TIHEN NOTES FROM 1874 WICHITA BEACON

Wichita Beacon
Wednesday, January 7, 1874

5. List of Wichita builders and carpenters and the number of dwellings and business houses built by each in 1873. The builders are, as follows:

Reese and Sawyer
Caldwell and Company
Millis and Stem
C. B. Ludlum
Schweiter and Davidson
F. C. Martsolf
W. C. West
C. W. Fisk
M. McGrath

Total sum of business houses 24 $ 79,600
Total sum of dwellings 50 66,550
Miscellaneous work 22,320

$168,470

Lumber companies are also named. Article says J. R. Mead's residence cost $10,000 and that of J. C. Fraker, $6,000.

Article about last minute preparations by W. P. Rouse for opening of the Occidental Hotel on January 15th. Details.
Wednesday, January 14, 1874  
5. Article about opening of the Occidental Hotel to the public, to be held Thursday evening, January 15th. Tickets for the supper and ball are $5.00. Details.

The stone foundations for the modern brick structure being erected by the firm of Morris Kohn and Company, are completed and the brick work will soon rise into most handsome shape. Millis and Stem are the contractors.

Fechheimer's brick building on the corner of Douglas Avenue and Main Street is fast approaching completion. Trickey Brothers and Company will occupy the store room on the ground floor, and the second story will be office rooms.

Wednesday, January 21, 1874  
5. Long article reporting on the grand opening of the Occidental Hotel last Thursday night, January 15th. Details.

The Douglas Avenue House has been purchased by Fred Daily, formerly of the Daily House.

Report of plans for building of a new flouring mill in Wichita in the spring.

The handsome business house being built by Fred Martsolf, on the corner of Main Street and Douglas Avenue, for Mr. Fechheimer, of Cincinnati, is nearly completed.

At a meeting last Thursday evening one week, officers and directors of the First National Bank for the year 1874 were elected. President is J. C. Fraker and vice-president is J. R. Mead. Directors also include J. W. Eldridge, W. A. Thomas, and W. J. Hobson.

Wednesday, January 28, 1874  
1. Long report dated January 9th, 1874 by Joseph Nickerson, for the stockholders of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, reporting on the railroad financial problems and need for tax relief. Details.

5. The Baptist Church will be dedicated next Sabbath.

Report that Harris, the Ice King, has carried by wagon and cart and deposited in his mammoth ice house, 400 tons of high quality ice for summer use. The work cost him $1700, paid out in one week.

Wednesday, February 4, 1874  
5. Report of death on Monday, January 26th, 1874 of croup, of Jenette, youngest daughter
of Andrew and Lucy Greenway, at age one year, 11 months, 20 days.

Article says one of the oldest contracting and building firms in Wichita is that of Schweiter and Davidson. Office, shops and yards are in the rear of Packer's stables on Market Street.

Long tabulation of value of trade in different types of business last year, totaling $12,331,903. Also report of City Treasurer.

Long article reporting on dedication of the Baptist Church last Sunday. Mr. H. J. Hills was chairman of the building committee. Total cost is $3197.33. Building is of brick, 32 by 50 feet with walls 18 feet high. Capacity is 250. Details.

Wednesday, February 25, 1874

Report of a meeting last Friday afternoon to organize an educational institution, to be named the Arkansas Valley Collegiate Institute, located in Wichita. Trustees are Rev. H. J. Walker, W. J. Hobson, S. W. Richmond, N. A. English, George Salisbury, A. Whitworth, W. E. Stanley, F. N. Lewis, and William Greiffenstein. Details.

Wednesday, March 4, 1874

The Douglas Avenue House has been entirely refurnished and refitted at a cost of nearly $4,000 and now offers superior accommodations to the traveling public. Mr. Fred Daily is the new proprietor. The Douglas Avenue House has 60 rooms and is crowded with guests.

The New York Store has received a valuable auxiliary in the person of Cash Henderson, champion shootist of Michigan. Mr. Henderson was leading clerk in the largest dry goods house in Michigan, and is a gentleman of taste and culture.

Wednesday, March 11, 1874

Kohn's fine brick block is rapidly approaching completion.

Wednesday, March 18, 1874

Legal notice of election to be held April 7th, 1874 to vote on total of $56,000 of Sedgwick County bonds for purpose of building five bridges across Big and Little Arkansas rivers in Sedgwick County. Details.

Long editorial on above bridge bond election, favoring the building of these free bridges. Details.

A library association is being organized in our city. Dr. Furley is active in the good work of obtaining contributions.
Report of a visit last week to the new bachelor residence of Brush Fenton near Chisholm Creek, says the house is built of native rock, quarried on Brush's farm on the hill, further east. Details.

Notice that the Arkansas Valley Collegiate Institute, Wichita, will commence April 1st, 1874, with a course of four years, and three terms each year. Catalogue available.

**Wednesday, April 22, 1874**

M. Kohn and Company are now moving their mammoth stock of dry goods to their elegant new store on the corner of Main Street and Douglas Avenue.

Report of results of election on April 7th. All five bridges were defeated, but county jail and hedge bounty were approved.

Contract for carpenter work on Mr. Charles W. Hill's new building on Douglas Avenue, has been let to Schweiter and Davidson, and the brick work to Mr. Hartell. The building will cost about $2,500.

Advertisement signed by J. G. Hope, Mayor, and eight Wichita councilmen, consisting of letter addressed to Texas drovers and telling them of Wichita's increased facilities for handling the Texas cattle trade.

Mention of recent death of Dr. Furley's child.

**Wednesday, May 6, 1874**

Mr. H. J. Hills is enlarging and improving his residence.

Hon. M. M. Murdock has commenced a building to be occupied as a residence, the cost of which will be about $2,000.

Report of a party held by Wichita's school children last Saturday afternoon at Shuman's Grove.

Kohn and Company have built splendid awnings over both front and side entrances to their store.

**Wednesday, May 20, 1874**

Report of marriage on Thursday evening, May 14th, at the residence of the bride's parents, of Mr. A. H. Gossard of Eldorado (sic) to Miss Allie Davidson of Wichita.

**Wednesday, May 27, 1874**
3. The Fire Company was out on “dress parade” last Saturday afternoon.

5. Article about plans for the “largest grist mill in the state,” which reached fruition last week when the city council accepted the proposition of Shellabarger and Bowers, a wealthy mill firm of Decatur, Illinois, to build such a mill if the city would vacate the part of 5th Avenue lying between Douglas Avenue and William Street and lying west of the Wichita and Southwestern Railroad right-of-way. The latter was done by the city council at a meeting on May 20th, 1874 (minutes published on this page) and the City Council also voted to pay the company a sum of $1,000 on February 1st, 1875, after completion of the project. The company's written agreement with the city calls for the completion by next October of a four story stone or brick flouring mill with a capacity of 150 barrels per day. Work has already begun on the structure, which is to cost $45,090 alone and the firm has gone East to send out the machinery, etc. which is to be of the most modern kind. In addition to this they propose building a large elevator, with the design of buying for cash all the grain raised in this county plus any brought in from adjacent counties.

Long article about the urgent need for more school accommodations in Wichita. The school population is at least 350, and the present building would be inadequate if all were in attendance. The present building is being rented for $600 a year. Details.

Wednesday, June 10, 1874

5. Thirty soiled doves plead guilty to being inmates of houses of prostitution and paid their fines in the police court last week.

Hill's and Noble's new block on Douglas Avenue is rapidly approaching completion.

The iron columns of Miller's new brick on Main Street were last week placed in position, and the brick work is progressing on the second story.

Short article about a ball to be held Thursday, June 11th, at the Texas Hotel, corner of Douglas Avenue and Water Street, Monute Brothers are the proprietors.

Minutes of City Council meeting, June 3rd.

Mr. Jackson Boland's new hotel near the depot, the Valley House, is now nearly completed.

Wednesday, June 24, 1874

4. Long article about a raid by a band of Cheyenne Indians on June 16th on Kiowa and Medicine Lodge in which three men at the west side of Medicine Lodge were shot to death and scalped. Details.
5. The basement story of Shellabarger and Bowers' new mill is already completed.

Article about action of City Council at their last meeting looking to the purchase of a fire engine.

8. Proceedings of City Council meeting on June 17th, 1874.

Publication of Ordinance 123 relating to the organization of a fire company. City Council also entered into a contract for purchase of a No. 2 Champion Fire Extinguisher at a cost of $2500, payable $1250 in one year, $625 in 18 months, and $625 in two years from date, with interest at ten percent from date of sale.

Wednesday, July 29, 1874

5. Work on the new jail will be commenced at once. The stone and lime will come from Florence, and the contractors, Messrs. Fisk, Martsolf and Company, are burning 159,000 brick for the brick work.

Two hundred men were thrown out of employment last Friday evening by the closing of the gambling houses by Mayor Hope.

A new store has been opened in the rooms formerly occupied by M. Kohn and Company on Main Street.

Short article indicates school bond election was passed by three votes and that only 163 votes were cast out of a voting population of over 700.


Wednesday, August 5, 1874

5. Grasshoppers have made their appearance in the northern and northwestern portions of the county and have already done considerable damage to crops. Great numbers passed over the county last week, all going in a southwesterly direction.

The walls of Shellabarger and Bowers' mill are now completed and the building will soon be ready for the new metallic roof which came from Cincinnati.

Mrs. Meagher has put up a sign in front of her boarding house on Douglas Avenue. Her place will hereafter be known as the “Cottage House.”

Wednesday, August 19, 1874

1. Reprint of long letter from Wichita to the St. Louis Republican, dated July 27th, 1874.
Extensive description, with details. (On page 5, says letter written by Mr. Locke, of Jerseyville, Illinois.)

5. A few things may be named which grasshoppers have not yet attacked, viz: railroad iron, gypsy weed, crab apples, wagon tires, Canada thistles, skunks and cockleburs.

Across the Arkansas River: Mr. Lawrence has put up a wind mill and the wind pumps water daily for his stock.

We have had the pleasure of an introduction to Messrs. Imboden and Hargus (sic), both of the firm of Shellabarger, Bowers and Company.

The result of the Wheeler and Scheetz injunction suit is, that the court ordered them to fill up 30 feet of the head on the mill race, and it must be above high water mark, and the parties are given ten days to perform their work.

**Wednesday, August 26, 1874**

5. German service will be held here next Sabbath morning in the school house. German citizens generally are invited to attend. Discourse by Rev. H. Toedmann.

Our German citizens enjoyed another of their jovial picnics at Chisholm Creek Grove last Sunday.

**Wednesday, September 2, 1874**


5. Mr. John Kline, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad agent, reports that cattle shipments from Wichita in the month of August were 450 cars, compared with 345 cars in the same month last year. At an average of 20 head per car, this makes 9000 head shipped during the month. The total number of cars shipped this season up to the present date is 1012 cars or approximately 20,240 head.

**Wednesday, September 9, 1874**

5. The public schools opened on Monday with 280 scholars. Owing to the lack of sufficient room the school board restricted the attendance of all scholars under the age of seven years. The necessity of more school room is now plainly apparent.

Report of death on the night of September 2nd of Mrs. J. C. Fraker, wife of the president of First National Bank.

Mr. J. B. Carey, of Moroa, Illinois, called at the **Beacon** office yesterday. He purchased
one tract of land 12 miles west and contemplates securing several hundred acres in this county. He is a man of large means and is accompanied by quite a number of Illinoisans who design locating in this valley.

Announcement by Hall and Scott that they have opened an eating house in the Southern Hotel known as the Delmonico Restaurant. An excellent dinner is served daily at 25 cents per person.

**Wednesday, September 30, 1874**

5. The water mill on Chisholm Creek commenced some time since will be completed and ready for work in about 60 days. The mill is 30 by 52 feet, four stories high, and is to have three run of burrs. They have two large Leffel Turbine water wheels, and the capacity of the mill when running day and night will be 200 barrels every 24 hours. The foundations, on piles 23 feet high, cost $4,000, and consumed 60 car loads of stone. Three thousand dollars have been expended on the race, head gates, dam, etc. One car load of machinery is now on the way and will be placed in position on its arrival. By the consent of both parties, the injunction has been dismissed, the defendants paying the costs, and this excellent new mill which will cost $20,000 is to be at once pushed rapidly forward to completion.

Article saying the school board plans to submit a $30,000 bond issue to the voters at the general election in November. Details and long editorial comment about the need for an adequate and permanent school.

**Wednesday, October 7, 1874**

1. Fritz Snitzler (sic) reports the champion baby of Sedgwick County. It weighed 12 pounds and four ounces.

5. Report that Mr. Fred C. Martsolf, Wichita contractor, is leaving here to go to Colorado. He has been here for four years.

Sarcastic article about the attack of the *Wichita Eagle* on the infant *Wichita Babie* newspaper. Details.

Uncle Waterman and his son Bowen returned home from Arizona Saturday.

**Wednesday, October 14, 1874**

5. Henry Schweiter has 1600 grape vines on his Chisholm Creek farm.

Mr. John Kline (Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad agent) reports 206 car loads, or 4532 head of cattle, shipped during the past week.
Report of marriage on October 2nd, 1874, at the residence of the bride's father, by Justice John P. Jones, of Mr. John Davidson, of Wichita, to Miss Ellen Paton of this county.

Extensive and sarcastic comments about the Eagle.

8. Letter from D. G. Millison criticizing Mr. Murdock's abusive attacks on him for his publishing of the Wichita Babie. Details.

Official proclamation of School Bond Election on Tuesday, November 3rd, 1874, to vote on $30,000 of 20 year bonds to be used for purchasing site and erecting and furnishing a permanent school building in Wichita. Polling places listed.

Wednesday, October 21, 1874

1. Long letter to editor about the value of the cattle trade to Wichita. Discussion.

4. Letter to editor opposing the school bonds. Discussion.

5. The magnificent new merchants mill was completed and commenced running last week. It is four stories high, 45 by 50 feet and cost $25,000. Capacity is 150 barrels of flour per day. The engine and boiler now are 22 by 45 feet with boilers five feet in diameter and 20 feet long, with five flues. The engine is 80 horsepower, with 14 feet driving wheel. There are four pair of burrs. Article gives further description of arrangement inside the building. Hargis, Imboden and Company are proprietors.

Work on the new jail is progressing finely.

Report of marriage on October 14th by Judge Little, of Henry D. Heiserman and Mary E. Tracy, both of Sedgwick County.

Report of marriage in Leavenworth, on October 18th, at the residence of Mr. J. Wollman by Rev. J. Friendlich, of Mr. M. W. Levy and Miss Sarah Kohn, of Wichita.

The Frontier Fire Company, No. 1, at its last meeting adopted a code of signals (described): In case of a fire there shall be one tap of the bell if in the 1st Ward, two taps if in the 2nd Ward, three if in the 3rd Ward, and four if in the 4th Ward followed by the regular fire alarm ringing rapidly.

8. Morris Kohn came home from Leavenworth yesterday accompanied by Mrs. R. N. Hershfield and children, who are visiting Mrs. Kohn, sister of Mrs. Hershfield.

Wednesday, October 28, 1874

4. Letter from John Exton, Wichita coal dealer, explaining sources of the coal used in Wichita and giving breakdown of cost. Details.
5. J. M. Balderston, Esq., was nominated for the office of City Attorney by Mayor Hope, and confirmed by the City Council at the last meeting.

Mr. Levy and wife returned home Friday night after brief bridal tour, and took rooms at the Occidental Hotel. The happy pair were made the recipients of a 17 ounce, $311 nugget of gold, a present from Mr. Bloch.

The building opposite the American House on Douglas Avenue has been rented by the school and a branch primary school will be opened there by Mrs. J. H. Todd on Monday next.

Wednesday, November 4, 1874

5. The school bond proposition was defeated at the election yesterday by 115 majority.

Large quantities of bones are being brought in and shipped east over the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. They are worth five dollars per ton delivered here.

The first number of the *Wichita Babie*, under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society, has made its appearance. Details.

Report of death October 30th, 1874, of typhoid fever, of Joseph Milo Allen, only child of J. P. and Mary E. Allen, aged one year, eight months, and 15 days.

Report of death November 2nd, 1874 of George Vantilburg, aged about 30. He was formerly from Ohio and was one of the oldest settlers in this valley.

8. Statistical report in detail by the Sedgwick County Superintendent of Public Instruction. There are a total of 50 school houses in the county, 48 frame and two brick. Average salary paid male teacher per month during the year -- $27.75. Average salary paid female teacher per month during the year -- $24.66.

Wednesday, November 11, 1874

5. The subscription price of this paper hereafter will be $1.50 per year.

The new flouring mill is grinding to its utmost capacity.

The new mills here are receiving an extensive patronage from Cowley County. Load after load of wheat is being brought here by them.

8. Tabulation of official election returns from Sedgwick County.

Wednesday, November 18, 1874

5. Each
4. The mail between Wichita and Arkansas City goes through now in one day.

5. The new jail is about completed and ready for occupancy. The work reflects credit on the contractor, Mr. Fisk.

The well known and popular Daily House was re-christened last Monday and will hereafter be called the Beacon House. It is under the management of Mr. S. S. Major.

From Mr. W. J. Collier we learn that the farmers of Greeley Township have in 900 acres of wheat, all of which is doing finely. A small herd of buffalo passed through the township on Saturday. One of the number was kindly taken in.

Wednesday, November 25, 1874

page

1. Advertisement of the Beacon House, at corner of 1st Street and Water Street.

3. Detailed recipe and instruction for the rapid cure of tapeworm.

Wednesday, December 2, 1874

page

5. Long article about meeting at the Douglas Avenue House on November 22nd presided over by Dr. A. H. Fabrique and attended by a number of well known Wichita business men for the purpose of organizing a new railroad company to build a railroad between Wichita and Paola. “The Eureka, Augusta and Wichita Railway Company” was subsequently organized and William Greiffenstein, of Wichita, elected president. Directors named. Details.

8. Todd and Royal's brick on the corner of Main Street and 1st Street is now considered to be in dangerous condition.

Wednesday, December 9, 1874

page

4. Another article about the proposed Eureka, Augusta, and Wichita Railroad. Details.

5. Wichita society was stirred to its profoundest depths on Sunday morning, upon learning that the post office had been removed to the corner room in the Occidental Block. The removal was effected on Saturday night, and so quietly that very few were made aware of it until the next morning. It is the result of a local fight in which the Beacon has no other feeling that of seeing the best interest of the majority of our citizens subserved by such a location of office as will satisfactory alike to all -- if that be possible.

The Presbyterian Association meets this evening in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Messrs. Steele and Levy have recently sold several tracts of land a few miles northwest of
town on Cowskin Creek, to half a dozen German families, the advance guard of a large colony of emigrants from Minnesota. Those already here are to be followed by at least 50 families in the spring.

Mr. A. A. Hyde, cashier of the Wichita Savings Bank, has sent dispatches to Boston requesting donations of clothing from his relatives there.

The fire bell on the engine house has been raised to a height of 20 feet. With a thorough organization of 41 members, the company may be relied upon to do effective work whenever their services are called into use.

J. M. Allen's new brick business house on Douglas Avenue will cost $1500. The contract will probably be let this morning.

Schweiter and Davidson have the contract for Chris Kimmerle's new brick building on Douglas Avenue, cost $1,100.

Schlichter (sic) and Russell will soon commence the erection of a brick store on the north side of Douglas Avenue. It is to be 70 by 24 feet, one story high, costing $1700. Reese and Sawyer have the contract.

8. Report of annual congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday of last week in Eagle Hall. Details. Officers elected (named) include H. W. Lawrence, B. C. Ward, R. E. Lawrence, and D. A. Mitchell as elders. The pastor's salary for the ensuing year will be $600 besides the use of a parsonage.

News from Greeley Township:
George Johnson, one of the oldest settlers in the county, was the happy father of a bouncing boy on November 29th.

Greeley Township has 1000 acres in wheat.

Last week Dr. Watson killed two hogs weighing 840 pounds dressed.

Mr. William Eddy has improved his place by the addition of a California Wind-Mill, for pumping water. It will supply water sufficient for 1000 head of stock, and was put up by Mr. John S. Beckwith.

Wednesday, December 16, 1874


The United States Land Office has been removed to Commercial Block, on Douglas
Hess and Getto will next spring build a new stone store room, brick front, on the old Beacon office lot, opposite Hills' and Kramer's Store.

8. Mr. H. J. Hills has received notice of a shipment of a large quantity of clothing, etc., from his friends and relatives in Delaware, Ohio, for distribution among the needy and destitute.

Wednesday, December 30, 1874

4. Editorial about the verdict in favor of Harvey County between Sedgwick and Harvey counties over liability of the latter to pay a proportion of the bonds issued in aid of the Wichita and Southwestern Railroad. Says this is in direct violation of the law organizing Harvey County. Details.

5. Hon. M. M. Murdock has been appointed and confirmed postmaster at this city, replacing R. L. West, removed.

The post office has been removed from the Occidental Block to Miller's building on Main Street.