Tihen Notes from 1898 Wichita Beacon

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 1898 WICHITA BEACON

Wichita Beacon
Saturday, January 1, 1898
page 5.
Real estate transfer: O. G. Nims to City of Wichita, Reserve A, Riverside addition; Riverside Park except 12½ acres; that part of southeast quarter, Section 18, Township 27, Range 1 East laying south of 11th street and north of the river. $7,960.

Monday, January 3, 1898
page 5.
The house movers have been encouraged by the good weather of the last few weeks and quite a number of vacant suburban houses are being moved to more central sites.

Tuesday, January 4, 1898
page 5.
Letter to street car company employees saying that the Wichita Railway, Light and Power Company (of Mr. Church) does not own or control the Wichita street railway system. It was sold by Mr. Batchelder to W. F. Ellis, of Boston, who still owns it. Details (“Caused Comment”).

Wednesday, January 5, 1898
page 5.
A force of men is clearing out trees and debris from the new city park. Details.

Thursday, January 6, 1898
page 5.
Nearly 20 of the new desk telephones have been placed in Wichita business houses within the past three months as replacement for the old wall telephones. List.

Saturday, January 8, 1898
page 5.
Copy of letter by Judge D. M. Dale declining a proposal to have his name submitted for position of associate justice of Kansas supreme court (“A Dignified Bench”).
Wednesday, January 12, 1898
page 5. The Scheetz building will be ready for occupancy within three weeks.

Monday, January 17, 1898
page 5. Report received here Saturday of sudden death of former Wichitan, Logan Carlisle, now of New York. He and his brother, W. K. Carlisle, were in Wichita during the boom and were visited here by their father, John G. Carlisle, who was Speaker of the House in Washington. They left Wichita. W. K. going to Chicago and Logan to Washington, where he was assistant secretary of the treasury before going to New York. Was age 37. Further biography on January 19, page five.

Saturday, January 22, 1898
page 5. Market Street is in a worse condition than any other paved street in the city. The unpaved space between the old street railway tracks is partially responsible for the mud.

Monday, January 24, 1898
page 5. New way cars have been purchased by the Midland for all their freights out of Wichita.

Tuesday, January 25, 1898
page 5. Report of city council meeting yesterday. Mr. W. Q. Church stated that he had yesterday received a dispatch from his brother in which he had stated that everything was “OK” and that they hoped to commence rebuilding the road next week.

Cash Henderson today closed a deal which will give him possession for five years of the fine Finlay Ross building on Main Street. Mayor Ross did not announce his plans.

Wednesday, January 26, 1898
page 5. Dr. J. T. (sic — probably J. G.) Dorsey removed to the building adjoining the Bank of Commerce on west Douglas Avenue today. He has purchased the building and fitted up an office for himself on the second floor.

Thursday, January 27, 1898
page 5. Work on the park boulevard roads will probably be commenced Monday.

County treasurer is making out certificates for past due taxes to turn over to the sheriff for forced collection. One of the delinquents is the Wichita Street Railway Company, for $2,800. Local managers of the street railway do not seem inclined to get out of paying the tax, but they have raised the question as to whether the Batchelder Company or the
Ellis Company ought to pay the taxes. Further details (“So It Is Paid”).

Saturday, January 29, 1898
5. Discussion of suggestion of the Old Settlers to have an arch erected at the Oak street entrance to Riverside Park.

Monday, January 31, 1898
5. Colonel H. W. Lewis relates the story of how he named the private bank he opened in Wichita on November 1, 1876, as the Farmers and Merchants’ Bank. The bank later became the Kansas National Bank in 1882. Details.

8. Street railway workmen have removed the old street car rails on Riverside.

J. Oak Davidson has left for a business trip to Pittsburgh, Pa.

Tuesday, February 1, 1898
5. Work on the boulevard in the new City park was formally begun this morning with Mayor Ross throwing the first shovel of dirt. Details.

The Wichita Camera Club was recently organized with a membership of over 40. Permanent quarters have been secured in the City Building.

7. Regular publication of railroad time tables — lists Missouri Pacific, Wichita and Western, St. Louis and San Francisco, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, Atlantic and San Francisco, Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf, Kansas Midland, Hutchinson and Southern.

Thursday, February 3, 1898
5. Report that Herman and Hess yesterday purchased the Bitting Brothers clothing house for $17,836. Bitting Brothers have been in business here just 20 years. Sam Hess and his partner came here in August 1884 and opened their business in one of the rooms of the Manhattan Hotel building six years later they moved to their present location at 406 East Douglas. Details.

Article about claim of Thornton Sergeant on 12 acres in the western part of Griffenstein Park for which a perfect title could not be given when it was purchased by the city. Details (“Is It A Hold-Up?).

The recently completed city directory is to contain the names of the residents over 16 years of age.

Friday, February 4, 1898
Contracts for remodeling the YMCA building for the new Masonic Temple were let yesterday and work is to be completed by April 15. W. H. Sternberg has the carpenter and plaster contract for $5,000. Details.

Street railway workmen are putting in a number of new posts on the Topeka Avenue line and are relaying several switches.

Saturday, February 5, 1898

Article discusses possible locations of new Riverside street car line. “The company is tearing up the old track in Riverside so as to improve the appearance of the new park and to clear the boulevard.” Details (“Park Railways”).

Tuesday, February 8, 1898

Article about J. O. Davidson’s successfully investment in oil wells near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Details.

Wednesday, February 9, 1898

Article reports a proposed sale of Garfield University building by Mr. Edgar Harding, of Boston, to Mr. J. M. Davis, of St. Louis, who would donate it to the Friends’ Church if they would agree to maintain a school there. ¶ Mr. Davis is the gentlemen who had the contract for the photographic art work of the World’s Fair and made a great deal of money out of the many World’s Fair albums that were produced. However he was a rich man before undertaking this work, and it was his two sisters, who several years ago, intended to endow the proposed John Bright university in Wichita with $20,000 each.

Saturday, February 12, 1898

W. Q. Church, superintendent of the Wichita Railway and Electric Light Company, yesterday received a dispatch from his brother, H. B. Church, in New York, stating that the bond deal had been closed and that active operations will commence here next week. This means that the new road has been bonded and that the money is now ready to build it. Details.

Tuesday, February 15, 1898

Long article about the proposal of Mr. Davis to buy Garfield University and 300 lots belonging to it and turn it over to the Friends church for a university if the citizens of Wichita would contribute 350 additional lots to the cause. Details.
5. Work on the City park, delayed for several days by high water, was resumed today. A temporary bridge has been erected across the Little river, just below the J. O. Davidson place, and a large amount of dirt is being brought across the river to bring the boulevard on the south side up to grade. Sixteen teams are doing the work.

Saturday, February 19, 1898

5. Mrs. Dr. H. B. Tihen and Master Henry Tihen, of Andale, are for a few days the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Rauch of North Lawrence avenue.

Thursday, February 24, 1898

5. Mr. Fred Sweet, for many years the manager of the Wichita street car line, has been secured to manage the street railroads of Charleston, West Virginia. He will have a host of friends in this city.

Friday, February 25, 1898

5. A Valley Center man bought a discarded street car of the local street railway company several days ago. He paid five dollars for it.

A new bishop for the diocese of Concordia will be elected next week at Concordia. Father Tihen, of Wichita is beyond doubt the favorite of the people, but unfortunately he is not financially able to accept the dignity. It being a poor diocese, the bishop who controls it must of necessity have quite a bank account of his own (from *Kansas City Times*).

Monday, February 28, 1898

5. Report of meeting last Saturday to discuss possibility of extending the Kansas Midland railroad southeast Wichita to Denison, Texas. Included Mayor Ross, Charles Aylesbury, J. O. Davidson, T. G. Fitch, etc. Details.

Excavation for the lake in the center of the old race track in the city park has reached a depth of over six feet.

Tuesday, March 1, 1898

5. Report of city council meeting yesterday Mayor Ross had a letter from the officials of the new street railway company, stating that they would commence work in a few days. He stated he supposed they would have another similar letter ready for the next meeting in two weeks.

Wednesday, March 2, 1898

5. Another long article discussing proposal to extend the Kansas Midland 290 miles southeast
to connect with the Missouri, Kansas and Topeka Railroad at Denison, Texas and to tap the coal fields of southeast Oklahoma. Estimated that the line could be built for $7,800 per mile. Details.

Friday, March 4, 1898
5.

The old Douglas Avenue house is now known as the Kay City hotel. The new proprietor is from Augusta.

The brick building on the corner of Pine and Water streets has been torn down and removed. An adjoining brick stall stands there.

Tuesday, March 8, 1898
5.

Report of school board meeting yesterday. Details.

W. A. Polk has the foundation finished for his new brick building just north of the Occidental Hotel.

Wednesday, March 9, 1898
5.

Foreclosure case of the Mercantile Trust Company of New York against the Kansas Midland railroad for $1,700,000 was heard in Federal court in Wichita today by Judge Amos M. Thayer of the Eighth Judicial Circuit and the decree of foreclosure was granted. Details.

Charles W. Bitting, president, and Thomas G. Fitch, secretary, have called a meeting of the stockholders of the Auditorium March 22 to elect a new directory to consider the completion of the Auditorium, to pay the indebtedness, and the disposal of the property.

Thursday, March 10, 1898
5.

The park commissioners have secured a buffalo named Pat to put in the city park and are negotiating for a second, to be named, Biddy. They would not reveal the source but said it did not cost the taxpayers anything.

Grounds have been secured for an athletic park in the block between Gilbert and Morris streets nine blocks south of Douglas avenue on Main street. The ground is owned by a number of persons, but year leases have been obtained from all of them, and some with options for renewal. Work will be rapidly pushed on the baseball diamond and enclosure, the latter being 450 feet long, 320 feet wide, and eight feet in height. A grand stand with capacity of 1,500 will be finished in time for opening of the ball season the first week in April. ¶ A five lap bicycle track is to be constructed outside the baseball diamond and the street railway company has agreed to install 25 arc lights so that night races can be held. The street car company will offer a six minute service to the park and will probably build
a special switch so that the traffic can be better cared for.

Judge Williams in Federal Court today appointed a receiver for the fine M. W. Levy residences at northeast corner of 1st and Topeka. Major Ewing secured a mortgage on the property for the Wichita National Bank after it suspended and it was sold to Mr. Frazier. It was said that Mr. Levy never paid any tax on the property and that it would be subject to tax deed next September. It is renting for $35 per month and Judge Williams appointed as receiver Dean Gordon, secretary of the Commercial Club, which occupies the building. Details.

Friday, March 11, 1898

The old street car company yesterday paid their tax that has been due so long and that many people have been saying never would be paid.

Wednesday, March 16, 1898

A. G. Mueller, of Colwich, will soon open up an undertaking establishment in Wichita.

Friday, March 18, 1898

Judge Williams today changed his mind about appointing a receiver for the M. W. Levy home. He was told that the assets of the Wichita National Bank had been sold to Mr. Frazier, that the creditors of the bank were not interested, and therefore decided to let Mr. Frazier and Mr. Levy fight it out in their own way.


Saturday, March 19, 1898

There are just two vacant buildings of any kind between Main Street and the depots on Douglas now.

Wednesday, March 23, 1898

Report that the papers have been received transferring the Garfield University building to James M. Davis, the Quaker philanthropist. He obtained it for $50,000 from Mr. Harding, of Boston, who had paid nearly $125,000 for it. ¶ The matter was 1st placed before the business men of Wichita at a meeting held February 14, in Sedgwick Music Hall. The local committee was charged with obtaining donation of 300 lots, of which 270 deeds have now been secured and the remainder are in sight. ¶ The north wing was that used by the old University and it will be repaired and will be ample for use this September by up to 500 pupils. It is thought Mr. Davis intends to complete the south wing. He is a very wealthy man who lives in St. Louis but has his business interests largely in Greater New York.

**Thursday, March 24, 1898**

5. Ad of Cash Henderson, who opened his new location yesterday at 119-121 North Main.

What is the new street car company going to do is the question now asked every day. Some city officials claim that the new company has not sold its bonds and can not therefore build the road before their charter expires May 1. H. C. Ellis, son of W. F. Ellis, who owns the present line, said today he absolutely knew the bonds were sold.

**Monday, March 28, 1898**

8. The old motor barn on the Missouri Pacific between 13th and 14th Streets is being torn down and the material will be used by one of the ice plants.

A chapel, 43 by 22 feet, is being added to the north end of St. Francis Hospital. The material will be brick and stone. N. Hartle is doing the work.

**Tuesday, March 29, 1898**

5. The new city directory is now being distributed to subscribers.

**Thursday, March 31, 1898**

8. The deed for Garfield University went on record last evening, and the lots that were donated are being turned over to B. F. McLean.

The golf club at Fairmount college is believed to be the only regularly organized club of that kind west of St. Louis.

**Sunday, April 3, 1898**

(extra)

2. Long article about the development of the city parks and the need for the city to obtain Griswold Park to complete the deal (“The Great Park”). Details.

5. *Beacon* ad says this is the first Sunday afternoon daily ever published this side of the Missouri river.

**Monday, April 4, 1898**

5. The officials at street car headquarters have no news as to when work will commence on the new road.
The contract will be let for the necessary changes this week to prepare the Martinson Block on the West Side for occupation by the Wichita Hospital.

Thursday, April 7, 1898

2. George Parham’s launches for the Little Arkansas river arrived last night. They weight 400 pounds each and will be named Muz and Vick.

The Beacon printed 6,000 papers yesterday, breaking all previous records.

5. Detailed description of the new Cash Henderson store location in the three story building recently occupied by Finlay Ross.

Friday, April 8, 1898

5. Another article discussing possibility of extending the Midland railroad south from Wichita towards the gulf.

Saturday, April 9, 1898


6. The new Scottish Rite temple is rapidly nearing completion.

Monday, April 11, 1898

5. Tomorrow is Arbor Day, with 351 trees to be planted in the new city parks by Wichita’s school children. Details.

Tuesday, April 12, 1898

5. Report of meeting yesterday of new city council. Mayor Ross reported the park boulevard is about completed so far as moving earth from the bed of the river is concerned.

Wednesday, April 13, 1898

5. The question is now asked, in case the street railway fails to build its new road as agreed, whether it will have any franchise or not.

Friday, April 15, 1898

5. Report of case in Judge Dale’s court of Hinsdale Savings bank, of New Hampshire, against the Westerly Savings bank, of Rhode Island, relating to J. O. Davidson and assets of the
Citizens’ bank of Wichita. Details. (“A Fine Point”). Says A. T. Bachelder (sic) was attorney for the Keene Five Cents Savings bank, Cheshire Provident Institution, Nashua Savings bank, and the Keene Guarantee Savings bank, all of which were stockholders in the Citizens’ bank.

Saturday, April 16, 1898

5. The Elks have rented the second floor of the Scheetz building.

8. Long article discussing the street railway situation and saying the company’s franchise may not be valid, etc. Details (“Contract Illegal”).

Tuesday, April 19, 1898

5. Another article discussing the street car situation. Says the old line is now paying running expenses, whereas for several years before this, it was running behind and money had to be sent from the East every month to pay running expenses. Details. (“Money Is Tight”).

The old brick residence at corner of 12th and Lawrence, known as the Burnell residence, is being torn down and will be replaced by two fine residences being built by W. S. Eno.

Work has been commenced on the new cement walk around the Court House square.

The old Woodman house on North Waco has been fixed up, and several nice houses have built on the grounds.

Wednesday, April 27, 1898

8. The street railway track on Topeka avenue is being repaired and put in better condition. New ties are being put in where needed.

One car load of oak piling for the city park bridges was received yesterday. Work will be commenced on the bridge connecting Riverside and Griswold park next Monday.

W. Q. Church expects that his brother, H. B. Church, of Boston, will be in Wichita next week.

George O. Merriman, of Manchester, Michigan, is in the city looking after his property interests here.

Some people are complaining that the Missouri Pacific obstructs Main street at the 12th street crossing unnecessarily with their trains and switch engines. The trains are made up at that point.

Thursday, April 28, 1898
Appraisers were appointed today to appraise property for the opening of 9th Street to the new city park.

**Wednesday, May 4, 1898**
Article describes in detail the new Scottish Rite Temple (in old YMCA building).

**Monday, May 9, 1898**
The rain today dripped through some of the old street cars and people moved along on the seats to find a dry place.

**Tuesday, May 10, 1898**
Long article describes in detail the remodeling of the old Martinson Block to change it into the new Wichita Hospital building. To be ready about July 1st.

City council ordered street car company to move their iron rails from Oak street and ruled that the company had forfeited the franchise given it last year.

The YMCA will soon occupy rooms in the building at 213 North Main. In the meantime their goods and property are stored in the old wholesale grocery building on South Market.

The directors of the Wichita University have tendered their fine building, to the synod of the Reformed Church for an orphans’ home.

**Wednesday, May 11, 1898**
Work was commercial this morning on the new bridge connecting Riverside and Griffenstein parks. The dam on Central avenue, will be put in next.

**Thursday, May 12, 1898**
Thomas G. Fitch was commissioned yesterday as Colonel of the 21st regiment. ¶ He was born in Bristol, Maine, April 9, 1861, taken to Chicago at age four and lived there until 1871, going then to Eldorado, Kansas. He visited Wichita in 1876 but soon returned to Chicago. Graduated from law school at Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1882 and practiced law in Chicago until 1886, when he came to Wichita. ¶ His commission is made possible by a leave of absence as postmaster granted by the department.

**Friday, May 13, 1898**
The street car company refuses to be downed and is still trying to get money to build the
new line.

Report of meeting of the Citizens Ice company yesterday to plan on building a new ice plant to compete with the “ice trust” of the Arctic Ice company. Details.

Saturday, May 14, 1898
page 5.
The bridge connecting the new city parks will be a plain pile bridge and will have a neat appearance.

The boiler house in the rear of the electric power house, corner of 3rd and Wichita streets, is being torn down and removed.

Wednesday, May 18, 1898
page 5.
Report of another meeting yesterday in the movement to build a new citizens’ ice plant. Details.

Thursday, May 19, 1898
page 5.
The meeting of Friends today in Lawrence formally accepted the gift of Garfield university and agreed to raise an endowment of $50,000. Details.

The street car company were unable to take care of the crowd last night, and a poor service is given today. This is owing to a break of the large dynamo, and it cannot be repaired before Saturday. The machinery now in use does not furnish sufficient power to run all the cars.

Saturday, May 21, 1898
page 5.
Article suggesting that money is about two-thirds raised for the building of a new street railway in Wichita. Details (“Faith Is Strong”).

The Albert Pike Lodge Number 303, A. F. and A. M. held its first meeting in the new Scottish Rite Cathedral last night. Details.

Tuesday, May 24, 1898
page 5.
Article discussing need for a new street car line. Says the Church company concedes that its charter has been forfeited, but it has not yet thrown up its hands. J. H. Gates of Chicago, who had the contract to build the new line, is now in consultation with H. B. Church, in Boston, to try to comply with the demands of the city council and then ask for a new charter. Details.

Wednesday, May 25, 1898
5. The new brick building belonging to W. A. Polk, north of the Occidental Hotel, is now completed and the new Sons of Herman organization have leased the entire second story.

Friday, May 27, 1898


Monday, May 30, 1898

5. Report of the great improvement in appearance of the new city parks and large crowds there yesterday. The Griffenstein and Riverside parks are not yet connected by bridge, but the bridge is expected to be completed this week. There is still much expression of desire for the city also to obtain Griswold park. Details.

Thursday, June 2, 1898

5. Who is going to build Wichita’s new street railway, is the question being asked every day. ¶ There is no doubt of the fact that a majority of the City Council, as well as a number of business men, feel charitably included toward what is called the Church company. It fell down on its first charter, but it is conceded that conditions were not favorable to raise large amounts of money since it became evident that this county must engage in a war with Spain. Details.

Tuesday, June 7, 1898

5. Since the YMCA building passed into the hands of the Masons, that society has had no home, although its property has been stored in the old wholesale grocery building on South Market. Today the YMCA commenced moving their property into the Valley Block, 213-215 North Main, the second floor of which is to be their new home. Details.

Monday, June 13, 1898

5. The new bridge connecting Riverside and Griffenstein parks is nearly completed. Just as soon as some dirt is filled in the approaches it will be ready for use. ¶ Men are working today filling up the large excavation in the center of the half mile track in Riverside, and it is nearly completed. The boulevard from Oak street south is being leveled with the big city scraper today, and a driveway connecting the half-mile track is fast being completed. ¶ Article describes flower beds and trees planted in the park.

Tuesday, June 14, 1898

5. City council yesterday discussed street lighting and whether this should be tied in with a new street railway or not. No action. Details.
Wednesday, June 15, 1898
page 5.
Report of death this morning on South 4th avenue of “Cyclone,” (real name Alice Wall), at age 38, notorious figure of Wichita’s demi-monde since she came here 18 years ago Missouri. She came of a highly respectable Missouri family, but her life in Wichita was highly sensational. For a long time she has been a county charge and will be buried at county expense except for a contribution from other South 4th avenue residents. Details.

Thursday, June 16, 1898
page 5.
The new residence of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fuller, at 1st and Lawrence, is nearly enclosed.

Monday, June 20, 1898
page 5.
Judge Dale is excavating a fish pond on his property on North Waco.

Wednesday, June 22, 1898
page 5.
Directors of the Masonic Home yesterday decided to put in a new steam heating plant and to add a wide veranda around the building. They also purchased a large plot in Maple Grove cemetery.

Thursday, June 23, 1898
page 8.
A committee of the Commercial club (named) has been appointed to look into the possibilities for obtaining a good street car system for Wichita. Details. (J. O. Davidson is on committee).

Friday, June 24, 1898
page 5.
Article says three groups are interested in obtaining franchise to build a new street car line in Wichita. (1) The Church company which asks for a four months extension of time; (2) The Wichita Gas, Electric Light and Power company represented by Mr. Ward, which wants a contract to light the city first; and (3) a Philadelphia company, which wants a five year contract to light the city and a 20 year franchise for the street railways. Details.

Saturday, June 25, 1898
page 5.
Professor Edmond Stanley, of Lawrence, was yesterday elected president of the new Friends National University. Mrs. Stanley is a sister of Mr. Davis, the principal benefactor of the university. Details.

Monday, June 27, 1898
page 5.
The new city park will be formally opened on July 4.
Tuesday, June 28, 1898
page 5.
Report of city council meeting yesterday. Further discussion of street railway question. The Church company has offered to give a $10,000 bond if they are given more time to build the line, etc. Details. (“City Council”).

Wednesday, June 29, 1898
page 5.
The new long distance telephone line from Kingman to Wichita is completed but not yet ready for use. Two other lines will be put in to connect with Ark City and Wellington, and this will be followed by a branch line to Conway Springs.

Saturday, July 2, 1898
page 5.
The old Wichita wholesale grocery building on South Market is being put in shape for occupancy by the Fletcher Floyd Candy company.

 8.
Article saying the present street car line is at least tolerable, employs 36 men, and pays them $1,400 a month and is paying its expenses. Details.

Monday, July 4, 1898
page 5.
Description of the improvements in the new city parks. The new drive in Griffenstein park has just been completed and the Griffenstein portion of the new park was officially opened Saturday night. Details (“Riverside Park”).

Wednesday, July 6, 1898
page 5.
Long article giving Colonel Lewis’ view of the history of the Sullivan dam, mill race, etc. (“Col. Lewis Tells”).

Friday, July 8, 1898
page 2.
Article gives J. O. Davidson’s view of the old Wichita boom period (“Historical”).

Saturday, July 9, 1898
page 2.
Article says the city will probably file suit for the $10,000 bond given by the Church company when its franchise to build new street railway was granted August 15, 1897 and then forfeited when the line had not been built by May 1, 1898. Details.

 5.
Note says Will Carlisle died a few days ago at the home of his father, John G. Carlisle, in New York. His brother, Logan, had died not long ago.

Tuesday, July 12, 1898
City council yesterday discussed notice from the Church company that it was ready to deposit $10,000 forfeit money in Wichita banks to guarantee building of the new street railway.

Friday, July 15, 1898

A new floor has been laid in electric car number 12. It is the intention of the street car company to make the old cars last until the new line is built.

Tuesday, July 19, 1898

Report of city council meeting yesterday. Mr. Scott, of St. Louis, owner of nearly all the stock of the Wichita Gas, Electric Light and Power company proposed to build and operate 15 miles of street railway if he was given a franchise and ten year contract to light the streets, but he refused to give a rate schedule for private electric users, so no action taken. ¶ The Church company claim they will have an engineer here tomorrow to report to Boston capitalists who propose to provide the money to build the new street railway.

Thursday, July 21, 1898

Long article reporting court hearing of Mrs. Steinbuchel’s injunction suit against the city to prevent building of the Central avenue dam on grounds it would flood some of the Steinbuchel (formerly Stackman) land and damage her property and cause loss to her heirs. Details.

Friday, July 22, 1898

Long article about the new Wichita Hospital location in the old Martinson Block, which will soon be ready for occupancy. Details.

8. The representative of the Boston capitalists who propose to furnish the Church company the money with which to build a new electric plant and street railway, is now here looking over the city.

The long distance telephone line to Kingman is completed and now in working order.

Monday, July 25, 1898

The Central avenue dam on the Little River was completed Saturday night and the river is now filled with water to 13th Street with the three foot rise in the water level. Steinbuchel’s hog pen down in the old riverbed is under water, but he will be compensated by the city for all damage. Details.

Tuesday, July 26, 1898
Another article about the new Central avenue dam with details. It is about four feet high instead of three feet and some people think this is too high.

Wednesday, July 27, 1898

Report of city council meeting yesterday. Mayor’s salary was increased from $600 to $1,000 per year, but Mayor Ross refused to accept the increase and said he would donate it to the park fund. Letter received Mr. Herbert B. Church about his company’s desire to proceed with building of new street railway line. Details. Company is willing to deposit $10,000 in forfeit money if the previous $10,000 surety bond is cancelled.

Friday, July 29, 1898

Article about the 12th Street swimming hole on the Little River. Details.

Saturday, July 30, 1898


Monday, August 1, 1898

People living at Fairmount should be very patient people. Some days the street railway company sends but one car out. No car reached there Sunday until in the afternoon.

Tuesday, August 2, 1898

Report of excursion ride last night on one of George R. Parham’s new naphtha launches, the Eagle and the Beacon, on Little river.

Report of school board meeting yesterday. Details.

Wednesday, August 3, 1898

Long article discusses meeting of city officials and business men last night to consider the street railway franchise proposals. Details (“Street Railway”).

Thursday, August 4, 1898

Letter from L. W. Clapp restating his position on the street railway franchise (“Timely Truths”).

Monday, August 8, 1898
5. Long article discussing the street railway franchise proposals, surety bonds, etc. Details. Copy of letter from Herbert B. Church (“The Mayor and Council Warned”) (“Will Satisfy Any Bank”). Also article critical of Mr. Batchelder and the old street railway company.

Tuesday, August 9, 1898
5. Mr. H. B. Church arrived in Wichita last night to discuss street railway franchise with city council. Details. (“Looks Favorable”).

Wednesday, August 10, 1898
5. Another long article reporting negotiations of H. B. Church with city officials. Details. (“Sealed Deposit”).

Thursday, August 11, 1898
5. Article about Mr. George Parham’s two new little naphtha launches on Little River in Riverside Park. They are in service from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. daily and the landing place is at the east end of the Oak Street bridge. Price for 20 to 30 minute ride from Oak street to the dam is ten cents or the full ride from Oak Street to the dam, then up to 12th Street and return to Oak Street, is 25¢ and takes considerably over an hour.

Friday, August 12, 1898
5. J. W. O’Neill, manager of the Topeka water works, and formerly superintendent of the street railway here, is in the city, the guest of Judge Haymaker.

6. Another article on negotiations for the new street railway. Mr. Church estimates the cost of necessary street materials for twenty miles of line as:

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<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rails</td>
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<td>Ties</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New cars</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper wire</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poles</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power plant</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(“Street Railway”).
People complain that the 17th Street bridge is unsafe to walk across.

**Saturday, August 13, 1898**

Another article about negotiations with Mr. Church (“Waiting For Cash”).

**Tuesday, August 16, 1898**

Mr. Church has failed to produce an acceptable $10,000 deposit, and Mayor Ross is about fed up with his delay, etc. Long article with details (“Exit Church”).

There are persistent rumors that the Frisco is again going to absorb the Kansas Midland railway. They were formerly operated together but have been separated since July 1, 1897. It is now said the Frisco will assume control of the Midland the first of next month.

The old Wichita Hospital on South 4th avenue is now empty and the patients have been moved to the new location.

**Thursday, August 18, 1898**

The gas company is having all the gas lights taken out and will pile them away for future reference. The city is now entirely without gas street lights, and hardly misses them.

**Saturday, August 20, 1898**

The school board is concerned about the cost of maintaining the school at Burton. There are eight families living at Burton, mainly because they can get houses there without paying rent. There are 26 scholars with probable school attendance of 20. Details.

**Monday, August 22, 1898**

Another report about the street railway forfeit money, saying that a representative of the Keene syndicate, owners of the present street railway, is coming here with the money and will help the Church people out. Details. (“A Keene Man”).

Street cars on North Main had a hard time last week: they jumped the track with startling regularity.

**Tuesday, August 23, 1898**

City council yesterday adopted ordinance declaring that franchise of both the old Keene-Batchelder group and the later Church group will be forfeited if the required $10,000 deposit is not made within two weeks, and that if not they will be required to removed all the old rails, ties, cars, etc., from the streets of Wichita (“They Will Dump”).
Thursday, August 25, 1898
page 5.
Joseph B. McElroy, of McCartney-McElroy and Company, of New York is in Wichita looking over the costs of constructing a street railway here for Hirsh Brothers, of New York and Chicago. His company is in the business of building street car lines and will report back to Hirsh Brothers. Details.

Friday, August 26, 1898
page 5.
Contract for the Masonic Home’s new building between the home and dormitory has been let to W. H. Sternberg. To be two stories, of stone, and cost $7,500. Details.

6. Mrs. Oak Davidson gives a bathing party tonight.

Saturday, August 27, 1898
page 6.
The 17th street bridge is now being repaired and fixed up for wagon travel. The bridge is seldom used, but a petition with many signatures was presented and it was decided to fix it up. It is used mainly by children who cross it to go to school.

Monday, August 29, 1898
page 5.
The Kansas National Bank has purchased the assets of the Sedgwick County Bank and the latter was consolidated into the Kansas National this morning. J. O. Davidson is president of the Kansas National. Officers and directors listed. Details.

Faculty members of the new Friends University listed.

Tuesday, August 30, 1898
page 5.
The Fletcher-Floyd Candy company has begun operations in the old building of the Wichita Wholesale Grocery company at 217-19-21-23 South Market. Details.

6. Article about the beauty of the Riverside parks and the Little river since dam was completed. Building of the proposed bridge between Griswold and Riverside parks has been delayed because the city has not yet purchased Griswold park. ¶ The waterworks company have the material ready to repair the bridge just above the dam. It is generally supposed the bridge belongs to the city, but it was put there by the waterworks company when the plant was first moved to Lane’s island and the company has kept it up and allowed the public to use it.

Wednesday, August 31, 1898
page 5.
Another long article on complications regarding the street railway proposals and the necessary bond to insure construction. Details (“Another Bank”).
The management of the Kansas Midland railroad will change tomorrow. It will cease its existence as an independent road and will be operated by the St. Louis — San Francisco Railway company. ¶ The general offices of the Midland here will be closed and the work transferred to the Frisco general offices in St. Louis. Mr. Herman, who has been general manager of the Midland will continue to represent the receiver here and will remain here until fall. ¶ No one knows just what the arrangement for the use of the Midland track here will be, but a Frisco official says there is no doubt the Midland depot will be abandoned for a time at least. He says also that he Frisco will probably use the Midland round house and perhaps the freight depot for city business. Another railroad man says the Midland freights will run from the Midland depot, although all business will be done at the union depot.

Thursday, September 1, 1898
page 6. The Frisco this morning absorbed the Kansas Midland and things have changed to suit the new arrangements. The fright trains leave on the Midland tracks, running from the Midland depot. The passenger trains run to the Union depot.

Saturday, September 3, 1898
page 6. Mrs. Oak Davidson entertained the Arkansas Floaters Thursday evening. The evening was spent in bathing, and afterwards an informal dance was held.

Two old frame buildings have been removed 606 East Douglas and a brick building is being erected in their place.

Monday, September 5, 1898
page 5. The Portsmouth Savings Institution, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, which owns the Metropole Hotel in Wichita, has determined to re-open the hotel. It will be repainted and redecorated.

Monday, September 12, 1898
page 5. There is nothing new in the street railway matter. H. B. Church will arrive here this afternoon with a Chicago capitalist and may submit another proposal. Details.

Tuesday, September 13, 1898
page 5. Mr. Church was accompanied at city council meeting yesterday by Joseph O. Burdett, of Boston, who deposited $10,000 in cash with the city clerk to insure building of the new street railway and electric power plant. Whereupon the city council passed resolution that the Wichita Railway, Light and Power Company be given a new franchise allowing until April 1, 1899 for completion of the new street railway. Details (“Ten Large Bills”).
Wednesday, September 14, 1898

5. Three people were killed when a Rock Island passenger train struck a transfer wagon at the Douglas avenue crossing last evening.

6. City council today signed a new electric light and street railway franchise providing that work shall commence within 30 days after acceptance of the charter and be completed by April 1 next. Details.

Friday, September 16, 1898

6. The street car company will give a seven minute service from Main and Douglas during the fair next week.

Saturday, September 17, 1898

5. Doctors J. W. Shultz and S. P. Thomas have purchased the Burleigh property just north of St. Francis hospital and will establish a hospital there.

Tuesday, September 20, 1898


Note saying that ladies of the city are moving to form an organization to take care of the old cemetery, which is being neglected, whereas all the care seems to be lavished on the new cemetery (i.e. e. Maple Grove).

Wednesday, September 21, 1898

5. Report of the opening of Friends’ Univ. this morning. Details.

Thursday, September 22, 1898

5. The water works company has nearly completed its new bridge over the Little river on west Central avenue. Superintendent Fred Aley wrote the company some time ago about Wichita’s park improvements and the need to improve the appearance of the old bridge to keep up. The company instead ordered him to put in a new bridge at once. The old bridge was removed and a new one built. It is of substantial oak lumber, and iron banisters will be put up and the whole structure painted white. ¶ The bridge is inside the city limits, but the water works company built it at its own expense because one of their water mains is laid on it. This, however, does not keep the public from using the bridge. The company has also cleared the brush off Lane’s island, on which the water works are situated, and the ground has been planted to fruit and ornamental trees.

Friday, September 23, 1898
The balloon ascension and parachute jump at the fair last evening was a very pretty one.

The street car company yesterday hauled 7,000 people to the fair grounds on paid fares and 3,000 on transfers, making in all 10,000 people. The company could not, of course, handle all the passengers, and many rode in the transfer wagons. Considering the condition of the line, the company was lucky. They did not have an accident or a break down during the day. Supt. Church says the company got $1,000 out of the fair. About 5,000 people rode on the cars today. During Bryan day last year the company carried about 16,000 people to the fair grounds, but they had six more cars then than now. Mr. Church thinks that if they had the new line and new cars, the fares yesterday would have been at least 20,000.

Saturday, September 24, 1898

Mr. David Leahy has accepted the position of managing editor of the Beacon and has resigned his position with the Kansas City Times. Details and long biography.

Monday, September 26, 1898

City council is no longer disturbed about the street railway matter since the City Treasurer has received the $10,000 cash deposit from the company. They are satisfied the new line will be built, because J. O. Davidson’s syndicate stands ready to pay Mr. Church a good round sum for his franchise if he is unable to finish the line.

City’s controversy with Mr. Sullivan over payments for upkeep of Sullivan’s dam expected to come before city council tonight. Details.

The First Baptist Church was re-dedicated to the church yesterday. For a long time the congregation has been without a home and has held meetings in various places around town. Because of debt the building was sold to Scottish Rite masons for $10,000, and it has now been repurchased for $4,000. Details.

The alleged street cars have been put back on their regular runs after having been used to haul the crowds to and from the fair grounds.

Tuesday, September 27, 1898

Some discussion of Sullivan’s dam at city council meeting yesterday. Details.

Wednesday, September 28, 1898

Article says there’s been a building boom in Wichita in the past six months. About 100 new homes built and 200 others improved. C. I.e. Fuller has just completed erection of a $5,000 residence at 1st and Lawrence. A. S. Parks is having an elegant $6,000
residence erected on North Lawrence. ¶ The old Wichita National Bank building will be remodeled beginning Thursday for occupancy by the Boston store. ¶ Long list of other houses recently constructed.

Thursday, September 29, 1898

Since the summer weather has returned, the street car people have suddenly put on winter cars. And these particular winter cars are very warm specimens, too. The windows are all down, and some of them cannot be raised or lowered, so persons who ride are compelled to suffer the consequences.

Friday, September 30, 1898

Deed filed yesterday transferring the Whittaker packing plant (north half of southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 27, Range 1 East, except for a tract 50 feet wide off the west side thereof, together with the packing house and other buildings, etc.) to W. H. Thompson and J. E. Van Blarcon (officers of the Bank of Commerce of St. Louis) for $300,000. The future use of the plant is not yet known. Details.

The new fountain for Riverside park arrived this morning and will be placed in position at once.

Saturday, October 1, 1898

The McCormick Harvester Company will soon occupy the rooms in the Sedgwick block, vacated by the Midland general offices.

Monday, October 3, 1898

Laudatory article about Judge Dale’s record (“Judge Dale’s Record”).

Tuesday, October 4, 1898

In less than three weeks an eight-inch cannon with four pyramids of balls will be mounted on guard by the Liberty Tree in the north part of the park. Details.


Wednesday, October 5, 1898

The Griffenstein residence on Jefferson street was sold yesterday to Scott E. Winne for $25,000. It cost, with improvements, over $40,000 ten years ago. The property is 775 by 552 feet. ¶ Mr. Winne came here a year ago from Hutchinson.

Thursday, October 6, 1898
page 5. Article discusses plans for re-opening the Metropole Hotel. It now belongs to the Portsmouth, New Hampshire Savings Bank, whose local representative is Mr. P. J. Conklin. It is said this bank plans to spend $15,000 on improvements to the building. Details.

6. Street car number 24 jumped the track on Topeka between 3rd and Central this morning. It was replaced in an hour.

Article reports many unverified rumors about the street car franchise. Details.

Friday, October 7, 1898
page 4. The Rescue Home of Wichita is moving its headquarters today from the old home on North 4th avenue to the new quarters on South 4th avenue. The home has 22 girls as inmates. Recently the trustees of the Rescue Home purchased the old hospital building on South 4th avenue for $1,000. They are spending $500 for repairs. About $600 of this money has been raised by popular subscription. Details.

6. Those open summer cars were not very popular this morning with those compelled to patronize the street car line.

The Highland Cemetery Improvement association met in the Plymouth Congregational church last evening and elected the following officers. President —Mrs. J. C. Richey; Vice-President —Mrs. Martha Ferguson; Secretary —Mrs. D. S. Pence; Treasurer —Mrs. Parks. A number of new members were enrolled. The purpose of this association is to see that Highland cemetery is kept in proper condition.

Monday, October 10, 1898
page 5. Article quotes letter to Mayor Ross from Herbert B. Church, president, of Wichita Railway, Light and Power Company, accepting the franchise granted on September 13, 1898, but with understanding that in case it becomes necessary to transfer the franchise, the mayor will grant them the assistance necessary to do so. Details.

6. Article about complaint by Cyrus Sullivan about city’s proposal to build a dam on his property. Details.

Thursday, October 13, 1898
page 5. Report of talk at Lawrence by Mr. James M. Davis explaining his donation of the Garfield University building to form Friends University. Details.
Filling in of the approaches to the 17th street bridge was completed this week following the rebuilding of the bridge this summer, and it is again opened for traffic.

**Saturday, October 15, 1898**

Mr. George M. Dickson, of the park committee, has received word from Fort Monroe that the eight-inch cannon has been shipped from that place for Wichita. The pyramids of cannon balls have not been shipped, but rather must come from the chief of ordnance at Washington.

**Monday, October 17, 1898**

The street car managers in this city will put on canvas vestibule cars in a few days so as to protect the motormen.

The smokestack of the street railway power house was blown down by the gentle breeze from the south yesterday. It is still lying on top of the power house.

H. B. Church is now in New York figuring with the contractors who propose to build the new electric light plant and street railway in Wichita.

**Tuesday, October 18, 1898**

Long report of court hearing today of suit by Henry Stunkle versus C. F. Guyer for repossession of Occidental Hotel. Details.

**Wednesday, October 19, 1898**

J. P. Allen has suggested the name “Woodman Bridge” for the proposed new bridge across the Little river just east of Griswold park.

Dr. Oldham today purchased the brick building on the southeast corner of 1st and Main for $15,000. The building was erected by A. Busby and is commonly called the Gandolfo building. It belonged to an estate which is being settled, the owners of which line in the eastern states.

**Thursday, October 20, 1898**

The new addition to the Masonic home is nearly completed. It is built on the rear or west of the main building and from Maple street it gives the home a much more imposing appearance.

There are now 70 students in the Friends’ University.

Article says an electrical engineer from New Orleans studied the Wichita street railway situation for some New Orleans capitalists who were interested in the franchise here and
was on his way back to Louisiana with a favorable report when he was delayed by the yellow fever quarantine in central Louisiana, and his delay there allowed Mr. Church to get here first with the $10,000 deposit and to obtain the franchise before the New Orleans men could come. Details.

Friday, October 21, 1898
page 5.

The St. Louis, Kansas and Southwestern railroad will be sold at Caldwell tomorrow by order of the United States court. This road was between Ark City and Anthony and is about 60 miles long. There is also a spur to Braman, Oklahoma Territory, about nine miles long, which was started for Blackwell but ran out of funds. ¶ The road was formerly operated by the Frisco but for the last few years has been operated by a leasee. It is said the reason given by the Frisco for dropping it was that it did not pay running expenses. Under the new management, however, it is said that it more than paid operating expenses.

Those open street cars are not so popular now as they were some weeks ago. The passengers almost freeze in them.

The street car runs within a block of the football grounds at the Friends’ University.

Tuesday, October 25, 1898
page 6.

Report of promotion of Mr. Russell Harding, formerly with Missouri Pacific in Wichita, now in Minnesota, to first vice-president and general manager of Gould’s southern lines, with headquarters in St. Louis, at salary of $12,500 a year.

Thursday, October 27, 1898
page 6.

Long article about destruction of galvanized water pipes by electricity from the street railway. Details (“Diseased Pipes”).

Saturday, October 29, 1898
page 2.

Mr. H. B. Church, of Boston, arrived in Wichita today accompanied by Frank Rebill of the Electric Street Car and Railway Construction company, of Jersey City, who will make his estimates on construction of the new line. Mr. Church figures the cost of the entire line at $325,000, including 20 miles of track and 27 vestibule cars. About 1,000 tons of steel rails will be used, at $19-22 per ton. Trolley wire costs 15¢ per pound. He believes actual work will commence on the new line within the next month and says the cars, built in St. Louis, are now finished and nearly ready for use. Details (“Street Car Talk”).

Tuesday, November 1, 1898
page 6.

The Missouri Pacific shipped the big cannon which will be placed in Riverside park from St. Louis to Wichita for half the regular rate, i.e., 49¢ per 100 pounds instead of the
regular rate of 98¢ per 100 pounds.

Saturday, November 5, 1898
6. The Missouri Pacific has put a flagman on at the 11th street crossing and has erected a little house for him to loaf in. This makes eight flagmen on duty on the Missouri Pacific between Douglas avenue and 12th street, but it is none too many.

Tuesday, November 8, 1898
5. Report of death of Asa S. Barwise Sunday at his home, 1715 University avenue, at age 61. Born November 24, 1837 near Cincinnati, Ohio. Moved as a boy to St. Charles, Missouri. Married Miss Cora Cogwill, of St. Charles in 1863. They have four children, Mrs. Julia McLean, wife of Councilman B. F. McLean, Mrs. Mary Laucland, of Oklahoma, Miss Ida Barwise, and Joseph, now age 14. ¶ Mr. Barwise farmed near St. Charles until coming to Wichita in 1880 and has been connected with the grain business ever since, but with others, lost heavily in real estate after the “boom”.

6. The stone foundation for the big cannon is being built in what is called the soldiers’ plat of grounds in the Griffenstein part of the city park. The foundation will have to settle for several weeks before the cannon is placed on it.

Wednesday, November 9, 1898
5. Results of election yesterday.

Thursday, November 10, 1898
5. Note says that work will start on Wichita’s new street railway line next Saturday. Details.

6. The Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company plans to rebuild the entire telephone system in Wichita this winter. Details.

Saturday, November 12, 1898
5. The Missouri and Kansas Telephone company is now building a line from Emporia to Newton, which will give Wichita long distance connections with all of the eastern cities.

6. City engineer says the bridge east of Griswold park will be built just as soon as the right-of-way is condemned.

Monday, November 14, 1898
5. Report that Mr. Foster, of the Chicago firm of J. H. Gates and Company, was here
Saturday to enjoin the building of the new street railway. W. Q. Church explained that the J. H. Gates Company had the original contract to build the road but did not ever commence work, and the contract was then let by H. B. Church to the Hudson Construction Company of Jersey City, at a much lower price than the bid of the Gates company. ¶ Details (“Wanted A Permit”).

Tuesday, November 15, 1898
City council yesterday passed ordinance giving the Missouri Pacific the right to lay a track down Waco avenue from 1st Street to the south line of Douglas avenue, at which point J. E. Howard and partner wish to build a new flour mill for their Union Mill company, which has only a lease on the building it now occupies on Oak street. Details.

Wednesday, November 16, 1898
Article about city’s dispute with Arthur Sullivan over its ownership of Sullivan’s dam and right to rebuilt it since it was washed out last summer. City started to work on dam this morning and Mr. Sullivan obtained temporary restraining order to stop the work. Details.

Thursday, November 17, 1898
Rapid progress is being made on the new street car system and if work continues at the present rate, the new cars will make their first trip over the new road about January 1, 1999 (sic). There are four men at work. They have dug the trench for the new track on Wichita street from 11th street half a block north, and have laid the track about half of that distance. The track now is of second hand T rails laid on new ties. It is not a handsome looking track, but it answers for its purpose —it kills time.

Further article about Arthur Sullivan’s dispute with the city over ownership of Sullivan’s dam. Details.

Thursday, November 24, 1898
Report of rumor that Missouri Pacific plans to build a new passenger depot in Wichita at Douglas and Wichita. Details.

This morning the Douglas avenue car to College Hill started out on its first trip since the blizzard.

The street cars are once more running with their wonted irregularity.

Friday, November 25, 1898
Three deeds filed today transferred over 1500 Wichita lots. This property was deeded in the settlement of the old Citizens’ bank to O. G. Nims, of Keene,
New Hampshire, and to O. G. Nims, trustee. Mr. Nims died about six months ago and his wife is administrator of the estate. To settle the estate she deeds all the property to a concern known as the Keene Syndicate, supposedly composed of the man who in fact own the property.

The street car service to the fair grounds yesterday was not the best in the world. The cars were not very swift, and then they did not go all the way to the fair grounds.

Monday, November 28, 1898
5. Friends’ University is probably responsible for the fact that the street car company has put another car on the West Side run and the cars now run every 15 minutes instead of every 30 minutes on that line.

Tuesday, November 29, 1898
5. Discussion of street railway situation in city council meeting yesterday. It was reported that the Church company had made a settlement with the Gates Company, of Chicago, and had let the contract for building the plant to Frank P. Rebill of Jersey City. However no real action has resulted yet and city council is threatening to forfeit the franchise. Details (“Street Railway”).

Friday, December 2, 1898
6. New telephone cards have been issued.

Monday, December 5, 1898
6. A new bridge will soon be built from Riverside park to the east end of Griswold park. It will cost about $750.

Thursday, December 8, 1898
6. A Topeka avenue street car jumped the track on East Douglas this morning in front of the 4th National bank and ran nearly into the sidewalk before it stopped.

Saturday, December 10, 1898
5. Article discussing street railway situation. J. Holt Gates of Chicago said to have sent dispatch yesterday to W. Q. Church, in Wichita, stating that he had been given the contract to build the street car line and that the money had been put up for it. People in Wichita remain somewhat dubious and suspect that the opposition of Mr. Scott, of St. Louis, has delayed Mr. Church in fulfilling his plans. Details (“Street Railway”).

Monday, December 12, 1898
Letter received by Mayor Ross dated December 8 from Herbert B. Church and J. O. Burdett, of Boston, saying they had that day concluded a contract with Mr. Gates, of Chicago, to build the new Wichita street railway plant. Details (“Church Writes”).

Material has been delivered to build the new bridge over Little river between Griswold and Riverside parks. Pile driving will start the last of this week.

Tuesday, December 13, 1898

J. Holt Gates, of Chicago, the street car line contractor, appeared at city council meeting last night and stated that the ground was two badly frozen to start building the line now. Details (“Street Car Talk”).

Monday, December 19, 1898

Mr. L. B. Bradley, of the Western Engineering and Construction Company, of Chicago, arrived here last evening to superintend the construction of the new street railway and electric light plant for the J. Holt Gates Company. Details (“Making A Start”).

Tuesday, December 20, 1898

Mr. Bradley (see above) appeared before city council yesterday and told them it was necessary for them to decide on location of the electric lights so that work could start on building the lines. Details (“Means Business”).


Wednesday, December 21, 1898

Acknowledgment by F. I. Woodford, secretary of Wichita Gas, Electric Light, and Power Company, that his company and Mr. Scott had tried to obstruct Mr. Church in closing the deal to build new street railway. Details (“Franchise Wanted”).

Question is raised how the new company can erect its electric light poles when the street corners are already occupied by the poles of the old Scott company. Details.

Thursday, December 22, 1898

City council yesterday decided on location of the new street lights. Details.

More testimony in the Sullivan dam case. Details.
Saturday, December 24, 1898
page
5. Long article with history of Sullivan dam case. Details.

Monday, December 26, 1898
page
8. Mr. F. G. Van Duyn leased the Manhattan Hotel on December 17 for two years and will spend $3,500 on repairs and refitting. Hotel formerly was under management of Ben Eaton.

Wednesday, December 28, 1898
page
5. Report that the city council and county commission yesterday agreed on a contract by which the county agrees to a judgment of $16,500 in favor of the city plus giving the city Griswold park in settlement of the city’s claim for $50,000. Details.

Report of death yesterday of Fabrique Nolley, son of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Nolley, of Memphis, Tennessee, at home of Dr. Fabrique. The boy is Dr. Fabrique’s grandson.

6. Article gives Judge Dale’s ruling in Sullivan dam case, which is favorable to the city of Wichita.

Saturday, December 31, 1898
page
5. Santa Fe yesterday bought the Wichita and Western Railway at public auction on the depot platform at Kingman for $75,000. Details. Article gives history of the road (“Santa Fe Doings”). In hands of receivers since January 1895 (J. H. McEntire, receiver).