**TIHEN NOTES FROM 1881 WICHITA BEACON**

**Wichita Beacon**  
**Wednesday, January 5, 1881**  
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3. Frank Dale passed through the trying ordeal of an examination in the District Court yesterday morning and was admitted to practice as a full fledged attorney. He will form a partnership with his brother, D. M. Dale, County Attorney, and their card will now read Dale and Dale, Attorneys, Wichita, Kansas.

Mr. Thomas Ryun, of Columbus, Ohio, has bought or leased the Oznoodle mill building on the railroad track, on 1st street, and will have it in top running condition within 60 days. The building is constructed for a good mill of from six to eight run of stones, and has been lying idle for a long time, awaiting capital to take hold of it.

**Wednesday, January 12, 1881**  
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2. List of United States cities over 20,000 population with figures from 1880 census compared with 1870.

3. Proceedings of city council meeting of January 10th. Officers of Frontier Fire Company, of Wichita, listed and were approved.

Report of organizational meeting of the new board of county commissioners.

Fritz Schnitzler’s saloon and two adjacent buildings were destroyed by fire about two o’clock Friday morning. Details.

Article about a current shortage of coal in Wichita. The public schools were closed on Monday and Tuesday for lack of coal.

Messrs. Hobson and Cox issued the first number of the *Wichita Tribune* last Friday.

Mr. Jennings, of the firm of Jennings, Hoyt, and Company, directory publishers, of St. Louis, is now in the city and is gathering statistics for a complete directory of this city.
Wednesday, January 19, 1881

3. Mr. A. A. Hyde received news last week of the sudden death of his father, in Boston, where he was injured in a fall on the statehouse steps while attending as a member of the Massachusetts legislature. His home was in the western part of the state.

Wednesday, January 26, 1881


Proceedings of City Council meeting on January 24th.

Mr. John P. Edwards, a map maker, of Philadelphia, is in this state with a corps of assistants making maps of the principal cities and counties of the state. Mr. Edwards himself has been in this city for several weeks, at the Tremont house, and has made considerable progress in the work of drawing a map of the city, and some of the townships. The latter includes the farms and names of owners in each township. The map will be published for hanging on the wall, and also in book form, a township occupying a page. Wichita township is almost complete.

Article reports destruction by fire early Friday evening of N. A. English’s elevator. Details.

Mr. Will Shuman left last week for Kansas City to take a position in the telegraph office.

Wednesday, February 2, 1881

3. Article discussing some discrepancies between the original surveys establishing location of downtown corners in Wichita and the present location of some permanent brick or stone buildings. Details.

The Wells-Fargo Express company, Charley Phillips, agent, last Friday moved into John Tucker’s division of Temple Block.

Mayor Griffenstein last week sold the east store room in Eagle block to Mr. N. P. Barnes for $4500.

The “Stover grinder” or wind grist mill, sold by M. A. Sayles, is just the thing for the farmers. The quality of the meal made is excellent and the capacity is 15 to 20 bushels a day. Mr. Sayles has one erected at his place of business on Douglas avenue.

Mr. M. R. Moser has mulched over 600 of this fruit trees. He reports his peach trees in fairly good condition and expects a fair crop of peaches.

Wednesday, February 9, 1881
Report of meeting of the Wichita Library Board last Wednesday. Details and list of members of board of directors. Mrs. N. Baldwin is president.

Article about the project of improving and enlarging the Sedgwick County building. The lots owned by the city give an area of 50 by 140 feet. One plan is to make additions to the present building so as to cover both lots. An addition on the rear of the present building would be 50 by 80 feet, and one on the north of the present building would be 60 by 25 feet.

Messrs. Ratliff and Cone have bought out Mr. J. Scheetz, and will continue the grocery business at the old and popular stand of the Green Front, corner of Douglas and Market.

Wednesday, February 16, 1881

The new Sedgwick County court convened for the first time on Saturday. It was held in the reading rooms of the Tremont House, that being the only available place until the contemplated court house is erected.

Col. Stewart has killed and packed up to date 740 hogs.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe had 12 dead engines on the main line west of Newton, all snowbound, Friday and Saturday.

Col. Innes is to be married on February 17th to Miss Susie Hart, of Iowa City.

Last Saturday we drove out to where the Frisco passenger train that left here Friday morning was stuck in the snow, about seven miles from this city. There had been about 20 men at work digging and cutting the snow from the engine and cars. The drift was about a quarter of a mile in length and about six feet deep and was caused by a hedge on the north side. Twenty feet from the track on either side there was scarcely any snow. There was no cut, the track being on level prairie with a little upgrade. They had plenty of coal but no water to steam up with. The train was cut loose and on Monday morning an engine from the Santa Fe Railroad was taken out and the train brought back to this city.

Report about a Santa Fe passenger train, No. 3, which was snowbound for 32 hours on February 11th and 12th, between Peabody and Walton.

Proceedings of city council meeting February 14. Includes report by city engineer, Thomas A. Bayley, on levels taken on the Little Arkansas river. From mouth of Little Arkansas river to the mill race, or dam, there is rise of 15¾ feet, as follows: Taking surface of water at mouth of Little River as a base, point opposite pesthouse, where channel connects Big and Little rivers, is one and one-half foot higher; point in line of east fence of Shuman’s park is two feet four inches higher; point about the middle of Mayor Griffenstein’s pasture lot is two feet ten inches higher; midway between Sales’ (sic) and
Weidner’s place is three and one-half foot higher. At the bridge it is three feet 11 inches higher. At a point opposite the brick yard it is four feet five inches higher. At a point about three quarters of a mile south of the dam it is eight feet eight inches higher. From this last point the banks are high enough to dam, giving seven foot fall from the old mill race.

Wednesday, February 23, 1881

Article reports re-districting of the county commissioner districts last Wednesday as required by law. Lists the townships in each of the three county districts.

Constitution and By-laws of the Board of Trade printed.

Mr. C. H. Ferry is in Wichita canvassing for the National Atlas compiled and published by O. W. Gray and Son, of Philadelphia.

Wednesday, March 2, 1881

Mr. Finlay Ross has about finished a 40 foot addition to his furniture store room, giving him a sales room 25 by 110 feet.

Wednesday, March 9, 1881

R. E. Lawrence elected president.

The county board have decided to submit the question of enlarging the county building to a vote.

The late rise in the Arkansas carried away several spans of the bridge in Greeley township, known as the Burrton bridge.

Mr. N. Baldwin is turning out excellent photographic work.

The ground is being cleared for the foundation of a fine brick block which Messrs. Fritz Schnitzler and T. W. Fuller are going to build on Douglas avenue, on the lots lately burnt off.

Wednesday, March 16, 1881

Detailed letter from Commissioner S. E. Jocelyn about the proposed enlargement of the county building, for which a five mill tax levy to raise about $15,000 is to be submitted to the voters. The county acquired the present County Building and the lot on which it
stands, through the failure of the First National Bank, and by subsequent purchase, the lot adjoining it on the north, giving an area of 50 by 140 feet owned by the county. The present building is 25 by 60 feet, and it is now proposed to cover the entire remainder of the grounds with a two story brick addition. Details of plans given. The Court room will occupy the entire upper floor of the addition in rear of the county building, except for a hall of ten feet, making it 48 by 68 feet. The main entrance will be in the center of the facade upon 1st street. Estimated cost is $16,000.

The 5th parallel road is chartered as the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad. The headquarters are at Ft. Scott. Francis Tiernan, of New York City, is the President.

Dr. Russel (sic) is building a residence on corner of 1st and Topeka.

Concert tomorrow night at Russell Hall.

The first through train to San Francisco via Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad will leave Kansas City and Atchison Thursday morning, March 17.

Track laying has commenced on the Ft. Scott, or 5th parallel road, in the direction of Humboldt. Forty miles are under contract.

**Wednesday, March 23, 1881**

The bonds for the Gould Railroad carried in Greenwood County.

Henry Schweiter is bridging Chisholm creek for his own use to facilitate communication between the parts of his fine farm. Mr. Manuel is one of the constructors.

O. C. Daisy is fitting up the low lots he owns on Topeka avenue, south of his stables. It is perhaps the lowest ground in the city, and before the ditches were dug, it was a kind of a basin for the collection of water. But he has taken three or four of them, cornering on William street, and with much labor and expense, he is making valuable and desirable property of them. He has already put on between 1200 and 1500 loads of dirt. He has his own teams at work, and it is not costing him so much ready money, as it would otherwise have done. This making the waste place bloom, is a public as well as private benefit.

Forty car loads of rails were received this week at Ft. Scott for the Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad. Track laying is under way.

Messrs. Rogers and Lauck have opened a photographic gallery over Richards’ and Rogers’ grocery store.

The through train to the Pacific (San Francisco) passed Newton on the 18th.

**Wednesday, March 30, 1881**
Copy of letter from Mrs. M. J. Benton, of Wichita, written March 9, 1881, to the newspaper in her old home town in Michigan, describing Wichita in general terms. ¶ She encourages people there to come west, but “do not forget to first tone up your nervous system, for you will, without the slightest warning, often encounter at your window or door the grinning visage of (not a grasshopper but) a real live Indian or squaw. They come in squads on a begging expedition, and to bestow alms on one is to have papooses and all at your heels. I confess that experience, though oft repeated, has the same effect upon me. I cannot see one of the filthy creatures without those undescribable sensations born of lack of courage, I suppose.”

The Grange Elevator has been sold and the officers of the organization agreeably relieved of the responsibility of its liabilities. It will be converted into a first class flouring mill and elevator by J. Hout Minnich, who will also purchase residence property and become a permanent citizen of Wichita.

Wednesday, April 6, 1881

The court house proposition was snowed under in the vote on Thursday last. The people seemed determined on a rigid economy, and they propose to do without even necessary conveniences rather than assume any further burden.

A flour mill will be put up this season on or near the site of the old water mill, burnt down. Col. Lewis is one of the principals in this enterprise.

Mr. H. G. Toler, the popular commercial traveler, who has made Wichita his family home for the past two years, has concluded to leave the road and open a grocery house in this city. His store is on Douglas avenue, two or three doors east of Wallace’s implement store.

The foundations of the Fuller and Schnitzler brick block were finished last week, and the brick walls are rising.

Wednesday, April 13, 1881

Report of city election on April 5. William Griffenstein mayor. Details and editorial discussion of Mr. Griffenstein.

The Wells Fargo Express Company have removed their Wichita office to the Dagner building.

Last Thursday the officers of the law closed up the keno rooms. There is no reason why it should not have been done before.

Messrs. Innes and Ross have become sole proprietors of the well known and popular
Wichita dry goods store of George Innes and Company. They propose putting on a second story and enlarging their facilities.

Mr. R. H. Roys has the plans and specifications drawn for a handsome two story brick building on the southwest corner of Douglas and Lawrence avenues. To be 50 by 80 feet. The firm of Bunnell and Roys will reserve the corner second story suite of rooms for a land office.

Wednesday, April 20, 1881


D. P. Alexander and Son have taken a large contract for grading the Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad. They advertised last week for 500 men and 300 teams, which they will put to work immediately on the grade from Iola east for 23 miles, where it will connect with the old road bed from Ft. Scott to Humboldt. They also have the contract for the grade from Iola west to the Arkansas river.

Henry Vigus informs us that 13 years ago last Saturday night, thieves got away with nine or ten head of horses, which included about all the horses owned in this vicinity by resident white men. A posse followed them to the Pawnee agency, where they recovered the stock.

Dr. Russell is putting up a commodious residence at corner of 1st and Topeka.

Wednesday, April 27, 1881

page 3. Mr. C. P. Buffum, a capitalist from Keene, New Hampshire, who has about $100,000 invested in this valley, is now in the city.

Wednesday, May 4, 1881

page 2. Proceedings of city council meetings April 28 and May 2.

3. The city schools will close for the year next Friday because of lack of funds. Details. The commencement exercises will be held next Friday at the Opera House.

W. B. Strong and Son are advertising for 200 men and 300 teams to work on the grade of the Santa Fe extension from Wellington to Anthony. Strong and Son constructed the grade to the county line last fall.

Mr. L. D. Skinner, cashier of the Kansas State Bank, was married on April 28, in Denver, to Miss Maggie Butler.
Col. M. Stewart will begin work soon on his new pork packing house.

**Wednesday, May 11, 1881**

The board sidewalk extending the entire block from Houck Brothers’ hardware store to Bitting Brothers’ clothing store is giving way to flag stone.

**Wednesday, May 18, 1881**

Mr. Steemberg (sic) has begun work on the foundation of the new Water Mill. Col. Lewis tells us that part of the machinery is on hand.

Article reports reporter’s trip to rural areas southeast of the city last Wednesday, with details, names of farms visited (including 320 acres of Mr. Carlton), etc.

Mr. D. P. Alexander has completed the grade on the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad east of Iola, and is now working west of that place.

Mr. Roys is collecting material for his new brick block on southwest corner of Douglas and Lawrence and is having a substantial stone foundation laid.

**Wednesday, May 25, 1881**

Charley Stanley and Billy Taylor are now fitting up the south room in the McPherson block, on west side of Main street, for a confectionery and ice cream store.

On Monday of last week work was begun at Eldorado on the grade of the Santa Fe extension. There was also a large force put to work between Augusta and Douglass.

A committee of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (names given) will canvass the city to raise funds to build a small church for their congregation on north Water street. The building is to be a frame, 32 by 46 feet, and cost about $450. Fifty dollars was subscribed and collected last fall, part of which was used to purchase the lot.

**Wednesday, June 1, 1881**

Article lists Sedgwick County statistics, as reported by the county assessor. Details. 7260 horses in Sedgwick County.

The Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society’s fair will be held in Shuman’s Park September 31 to October 3.

Mr. D. P. Alexander is over from Iola. Despite the wet weather the grading on the Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad is about completed to Iola, and the track layers are not much behind.
Wednesday, June 8, 1881

3. We are informed that Mr. Oak Davidson is going to build a residence on the northeast corner of Topeka and 3rd streets.

Mr. D. B. Emmert is preparing a historical sketch of Wichita and Sedgwick County for the Edwards’ county atlas.

The free bus business was closed last Friday. Henceforth passengers will have to pony up for their rides. Twenty-five cents is the price now charged to all parts of the city.

Root Brothers are the sole proprietors and managers of the omnibus line in this city. Orders can be left at their office on Market street, or at the several hotels. They have large and commodious busses (sic), and will be promptly on time at all times and endeavor to accommodate the public to the satisfaction of all. In connection with their buses, they will run a baggage wagon for the prompt delivery of baggage at the depot and to all parts of the city. A well managed omnibus line is a great convenience possessed only by the larger cities in the state, and Messrs. Root deserve credit for their enterprise.

Wednesday, June 15, 1881

2. Article from Ft. Scott, dated June 7. The St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad was completed to Uniontown yesterday and today the railroad company took 200 people on an excursion trip to the end of the track. The railroad is being built at the rate of one and one-half mile per day, and will be completed to Iola by July 1st. ¶ The chief contractors are Messrs. Mason and Staunton, of New York, whose local agent is Mr. Albert F. Thayer. ¶ The railroad was commenced about ten years ago but work was suspended because of failure of the contractors. It has recently been resurrected through the energy of Judge A. M. Ayers and Francis Tiernan, of Urbana, Illinois, with Ira D. Bronson and J. D. Hill, of Ft. Scott, and Moses Neal, of Humboldt, Kansas.

3. Announcement of 4th of July celebration at Shuman’s Park.

The bridge across the river at Mulvane is now an assured thing. The citizens have raised $825 by private subscription to complete the $3300 for which Reese and Sawyer offer to build it.

Vigus and Allen have moved their saddlery and harness shop to corner of Lawrence and Douglas avenues, opposite Smith and Keating’s implement depot.

Mr. W. S. Forrey has purchased the interest of Mr. Davis, and is now the sole proprietor of the popular Occidental Hotel.

Wednesday, June 22, 1881


Article reports trial of Fritz Schnitzler for violation of the prohibition law ended Saturday night with a hung jury. Details.

The Douglas Avenue House was re-opened last Monday under management of Messrs. Breese and Signor, after repairing and repainting.

The Wichita Coal Mining Company in their prospecting for coal have reached a depth of 170 feet and plan to go down to 1000 feet.

Wednesday, June 29, 1881

Col. M. Stewart is now engaged in digging the cellar for his new pork house, which he intends to build on Douglas avenue, south (sic) side, near the bridge. The main building will be of artificial stone, 20 by 50 feet. Back of that will be a one story frame structure, 20 by 40 feet, and still in the rear, a lard room, 18 by 36 feet. The building will be completed by the time the killing and packing season begins.

The San Francisco depot in Augusta has been located in the south part of town. (This may mean Santa Fe.)

In order to avoid confusion of names, the Santa Fe Railroad Company have changed the name of their Elpaso station, and it will be known hereafter as “Derby” station.

Reports of a severe electrical and hail storm last Friday night, with heavy rain, one man killed by lightning and much damage to fruit crops, etc. Details.

Wednesday, July 6, 1881

On Thursday the coal prospecting shaft was down 460 feet. It was passing through a strata (sic) of oil rock which is so strongly impregnated with petroleum that it will burn. Some hopes were excited that they are about to strike oil, which probably might be as valuable as coal.

On the 15th of this month the contract between the county and the Frisco Railroad expired. The contract was not performed as per agreement, and the bonds voted are accordingly void.

The second trial of Fritz Schnitzler, accused of violating the prohibition law, again resulted in a hung jury.

Mr. R. H. Roys’ new brick block is looming up nicely.

Mrs. J. C. Fraker and Mrs. J. W. Bell are preparing to move to Arkansas to join their husbands, who are permanently located near Eureka Springs in the saw mill business.
Wednesday, July 13, 1881

3. Col. Stewart began laying the walls of his pork house on Monday.

The County Board has appropriated $300 to assist in building a bridge across east branch of Chisholm creek on line between Sections 35 and 36 in Township 26, Range 1 East. Other county bridge appropriations listed.

Milburn Alexander was over to Iola last week and took a “ride on the rail” from that place to Ft. Scott over the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad.

Mrs. J. C. Fraker and Mrs. J. W. Bell, with their families, left for Eureka Springs, Arkansas, on Tuesday, to join their husbands.

Wednesday, July 20, 1881

3. The coal prospecting shaft being sunk by Mr. C. B. Swan, with Mr. McClees, his foreman, is down 650 feet. Work has been stopped because of striking a strata (sic) of shale, which fills in and makes tubing necessary. Some of the tubing is on hand, and the balance is on the way. When it is here, boring will be begun again. Ten to 12 feet a day is the average. The company expects to sink 1200 feet.

The Council have moved into their new chambers in the Eagle Block. About 20 feet of the front part of the old hall has been partitioned off for their purposes. Back of the council room is a wide hall, separating it from the court room which occupies two-thirds of the old hall. The Council, the School Board, and the Board of Trade will jointly use the front rooms.

Dr. Russell’s residence is about done.

The new Fuller and Schnitzler block (on Douglas avenue) is ready for business. Schnitzler is fitting his room up, the east one, for a lemonade stand.

Wednesday, August 3, 1881

3. The Water Mill, H. W. Lewis and Deffenbaugh Brothers, proprietors, will be in running order in five or six weeks. The building is five stories high with capacity for four run of stone and a storage capacity of 12,000 bushels of wheat.

The new canvas awning lately put up by Charley Lawrence in front of his drug store, is a great improvement in looks over the board sheds heretofore in fashion. We are glad that these sheds are going out of date and that the handsome awnings are replacing them.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Eldorado branch to Augusta was opened last week.
Cleaning out of the old ditch from the Little Arkansas River to Chisholm creek is about completed (i.e., mill race).

The bridge across Chisholm creek, near the Widow Jacob’s farm, three or four miles north of the city, is not crossable.

**Wednesday, August 10, 1881**

3. Mr. L. W. Ong has moved his photograph gallery into the Fuller and Schnitzler block.

H. G. Toler last week moved his grocery store into the Fuller and Schnitzler block.

**Wednesday, August 17, 1881**

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2. Proceedings of city council meetings August 9 and 17.

3. The members of the African Methodist Episcopal church purchased an old frame building on Main street, and attempted to move it on to their lot near the 2nd ward school house. It was so rickety that before they got to their lot, the building fell to pieces. This is bad luck.

**Wednesday, August 24, 1881**

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2. Long letter to *Beacon* from W. C. Woodman about the “dam nuisance,” i.e., objecting to rehabilitating the mill race and diversion of water from the Little Arkansas River. Letter indicates that the previous period of operation of the mill race lasted two years but that it has now lain dormant for two or three years and therefore the previous mill privilege, by law, is null and void (after abandonment for 12 months). Details.

3. The Adams Express Company have moved into the brick building on Douglas avenue next to the Kansas State Bank.

Mr. Oak Davidson is clearing the ground on northeast corner of 3rd and Topeka for erection of his new residence.

**Wednesday, September 7, 1881**

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3. Mr. W. C. Woodman has a large portion of his ample grounds, including his house and stables, supplied with adequate irrigating facilities by means of a windmill, water tank, iron pipes laid underground, and a large supply of hose. Details. The windmill is 45 feet high, and the base of its tower is 12 feet square. Preparations have been made for a bath room here.

Messrs. Edwards and Luling have completed the county and township maps of this county and will have them published by November. They have 550 subscribers in this county.
Every farm in the county with name of the owner is clearly mapped out. Mr. Luling leaves for Harvey County this week. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards will remain in Wichita.

Messrs. Bunnell and Roys, the real estate and insurance firm, have moved into their new rooms in the Roys brick block on Douglas avenue. They moved last week and occupy the northeast room in the second story.

The managers of the two fairs are engaged in preparing for exhibit of the products of the industries of the county.

Our contemporary, The Times, has moved into the Roys’ brick block on Douglas avenue, occupying quarters in the second story back.

Wednesday, September 14, 1881

2. Proceedings of city council meeting September 12th.

3. Mr. Al Bitting and Miss May Eldridge were married Monday afternoon.

The two express companies have shipped upwards of 7000 boxes of peaches from this city up to last Saturday.

Dave Dale and Charley Hatton were in Valley Center on Monday, trying a civil case before the magistrate there.

The city schools opened on Monday.

The proprietors of the Occidental Block are erecting a double deck veranda the entire length of the front of the block, and extending over the sidewalk.

John Alexander came over from Woodson County on Friday. The track is laid several miles into Woodson County and will soon be finished to Yates Center.

Directors of the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society are pushing work along as rapidly as possible on their fair grounds. A large addition has already been completed to their fine arts and floral hall. Numerous stalls and pens are being put up for the horses and cattle. Fair will be September 27-30 (from C. S. Eichholtz, president) at Shuman’s park.

Wednesday, September 21, 1881

2. Announcement of the death of President Garfield -- from dispatch received yesterday (Tuesday).
3. Article reports on the Sedgwick County Fair held last week. Details. This was the ninth Annual fair.

The first number of the *Wichita Daily Leader*, edited and published by Ralph Field, appeared last Saturday.

**Wednesday, October 5, 1881**

3. Shall we have a Telephone Exchange? The Bell Telephone Company offers to come to this city with regular facilities for 25 subscribers. Let them who can use it in any way help to secure this valuable acquisition to our city at once. Mr. Ferrell, manager of the telegraph, is canvassing the city. Let us have an exchange.

Reports on the Arkansas Valley Agricultural fair last week. “The Valley Fair Association has laid the foundation for a prosperous future.”

The Christian church have secured a pastor and will hereafter hold services in Russell Hall.

**Wednesday, October 12, 1881**

3. Dr. Fabrique has made an addition to his house.

Mrs. E. R. Powell, of Augusta, was visiting her daughter, Mrs. Bush, last week. Major Powell was over on Saturday.

Bonds for the Ft. Scott, Wichita and Western (sic) road were carried by a vote of 247 to 13 in Eureka township on the 28th.

The seekers for coal near the cemetery struck a strong vein of salt water at a depth of 745 feet. Last week Mr. M. Heller said they had over 700 feet of this water in the drill hole, as strong as brine for curing meat. Prospecting will be continued to a depth of 1200 to 1300 feet, unless coal is found sooner.

**Wednesday, October 19, 1881**

2. Editorial article discussing Col. Murdock’s alleged opposition to the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad building to Wichita. Details.

3. Long article about actions of the County Commissioners in relation to issuance of Sedgwick County bonds to the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad. Details.

Mr. C. E. Pierson, of Boston, Massachusetts, has purchased an interest in the Occidental Hotel and will run it. Mr. Forrey has given the Occidental a high reputation among the western hotels.
George C. Strong has sold his residence property to B. H. Campbell, of Hutchinson.

The two fair associations will have a stockholders’ meeting on the 29th of October. Propositions will be made for consolidation. We earnestly hope that the two societies will unite. The county cannot sustain two fairs.

**Wednesday, October 26, 1881**

2. Article about alleged wrongdoings of L. N. Woodcock when he was treasurer of the former First National Bank of Wichita. Includes letter from J. C. Fraker, now in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, dated September 26, 1881, declining comment. Details.

3. The well being sunk by the Coal Company is down about 1000 feet.

Curbing and guttering is being put in on the south side of Douglas avenue between Market and Lawrence.

Dr. Elliot is excavating for the foundation of a brick business building on Douglas avenue, near Smith and Keating’s.

Mr. Will Throckmorton has charge of the school in the brick school house north of town, in Wichita township.

Bloomer and Company will build a brick store room, 25 by 50 feet, on Main street, on the lot north and adjoining Viney’s paint shop.

**Wednesday, November 2, 1881**


3. Stockholders of the two fair associations, Sedgwick County Agricultural, Mechanical and Stock Association (William Griffenstein, president) and the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society, will meet again November 12 to further discuss proposition for consolidation.

**Wednesday, November 9, 1881**

2. Article says St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company is proposing to build a road, the Augusta, Newton and Northwestern Railroad, from Augusta to Ellsworth. (Article is taken from the *Augusta Gazette.*) The *Beacon* says this report is not true. Details.

3. The two committees appointed by the Sedgwick County Agricultural and Mechanical Association and the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society on November 4th met and recommended to the two associations the consolidation of the two forming a new corporation to be called the Arkansas Valley District Fair Association.
A reporter last week visited the new packing house of M. Stewart and Company. The building is about 75 feet west of the one which burned two years ago. It is built of patent stone, about 50 by 100 feet. Mr. J. T. McMillen is associated with Mr. Stewart. The packing season has commenced and they have already packed a number of hogs.

Bloomer Brothers new brick is going up fast.

The frame building that was used as a school house in the 1st ward before the erection of the present brick is being placed in a convenient location in East Wichita, across the railroad track. It is in good repair and will be used for school purposes.

Wednesday, November 16, 1881

2. Proceedings of city council meeting on November 14. The Telephone Company ordinance was referred back to the committee of Public Improvements.

3. Poem about Wichita by A. A. Glenn.

Long discussions regarding outcome of the election last week.

Long article criticizing Murdock’s position regarding the Frisco Railroad (but this suggested the Beacon is opposing paying the Sedgwick County bonds to the railroad). Quotes last week’s Eagle: “The work on the cut off from Sedgwick City to Halstead is being rapidly done, and the new line will be ready for the cars in a few days.”

Wednesday, November 23, 1881

2. Proceedings of city council meeting November 17. The Telephone Company of this city were granted permission to erect their poles in the city.

3. Stewart and Company are killing an average of 40 head of hogs a day when the weather is cool. They expect to handle between two and three thousand this season.

“We regret the resignation of Commodore Woodman as a member, and the president, of our railroad company.”

Report of Fair Association meeting on November 12th. The old association wants $9150 for their property and has unpaid debts of $3850. The new association considers this an excessive amount. No decision. Details.

The graders on the Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad are throwing dirt through Greenwood County.

Wednesday, November 30, 1881
3. Proceedings of city council meeting on November 28th: “A petition from J. W. Hartzell, praying for the right to construct and operate a street railway in the city of Wichita, together with an ordinance relating to the same, was referred to the committee on Public Improvements.”

D. M. Dale, Esq., with his bride, came home on Wednesday last, and is stopping at the Douglas Avenue House.

The Water Mills began operation last week. Its capacity is 100 barrels a day. It has new process machinery and is complete in every particular. It cost $28,000.

Board of Trade met Tuesday and discussed the issuing by Sedgwick County of the bonds now due the Frisco Railroad. Details.

The “Merchants Telephone Company,” of Kansas City, have established a central office in this city, locating in the rear of Ferrell’s building, in Temple Block. The “switchboard” now up will accommodate 50 subscribers, and nearly that number of names have been obtained. The company began last week to put up their poles and wires. The instruments and wires will be put in a business house for $50 per year, and in a private house for $30.

Wednesday, December 7, 1881 page 3.

Article about a reporter’s visit to the Hydraulic Flour Mills, Deffenbach (sic), Lewis and Company, proprietors, on Friday. It is a frame, 40 by 56 feet, and three stories high, resting on a stone foundation. Instead of being built over the stream, as was the old mill, it is built near the bank, and the power is conveyed by shafting from the water wheel, 20 to 25 feet distant. The upper foundation walls and gate of the old mill are used, and the water is admitted into what is similar to a canal lock with its two sets of gates. The turbine wheel, 48 inches in diameter, is placed near the lower gate with a pressure of ten feet. The shafting which runs the machinery of the mill is located in the stone basement, at right angles to the main shaft from the water wheel. It runs nearly the entire length of the mill, and does all the work including the elevating. By means of loose pulleys, the power is easily shifted from the machinery. The second story occupies the full length and breadth of the building, the bins of the elevator running from the second story to the attic and the space under them gives large storage room for flour. On this floor are four run of stones, and two patent rollers, and one patent purifier, a packing machine of the latest invention, and other machinery. The second story is filled with bolting machinery, two purifiers, and innumerable and complicated box tubing for the transfer and handling of the flour in the various process of manufacture. The mill has scales, and cleaners which remove even the fuzz on the grain, and prepares it for the stones in perfect condition of purity. The machinery was put in under the supervision of Mr. Ladd, who supervised the reconstruction of the city mills. The elevator contains six bins each with a capacity of 2000 bushels of wheat. The grinding capacity of the mill is about 100 bushels a day. The water power is estimated at 80 horsepower. The scales and dump are admirably combined...
for quick and convenient weighing and unloading. The wagon drives on to the scales, the
load is weighed and dumped, and the empty wagon re-weighed without moving.

Mr. Oak Davidson is making an addition to his house on corner of Topeka and 3rd.

The extension of 1st street, east to the Hydraulic mill, is being graded and culverted. The
mill company are paying for part of the work.

**Wednesday, December 14, 1881**

3. The party of the season was given at Moser’s Hill, by Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Moser, last
Monday night.

Mr. Hartzell, of Topeka, came down Sunday night.

**Wednesday, December 21, 1881**

2. Proceedings of city council meeting on December 15th. No mention of street railway.

3. Report of funeral of Mike Meagher on Tuesday. Details.

The city street railway ordinance was passed at the last meeting of the council. The Mayor
withholds his signature until the company gets its charter. It will be then signed and
published.

The county board should take some radical action in regard to the Douglas avenue bridge,
which is in poor condition. Old settlers well remember when there was no bridge, what
an obstruction to free intercourse from the West side this river was during high water and
when partially frozen over in the winter.

**Wednesday, December 28, 1881**

2. Official publication of Ordinance 257, granting street railway franchise to the Wichita City
Railway Company. Also acceptance of the Ordinance by the Company on December 22,
signed by J. M. Steele, President, and Kos Harris, Secretary (acceptance says the
Ordinance was passed by council on December 12).