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.

TIHEN NOTES FROM 1875 WICHITA BEACON

Wichita Beacon

Wednesday, January 6, 1875

page

4. Another editorial on the Supreme Court decision in the Sedgwick-Harvey County Railroad bond case. Details. Text of the court's decision is printed on page 5. (Wichita and Southwestern Railroad.)

5. Mr. Greiffenstein's ice house has been removed from the old Daily House lot to the rear of the Douglas Avenue House. Fred Daily contemplates filling it with ice.

Mr. John Davidson has purchased Mr. Henry Schweiter's interest in the partnership heretofore existing between them. Mr. Schweiter will hereafter devote his attention to farming and the ice trade and is at present laying in a large supply of ice.

5. Table of enrollment and average attendance in the six rooms of the Wichita public school. Total enrollment is 418 and average attendance is 375. The average attendance in 1873 was 251. Details.

7. Advertisement for the California Wind-Mill, whose local agents in Sedgwick County are John S. Beckwith and Lyman Pratt, both of Eldridge Post Office.

8. Letter from Mt. Hope about a relief committee organized in Greeley Township since last August to deal with the problem of destitution following the grasshopper plague. W. J. Collier is president. Details.

Wednesday, January 20, 1875

page

5. Henry Schweiter has just completed and is now filling an ice house, 26 by 26 feet, in the rear of the Baptist Church.

The sales of flour at the City Mills aggregated over $9000 for the month of December.

List of churches in the city with membership in each in 1874.
The construction of free bridges across the Big and Little Arkansas rivers near their junction seems to be assured. Subscriptions have reached $2000 to be added to $1500 donated by the County Commissioners and $1000 from the city. The approximated cost of the two bridges will not exceed $5000.

Wednesday, January 27, 1875

page 5. Fifteen hundred plows were sold by the hardware men of this city last year.

Report of marriage in this city on Tuesday evening, January 19th, 1875, by Rev. F. S. McCabe, of Mr. Albert A. Hyde and Miss Ida E. Todd, both of this city.

8. Douglas Avenue House ad says “stages arrive and depart daily from this House for all points South and Southwest.”

Wednesday, February 3, 1875

page 5. County Commissioners on Monday decided to advertise for bids for building the two bridges north of town.

It was announced last week by the superintendent of the Wichita Bridge Company that the bridge would be opened for free transit on the first inst. The evident intention was to discourage the proposed construction of the two bridges across the Big and Little Arkansas rivers north of town.

Wednesday, February 10, 1875

page 5. A portion of the piling for the free bridges has already arrived and several trains went to the Walnut River for more on Monday. The timber costs $2.00 per load at the Walnut River and is sold here for $4.50 per load.

Extensive article on Wichita's hide and fur business, with details.

Wednesday, February 17, 1875

page 1. Long letter to editor, very critical of M. M. Murdock.

5. Report of birth of a baby girl to Mr. and Mrs. N. A. English last Thursday night.

Fritz Snitzler recently sold his farm on Cowskin Creek.

Wednesday, March 3, 1875

page 5. Report of a terrible fire in the city last Friday night starting about 1:00 a.m. in the Southern Hotel, where there had been no fire for two weeks. The fire burned vigorously for nearly
two hours and destroyed seven business places on Main Street. Details. Loss estimated at $17,260.

Sarcastic note regarding fire: “700,000 is the moderate estimate of the number of healthy energetic bed-bugs destroyed in the old Southern Hotel building.”

Fritz Snitzler has taken Bissantz's old stand on Main Street.

Editorial about the need for good fire engines in Wichita. (The Champion fire extinguisher previously ordered by the City Council was apparently not accepted by the city.)

8. Amusing advertisement for Fritz Snitzler's new restaurant at 72 Main Street.

**Wednesday, March 17, 1875**

5. Hon. James R. Mead informs us that over a million pounds of freight will be shipped here for the Agencies, which will give employment to a large number of men with teams. (Indian Agencies.) He assures us that the receipts of freight from time to time will enable him to give work to at least 200 teams during the spring and summer. Mr. Mead has within the past few weeks paid out several thousand dollars to freighters, and on Friday and Saturday 50 loaded teams were sent out, for which over $2000 were paid.

Editorial about the large number of immigrant covered wagons seen on Wichita streets daily. Details.

Wheeler and Scheetz have resumed work on their water mill, and it is to be completed and in running order by harvest time.

Work has been commenced on Mr. Salisbury's building, which is to be of brick, one story, 20 by 60 feet.

8. Letter to editor urging Marsh Murdock to resign as postmaster. Details.

**Wednesday, March 24, 1875**

5. The City Council at its last meeting effected a settlement, or compromise, with the Champion Fire Extinguisher Company of Louisville, Kentucky, through their agents, Messrs. Mitchell and Louis. The council have agreed to take in place of the extinguisher now here, two sulky extinguishers, with cylinder containing 100 gals each and to cost $1500. The price of the large extinguisher was $2500. Terms of payment are $750 in one year, $375 in 18 months, and $375 in two years. The swell machines are much lighter and mounted on two wheels with tongue support and thus more easily handled. They are to be named Frontier No. 1 and Frontier No. 2.
Mr. Woodman is preparing plans and specifications for a splendid brick building to be erected on his lot in the burnt district.

8. The Big Arkansas River Bridge will be completed next week.

**Wednesday, March 31, 1875**

5. All the piles for the Big Arkansas River Bridge have been sunk, and it will be open for travel in a few days.

5. Three thousand head of cattle have started from Atascosa County, Texas, to Wichita.

Jacob Bissantz is laying the foundation for a good residence on 2nd Street, west of Main Street.

John Braitsch is building a residence.

**Wednesday, April 14, 1875**

5. Report of clash between soldiers and Indians at the Cheyenne Agency on April 6th with seven Indians killed and 14 soldiers wounded. Details.

The corner stone of Hargis, Imboden and Company's new elevator was laid on Friday with appropriate ceremonies. Details.

The grading for both Big and Little Arkansas River bridge approaches, also grading on the island, is to be commenced at once.

A toll keeper was placed on the Douglas Avenue Bridge Monday, with rates 40 cents per round trip for two horse team.

**Wednesday, April 21, 1875**

1. Advertisement from A. T. Horner, of Florence Quarries, saying that arrangements have been made to furnish Hartle and Longbottom with the best of lime, at the lime-house, near the Florence depot, for 35 cents per bushel, and stone at $4.00 to $5.00 per car load, the parties paying their own freight.

5. Work on the grading between the new Big and Little Arkansas River bridges is being pushed forward rapidly.

Placing a toll-keeper on the Douglas Avenue Bridge has turned much of the travel over the new free bridges north of town.

The irrepressible Daisy is asking subscriptions and making preparations to sprinkle the
streets. Let the Daisy bloom.

John Davidson has the contract for a one story brick building to be erected in the burnt district for Tewksbury and Chandler, of New Hampshire.

The heavy wind storm Wednesday week did considerable damage in Greeley Township. Mrs. Whitback's house was completely wrecked, and W. J. Collier's house was unroofed.

Fritz Snitzler was 40 years old Saturday and gave his boarders a birthday party. He “set up” the beer and cigars in true old German style.

Report from Ft. Worth about the first herds of Texas cattle this season. Details.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad is now ready to receive bids for building about 55 miles of the extension of the road from Grenada to Pueblo.

8. Detailed report of the city's finances for the year ending April 1875. (April 1st, 1875)
   Total income $13,475.49
   Total expenditures 14,259.26

   Henry Schweiter will run an ice wagon this season, and will furnish the public with pure clear ice.

Wednesday, April 28, 1875

1. Long letter reprinted from the Leavenworth Appeal describing a visit to Wichita. Details.

   Notice by John Exton that he has purchased the large part of the celebrated Florence Quarry.

4. Text of decision by Judge Campbell refusing injunction requested by the Wichita Savings Bank to prevent the County Commissioners from moving the county offices from space leased in the Eagle Block to a new location in the Occidental Building. Details.

5. John Herrington's new brick on Main Street is to be completed in 30 days.

   The fire company received their new extinguishers on Saturday.

   Milo B. Kellogg, Register of Deeds, has removed to the front corner room in the Occidental Block.

   Reese and Sawyer have the contract for Mr. Woodman's new brick building, which is to be one story high instead of two.

   Report of an Osage Indian raid last Sunday on Hopkins Ranch, on Pond Creek, Indian
Reports from the cattle trail.

8. Report of City Council proceedings on April 21st, during which meeting the new mayor, Mr. Harris, succeeded Mr. Hope. Details. Officers and committees appointed (named). Wyatt Earp and James Cairns elected as policemen. Resolution adopted creating the Texas cattle committee.

Wednesday, May 5, 1875

5. J. M. Allen will occupy his new building next week.

The grading between the Big and Little Arkansas river bridges has been completed.

The dining room of the old Planters House on Douglas Avenue is now occupied as a store room for agricultural implements by Mike Zimmerly.

Richey Brothers have put up a new building adjoining Deane's lumber office, and Jim Hall will deal out “Jersey Lightning” in it.

A new office for Captain Misner, Justice of the Peace, has been erected on the south side of Douglas Avenue, two doors east of the postoffice.

The newest way of spelling the name of our lively little town came all the way from London, England, to Dick Cogdell the other day, and was addressed “To the Treasurer of Wichitor, Sedgwick County, Kansas, United States of America.”

Work on Hargis, Imboden and Company's new elevator progresses finely and is already in a forward state.

List of persons granted certificates as teachers by County Superintendent Zimmerman -- includes Mrs. Sue E. Beckwith.

8. Small advertisement: The ford at the Douglas Avenue Bridge was never better than now. Go to town by the old road and stop at Dunscomb's on your way.

Wednesday, May 12, 1875

4. Article gives history of the Beacon: The Beacon was started in 1872, by D. G. Millison, who first issued it on the 17th of October, of that year, as a five column daily. Subsequently he gave Mr. Fred A. Sowers an interest in the office and the daily was discontinued, the weekly Beacon taking its place. The first number of the weekly was issued on the 11th of December in 1872. During the summer of 1873, a daily was issued from the office. In December, Messrs. Millison and Sowers dissolved partnership, Mr.
Sowers retaining the paper and Mr. Millison the job dept. of the office. The following spring Mr. Sowers sold one-half of his interest to Milton Gabel and finally disposed of his remaining interest to the same party in June, who changed the political course of the paper, making it an outspoken Republican sheet. At that time the Beacon had a circulation of about 400. New material was added to the office, the local news departments were enlarged, and every attention given to make it a good readable and reliable county newspaper. The circulation now numbers nearly 1000 subscribers and is increasing.

5. The Kansas Midland Railroad is soon to pass into the hands of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad (runs from Topeka to Lawrence).

Uncle Eli Waterman left Wichita on Monday last on his way to the gold fields of Arizona.

Henry Schweiter has 1700 grapes growing, and put out 6000 cuttings this spring.

8. The new school board was organized Monday night. H. J. Hills was chosen chairman and W. E. Stanley, Esq., secretary.

J. M. Allen's new store room on Douglas Avenue two doors east of his present location, is about completed and he will move into it this week with his large stock of groceries.

**Wednesday, May 19, 1875**

5. Rock for building purposes is being received here from the Cottonwood Falls quarries.

Work is to be commenced on Wheeler and Scheetz's water mill and it is the intention to have it ready for grinding in 60 days.

**Wednesday, May 26, 1875**

1. Mr. M. M. Murdock and wife left for Burlingame on Monday where they had been summoned by the death of Mrs. Mayberry, mother of Mrs. Murdock.

5. The stone work on Hargis, Imboden and Company's new elevator has been completed.

The census returns show the population of the city to be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An old city ordinance has been raked up and will be enforced, which requires the payment of a $3.00 poll tax. By this small assessment a great deal of much needed work on our streets will be accomplished.
Mr. W. T. Jewett has been locating the new trail from the new herding grounds to the city and has favored us with a map of the new route. The initial point of the main trail is near the forks of the Nennescah River, and crosses Clear Creek on the wagon road, three miles north of C. W. Davis' farm; thence in a northeasterly direction across Spring Creek and branches; thence east about five miles, across Dry Creek, with good water; thence to Cowskin Creek, crossing good water, and from Cowskin Creek to the stock yards. The trail from the Nennescah River is about 24 miles long, and is the best route, with the best water between here and the range. Mr. Jewett says that the farmers have been generous in extending privileges and granting rights of way.

Pratt and Beckwith are putting up a California Wind-Mill to pump water for the street sprinkler, and O. C. Daisy thinks that inasmuch as he is going to considerable expense to furnish water that the city should purchase a tank.

8. The total valuation of real estate in Wichita Township is about $95,000.

Wednesday, June 9, 1875

4. Long statement by President Grant on the question of his accepting a third term. Details.

Col. H. L. Taylor, of Johnson County, has been appointed register of the land office in Wichita, succeeding Mr. W. S. Jenkins. Details.

5. The real property of the West Wichita town site was assessed at $4759.

The greater portion of the travel to and from the city, from the West side, now passes over the new bridges north of town.

5. The City Council at a special meeting on Thursday appropriated $1000 towards encouraging the cattle trade. Details.

The semi-annual liquor license is now $150.

The assessed valuation of real estate in Delano Township is $78,268; personal property, $17,080. The township has 721 acres of wheat, 1485 of corn, and 253 of oats.


Wednesday, June 16, 1875

4. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad sold over 200,000 acres of land last year.

5. The old Planter's House on Douglas Avenue was sold at auction on Saturday for $1000. Sol Kohn was the purchaser.
E. R. Powell near Augusta has corn three foot high.

The extension of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad west of Granada is progressing at the rate of one mile a day.

The total drive of Texas cattle which had passed Ft. Worth, Texas, up to the first of this month, was 132,388.

We learn from Mr. A. A. Moore that Mr. E. P. Waterman was shot and severely wounded week before last. It seems that Mr. Miles attempted to replace a loaded shot gun into one of the wagons when it was accidently discharged, striking Mr. Waterman in one hand, tearing it so was thought he would lose three fingers. The party was within 25 miles of Trinidad when it occurred.

Wednesday, June 23, 1875

5. The new City Mills elevator has a capacity of 45,000 bushels.

Table of assessed valuation of real and personal property by township.

8. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad has built stock pens on the Cowskin Creek, seven miles out on the trail, for the accommodation of those driving here to ship eastward.

Wednesday, June 30, 1875

This issue is missing.

Wednesday, July 7, 1875

4. Announcement by Milton Gabel that he has sold the Beacon to Messrs. Fisher and Smith, who will publish it henceforth. (Frank Fisher and Frank B. Smith.)

A circular from Boston, June 24th, 1875 to the stockholders of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, announced that the company has purchased on favorable terms a controlling interest in the Kansas Midland Railroad, which will hereafter by operated by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad under a lease. The 50 miles of road was bought for $400,000.

5. The framework of Wheeler and Scheetz’s water mill is up, roof on and the whole structure is being rapidly pushed forward to completion.

Wednesday, July 14, 1875

1. Reprint of several articles from newspapers in other areas with discussions of Wichita and area. Details.
5. Judge Little will soon commence a new residence, opposite Mr. Fraker's, on Topeka Avenue.

Mr. John B. Carey will sow 350 acres of wheat in Sumner County.

H. J. Reimers has removed his books to Cleveland's old stand at 24 Main Street.

The fine organ purchased by the Odd Fellows for their lodge room here, arrived on Thursday.

Arment and Smith have opened a carpenter shop in the old Land Office building on upper Main Street.

The school board have made an excellent choice for superintendent of our schools in the person of Professor J. F. Gowdy, formerly of Bloomington, Illinois.

8. Quarterly tabulation of city finances. Details.

**Wednesday, July 21, 1875**

5. The Little Arkansas River dam was partly washed out by the late freshet.

The population of Sedgwick County is 8305.

The bridge across Chisholm Creek on the upper El Paso road is in a very dangerous condition.

**Wednesday, July 28, 1875**

5. Statistical report of Wichita public schools for the year ending June 1875. Expense for teachers' salaries -- $3,230; total expenses -- $8,671.22.

Number of pupils enrolled:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regular trains will commence running through to Kansas City over the Kansas Midland Railroad about the 10th of next month.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad is now completed 25 miles west of Granada, and 110 men were sent out in the past few days to work on it.

**Wednesday, August 4, 1875**
5. Table of Sedgwick County population by township, sex, and race. (The city of Wichita is not included.) Total of 25 blacks in the county, including 12 black females in Salem Township. Greeley Township population 288.

**Wednesday, August 11, 1875**

5. Judge Little's cottage house, in the vicinity of Fraker's, is assuming shape under the efficient strokes of those excellent builders, Reese and Sawyer.

**Wednesday, September 8, 1875**

5. Quite a town is growing up east of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad depot. Several good business houses are out there.

The residence of Joe Allen is already under roof. Mr. Sullivan has the contract.

Another bridge is to be built across the Little Arkansas River, this time at Weidner's ford. The piles have already been cut and hauled, the machinery and tools on the ground, and the full amount of money raised necessary to complete a good bridge, lacking only $500.00. This amount will be asked of the County Commissioners at their next meeting. This bridge is badly needed by the farmers living between the two rivers.

5. Father Shurtz, the Catholic priest, is lying very sick with bilious intermittent fever.

**Wednesday, September 15, 1875**

5. A freight train loaded with lumber for the railroad company's own use came in last Friday. The depot is to be enlarged and improved; 60 feet more warehouse room will be added to it.

Douglas Avenue is beginning to be blocked with material accumulating in the vicinity of where the seven new buildings are to be built.

The iron fronts for the seven brick business houses to be built on Douglas Avenue this fall were ordered from J. A. Seaton and Company of Atchison.

The stone foundation of Wheeler and Scheetz's water mill over Chisholm Creek was badly washed out by the high water and storm of Sunday morning. Parts of the store wing have settled by three feet, necessitating a complete overhauling.

Sarcastic article about another move of the post office last Monday. It is now located in the new brick building of W. C. Woodman, next door to Hobson's Dry Goods Store. Details.
The contract for building the brick store room of Hess and Getto was awarded to Reese and Sawyer, Henry Bolte's building to C. W. Fisk, and Mr. Bissantz's to Mr. Gribi.

**Wednesday, September 22, 1875**

The *Beacon* will issue a daily during the four days of our county fair, i.e., Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday in addition to the regular weekly edition on Wednesday. Twelve hundred copies of each will be for free distribution.

The new warehouse at the depot is nearly completed.

The upper bridges across both rivers are impassable and entirely out of use. It is the county's business to keep these bridges in repair. At present there is five feet of a washout on the west bank of the Big Arkansas River that cuts the bridge away from land about five feet.

Douglas Avenue is still the cry, it is the lodestone, at present attracting the north end South. Two more business houses are now talking Douglas Avenue. Everything now is trying to get there, even the Todd and Royal building has a leaning that way.

**Wednesday, September 29, 1875**

Report of events of the first day of the fair, which opened yesterday. Details. (Sedgwick County Fair.)

**Wednesday, October 6, 1875**

It looks as if the Empire House would leave its moorings before many moons and take a walk towards Douglas Avenue.

**Wednesday, October 13, 1875**

We (the *Beacon*) are now fixed in our new quarters on Douglas Avenue, over Allen and Tucker's Grocery.

The new water mill on Chisholm Creek has commenced to grind. The flour made by it is pronounced perfectly splendid.

The Daily House is being thoroughly renovated preparatory to its occupancy this week by Uncle Munger, the oldest landlord in the valley.

The foundation of the new brick store room of Houck Brothers is completed, and preparations are now being made to lay up the brick.

**Wednesday, October 20, 1875**
D. S. Munger opened out the old Daily House for guests last Monday. This is destined to take the lead among first class houses here, as it is central, and now about to get the best landlord in the valley.

With the addition lately added to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad depot here, it is now 200 feet long, and yet the accumulation of freight is such that cars have to be switched off and left loaded on side tracks, owing to the impossibility to store goods as fast as they are hauled in.

A. J. Cook has just received a patent for a combined mowing and harvesting machine that is said to be superior to any machine now in use, while it can be made cheaper. He has a working model now on exhibition and a full sized machine in process of construction, back East.

Wednesday, November 10, 1875
Hargis, Imboden, and Company are putting up an office building near the scales in front of the mill for the greater convenience in transacting their business.

The Presbyterian congregation has rented the Baptist Church for the term of six months. Some changes are to be made before they will occupy it. The Baptist congregation will use the same edifice for afternoon service.

Mr. Ray, the proprietor of the Valley House, is making an important improvement in the way of a 40 foot addition to his popular hotel, thereby doubling his capacity to entertain his patrons.

Wednesday, December 1, 1875
Mr. John Carey, of Moroa, Mercer County, Illinois, has opened a lumber yard on the east side of the railroad, opposite the City Mills. Mr. Carey is an old lumber dealer of great experience.
Article about the need for a public library.

Laudatory article about “Uncle Munger's” management of the old Daily House.

**Wednesday, December 15, 1875**

Fritz Snitzler, the great “restaurateur” of the Southwest, has bought a lot on the avenue (Douglas Avenue), just east of W. A. Thomas's “Green Front,” upon which he intends to put up a brick in the spring.

A new feed and sale stable has been erected, east of the depot on Douglas Avenue. It is owned and will be run by Mr. John Kolb.

Mr. Baldwin has bought the photographic establishment of Mr. J. T. Babbitt. This leaves him master of the situation and monarch of all he surveys with one of the completest establishments of the kind in the country. His work displays a taste and artistic skill equal to that of the best city galleries.

**Wednesday, December 22, 1875**

Fritz Snitzler moved his dining saloon from Main Street to Douglas Avenue last Wednesday on wheels. Details.

Report of another major fire last Friday afternoon, which broke out in Dr. Furley's office on the east side of Main Street between 1st Street and 2nd Street. Details. Total loss estimated at $8,945. Another article critical of Wichita's fire apparatus.

**Wednesday, December 29, 1875**

Ross and Getto will move into their new brick store this week with a first class stock of groceries.

Mr. John Carey has removed his lumber yards to the north side of Douglas Avenue, east of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad depot.

Another article about the need for better fire apparatus.

Article about “whiskey frauds” in Wichita.