, at it again, this time in the Empire House, which he has renovated and refitted in such a manner as to call and keep the trade of the traveling public. No kinder, more hospitable, or clever people, live anywhere, than the present host and hostess of the Empire House.

Wednesday, November 26, 1873
page 5.

The Kohn brothers have just completed the final arrangements for a new enterprise in our midst. On Saturday last they bought the corner lot on Main Street and Douglas Avenue, upon which has stood for several years the small wooden structure occupied as a real estate office, and on Monday the ground was cleared and work began on a large brick building, 25 by 90 feet, two stories high, to be finished in the latest style, with iron front
and upper iron balconies. The ground floor will be occupied by the extensive dry goods store of Morris Kohn and Company. The upper will be divided off into office rooms.

The handsome two story business house of Frank Wright is fast approaching completion on Main Street. The lower room we understand is to be occupied by Houck and Brothers Hardware Store.

The contract for a large two story brick to be built on the corner of Douglas Avenue and Main Street, where stood the old frame formerly occupied by Trickey Brothers and Company, grocers, has been let to Fred Martsolf. The iron front is already ordered and the ground cleared for action.

Wednesday, December 10, 1873

Report of marriage in Butler County on Tuesday, December 2nd, by the Rev. Brown, of Augusta, of Mr. M. Zimmerly of Wichita to Miss Nettie Losh, of the former place.

Wednesday, December 24, 1873

Harsh editorial criticism of the candidacy of M. M. Murdock for United States Senator. Details.

The new hotel will be opened by the eighth of next month. Rouse has gone East for the necessary equipment to make it first class, inside as well as out.