

*Dr. Edward N. Tihen (1924-1991) was an avid reader and researcher of Wichita newspapers. His notes from Wichita newspapers -- the "Tihen Notes," as we call them -- provide an excellent starting point for further research. They present brief synopses of newspaper articles, identify the newspaper -- Eagle, Beacon or Eagle-Beacon -- in which the stories first appeared, and give exact references to the pages on which the articles are found. Microfilmed copies of these newspapers are available at the Wichita State University Libraries, the Wichita Public Library, or by interlibrary loan from the Kansas State Historical Society.*

## TIHEN NOTES FROM 1875 WICHITA EAGLE

### Wichita Eagle

**Thursday, January 7, 1875**

**page**

2. Letter describing the grasshoppers that plagued this area last August. Male is seven-eighths to one inch long, with wings and legs same length as body. Female is one-fourth larger. Seen at a distance clustered on crops or trees they resemble bees, but flying in sunlight high in the air they look like flakes of snow. He (the writer) extrapolated from number counted in a cubic inch to approximately 43,000 in a bushel. In his son's corn field he found ten quarts of grasshoppers in an average rod, or an estimated 50 bushels to the acre, or 2,150,000 grasshoppers to the acre.
3. Stovewood 15 to 18 inches in length will be received on subscription to the *Eagle* during the winter.

Ice men Harris and Company, Jim Royal, Fred Daily, and Wiegand are now storing six inch thick ice to the rafters of capacious buildings.

**Thursday, January 14, 1875**

**page**

3. The bridge company here have been giving toll to sufferers, and transfer to aid goods, for over a month.  
  
Ice was taken from the river here nine inches thick. The crop is more abundant than ever before known here.  
  
The late cold drive, last Friday night, the 8th, found the mercury 14 degrees below zero, the coldest ever recorded in southern Kansas.

**Thursday, January 21, 1875**

**page**

3. Article about Harris's new ice harvesting apparatus which cuts one ton every three minutes. Pieces are 11 inches by two feet square.

**Thursday, January 28, 1875****page**

3. Editorial note mentions that Marsh Murdock was recently named postmaster of Wichita.

J. C. Fraker was re-elected president of the First National Bank of Wichita last Friday and J. R. Mead, vice-president.

At the last meeting of the city council, the payment of a \$1000 city donation to the new City mill was arranged. The mill company proposes going on with the building of an elevator as soon as the weather permits.

**Thursday, February 4, 1875****page**

3. Board of county commissioners met on January 1st. The board accepted plans and specifications for bridge to be built across Little river at or near the section line between sections 17 and 20, Township 27, Range 1 East, and across the big Ark river where it is crossed by the extension of said section line. Bids to be received until March 1st.

**Thursday, February 11, 1875****page**

3. Work on the bridge across the Little River has been actively going on since last week. Wagons have been hauling timber and preparations have been made to push the structure to early completion. The individual subscriptions have been doubled, assuring the bridge. This will give us two free bridges here.

At the last city council meeting, propositions asking the city to vote \$1000 donations each for construction of a free bridge across the Little Ark at or near Central Avenue and to aid in buying the present bridge across the Big Ark at Douglas Avenue were both voted down. Mr. Gilbert, superintendent of the present Ark river bridge, then offered to make it continuously free, leaving it to the council's and citizens' generosity to allow the company such recompense as they thought just, and this offer was accepted with thanks.

The finest natural location for a home in this vicinity is that of W. C. Woodman on the banks of the Little river in the northern suburbs of our city. He is preparing to add to its attractiveness by the erection of a residence and cultivation of the surroundings. The plans is to remodel the present building and add a bay window. To the north end, with an east front, a tower will be added, and still north of this, with a lake front, a commodious and fine structure (will be added).

Report of county commissioners meeting February 2nd. The commissioners received new proposals for location of county offices. Details. Decision postponed.

**Thursday, February 18, 1875****page**

3. Active labor is being expended on the Little river bridge. Two piles are already down, and

the force that will be put on in a few days is expected to have the bridge ready for crossing by the middle of March.

### **Thursday, February 25, 1875**

#### **page**

3. Active operations have begun on the water mill of Wheeler and Sheets (sic). It is claimed that it will be grinding out flour betimes, this spring.

Note refers to popularity of the Valley House, operated by Robert Wykoff.

County commission on February 17th accepted the rooms offered by the Wichita Building and Loan Association for three years free of rent.

### **Thursday, March 4, 1875**

#### **page**

3. Report of a serious fire at 1:30 a.m. last Saturday which destroyed the Southern hotel, on Main Street near Douglas Avenue, and four other buildings, and damaged other buildings. Details. Fire was just north of the New York block.

Treasurer's report of the Methodist Episcopal Church for past year. Expenses were \$2566, including \$1300 for pastor's salary and moving. Receipts were \$2433, leaving deficit of \$133.

The post office is open every day except Sunday from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. On Sunday, general delivery is open 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Note from John Davidson saying he has purchased the interest of H. Schweiter in the old lumber firm of Schweiter and Davidson and remains open for business at the old stand on Market Street between Douglas Avenue and 1st Street.

### **Thursday, March 11, 1875**

#### **page**

2. Report of March 6th meeting of board of county commissioners. The board says the bridge across Little river at or near the section line between sections 17 and 20 of Township 27, Range 1 East, built under contract by W. J. Hobson, having been inspected, has been accepted as satisfactory in all respects and payment of \$500 ordered in full payment for said bridge. Wichita Bridge Company asked an extension of time on the proposition of December 12, 1874, whereby the board agreed to donate \$1000 to said bridge company under certain conditions. Forty day extension was granted.
3. Morris Kohn started east last Saturday to buy stock. In the meantime the New York Store is under the supervision of Cash Henderson.

Messrs. Baker and Ray, of Illinois, have purchased the Valley House and renovated it.

The burnt district on Main Street is speedily to be rebuilt. Details.

**Thursday, March 18, 1875****page**

3. A petition is in circulation to build a bridge over the Little Ark at Weidner's ford. Weidner says he will give the free lease of his brick yard to any man who will run it thoroughly the next season, provided the bridge goes. His is the best brick clay in the vicinity of Wichita.

Note praising the Douglas Avenue House, Fred Daily, proprietor.

The 600 Cheyenne Indian prisoners just surrendered, with bag and baggage, scalps, squaws and papooses, are expected to pass through Wichita within a few weeks on their way to the Ft. Leavenworth reservation.

**Thursday, March 25, 1875****page**

3. Work has been resumed on the brick buildings opposite Eagle Block.

Work on the new elevator for the Wichita City Mills will begin in a few weeks. It is to have a capacity of 60,000 bushels of wheat.

**Thursday, April 1, 1875****page**

2. Long article describing Wichita and listing its businesses, hotels, etc. Many details. Gives history of Wichita. It mentions the new bridge just completed "over the two rivers, near their junction, and from mainland to island, 500 feet, at a cost of \$5500."
3. The foundation walls of the Jacob Bissantz residence are nearly ready for the superstructure.

The contract for building the elevator has been awarded to Reese and Sawyer. Mr. Reese left Tuesday for the Florence stone quarries to contract for the stone to be used as foundation and walls.

**Thursday, April 8, 1875****page**

2. Condensed list of Wichita businesses and statistics from last week's articles.
3. Report of city election. George E. Harris elected mayor.

Several car loads of brick were brought here from Sedgwick city to keep things running on the new brick blocks. The demand exceeds the supply at present.

Teams have been crossing the new bridge over the Little river at the west line of Central Avenue for several weeks. The structure over the Big river is already completed, even the

approaches.

Article describes and lists new brick buildings being built to replace those destroyed by the recent fire on Main Street.

Bridge notice of the Wichita Bridge Company says the bridge will be closed for repairs for a few days beginning April 12th, after which it will be reopened as a toll bridge, but with a marked reduction in the toll. This is owing to an insufficiency of funds for its purchase at the present time.

Henry Schweiter will run an ice wagon regularly during the entire season, to all parts of the city.

The Kansas City Lithographing Company are now ready to receive orders for their map of the state of Kansas. A year's labor has been expended in the compilation and engraving of the map. It is four by seven feet in size. Price ten dollars.

#### **Thursday, April 15, 1875**

##### **page**

2. Reports of recent meetings of board of county commissioners. Payments include quarter year salary of \$225 to W. E. Stanley, county attorney. Petition of J. R. Mead and 15 others to locate a county road on the half section line of Section 16, at corner where said half section line crosses section line between sections 21 and 16 in Township 27, Range 1 East, thence north on said half section line until its intersection with section line between sections 9 and 16, Township 27, Range 1 East. Petition allowed.

The Big Ark is rising rapidly and already backing into the mouth of the Little river.

Out about the depot all is life. The depot is full to overflowing and the cars on the side track are used for storage.

The county fair grounds has been beautified the past ten days by tree planting, arranged to correspond with the new drives.

3. Article reports placing of a cornerstone box of articles in foundation of the elevator being built by Hargis, Imboden and Company adjoining their present mill structure, last Friday.

Kansas City Lithographing Company announces publication of a smaller edition of their large wall map of Kansas, mounted in two sections, the eastern half on one side and the western half on the back side. Price is five dollars.

John Exton announces purchase of larger portion of the Florence Quarries. Limestone sold for four dollars to five dollars per car, according to size and thickness, with purchasers paying freight.

**Thursday, April 15, 1875**

Editor's note: Dr. Tihen did not take notes from this issue.

**Thursday, April 22, 1875****page**

3. Amos Houck has bought Will Cook's house on Waco Street. It is one the best built houses in one of the finest locations in the town.

City treasurer's list of monthly expenses for the past year.

**Thursday, April 29, 1875****page**

2. Letter from Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to Texas cattle shippers says "the large yard south of the river, opposite Wichita, will be kept in repair and at the disposal of the shippers."
3. The new fire apparatus (apparently meaning two new "sulky engines") in exchange for the large four-wheeled extinguisher, here since last summer, was tested Saturday by the boys of the Frontier company. The fire department is to be reorganized at an early date and divided into three companies, one to handle the hooks and ladders, and one each to take charge of the two sulky engines.

**Thursday, May 6, 1875****page**

2. Article gives a history of Sedgwick County newspapers. Says the first newspaper printed in this valley was the *Wichita Vidette*, whose first number appeared August 15, 1870. Details.
3. The New York block is fast approaching completion and within ten days will be entirely occupied. It is the largest brick block, save one, south of Topeka Avenue being 90 feet deep by 150 foot front, not counting the two new bricks erected by Hope and Richards and Salisbury, which really belong to the same block.

**Thursday, May 13, 1875****page**

3. The water of the Little river was turned through the flood gates into Chisholm creek last Thursday. The water mill of Wheeler and Scheetz is now to be pushed to speedy completion.

The farm of William Mathewson has been improved by fencing and tree planting. Both sides of this splendid quarter section lying on Douglas Avenue and Central Avenue now have a half mile of trees -- a regular avenue of them.

Note about a strawberry bed on Mr. Mossman's farm, immediately east of Chisholm creek, after crossing the Central Avenue bridge.

Two new brick yards have been started this spring, both on William Griffenstein's (sic) land, north of town. Besides these, Mr. Phillips is engaged in brick making.

**Thursday, May 20, 1875****page**

3. The elevator is fast approaching completion.

Dr. Fabrique is enlarging his house, adding a wing and porch to the north side.

The ice king of this valley is Henry Schweiter. He put up an immense amount of ice himself, has since bought the contents of the large ice house of Jim Royal, and now announces that he has purchased the largest of them all, the Harris ice house.

**Thursday, May 27, 1875****page**

3. The stone work on the elevator is completed, and work on the iron half story to go on top will begin immediately.

**Thursday, June 3, 1875****page**

3. The new mill has a whistle now, backed by a 40 horsepower engine.

The Herrington brick building is in process of construction on the site of the old Southern Hotel.

**Dr. Tihen's Note:**

A map of Wichita from February 1912 showing street car lines and Wonderland Park, Arkansas Valley Interurban lines, Riverside Park drives, etc. follows the June 3, 1875 issue of the *Eagle* on the microfilm series at The Wichita State University.

**Thursday, June 10, 1875****page**

2. The Kansas Midland Railroad, running from Topeka and Kansas City, has passed into the control of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad company. By the 20th of June, through trains of the latter railroad will run over the Midland track to Kansas City.
3. Notice that Mrs. M. M. Elliott will hold a subscription school of mixed grades in the Public School Building for a term of ten weeks from June 14th to August 20th. Terms \$2.50, one half in advance and remainder at end of term.

**Thursday, June 17, 1875****page**

3. Note says the *Wichita Beacon* newspaper establishment was sold under a foreclosure last Friday, with Judge A. Harris the purchaser, but it appears as usual this week with Mr. Gabel's name as the head, suggesting that the financial troubles have been satisfactorily

arranged.

Article about a surprise party last Tuesday evening at W. C. Woodman's beautiful new home, Lake Side, to christen it appropriately. Friend Woodman and wife, with their distinguished guests, Dr. Rea and wife, entered fully into the spirit of the occasion.

### **Thursday, June 24, 1875**

#### **page**

3. Article says a party of visiting newspapermen will be driven out to Moser's Hill (i.e., College Hill).

Amusing note by Marsh Murdock about his finding a ladies back hair on the sidewalk and placing it in his pocket, only to receive the wrath of his wife when it was discovered.

### **Thursday, July 1, 1875**

#### **page**

1. Letter from Dr. Rea (recent guest of W. C. Woodman) to the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* describing the lands and settlement of the Arkansas Valley. Details. "Osage Trust Lands" were surveyed by the government in 1869 and a land office opened at Augusta in November 1870, with settlers beginning to arrive in 1871. In 1872 the land office was removed to Wichita.

3. The frame of the Chisholm water mill east of town was raised Tuesday.

"Said the doctor to a Cowskin girl who was consulting him, 'You need a little sun and air.' The pretty one blushed and said she guessed 'she would wait until she got married.'"

### **Thursday, July 8, 1875**

#### **page**

3. The frame of the Chisholm water mill looms up, and the proprietors hope to have things moving by August.

### **Thursday, July 15, 1875**

#### **page**

1. Page of descriptions of Wichita and Kansas by the editors who visited here recently.
3. Eagle Hall is to have a new roof of the truss pattern. The audience room will be eight feet higher.

### **Thursday, July 22, 1875**

#### **page**

1. Another page of comments by editors from other places on their recent visit to Wichita.
2. Advertisement for Wichita Beer and Ale Brewery, A. Wiegand and Company, proprietors. Beer depot on Douglas Avenue between Main Street and Water Street.



3. The truss bridge across the Ark river at the west end of Douglas Avenue has been rented by the merchants of that street and made free for the next ten months. In consideration of this liberal act to the public, the county commissioners remitted \$35 of taxes and agreed, in case it was necessary, to spend not to exceed \$50 in helping to keep the bridge in repair. Another article lists names and amounts of the contributors to this bridge fund, totaling \$802.50.

The Wichita artists are rivaling each other in taking fine photographic views of our principal thoroughfares and important points of trade.

The Patrons (Patrons Commercial Agency) have purchased a lot upon which to build their store-house, just north of the depot, between that and the water tank. The railroad company have agreed to put in a switch or side-track at once.

Judge W. C. Little has about completed his arrangements for building a fine home on his lots north of Dr. Fabrique's.

#### **Thursday, July 29, 1875**

##### **page**

3. The contract for building Judge Little's new residence was awarded to Reese and Sawyer.

Frank S. Jones has been appointed postmaster at Delano or West Wichita.

Murdock thanks Professor Nereus Baldwin for specimen pictures of city views.

Summary of statistics of Wichita public schools for year ending June 1875. One superintendent was employed for \$120 per month and five assistant teachers at salary of \$50 per month each, making total of \$370 per month paid teachers. Average number of pupils enrolled in 1874-75 was 350 compared with 250 for 1873-74. Total school expenses \$8671. Details.

#### **Thursday, August 5, 1875**

##### **page**

3. Contract for building the Patrons storeroom was awarded to Reese and Sawyer for \$693. Building will stand just north of the depot on a side track.

#### **Thursday, August 12, 1875**

##### **page**

1. Letter to *Atchison Champion* by a visitor to Wichita reporting that he found it not as wicked as it has been reputed to be.
2. Table with statistical report of Sedgwick County population by township and agricultural production (acreage).
3. Note says the old "Rowdy Joe Dance House" is going to be hauled away to some new use

in a rural place.

Editorial asking people to pay their delinquent *Eagle* subscription bills, saying "We are hard up." Says it costs nearly \$100 a week to run the *Eagle* establishment.

Note says a change in the railroad timetable is expected soon, bringing the express and mail train into Wichita about 9:00 p.m. and leaving here about 5:00 a.m., making all the present connections with eastern roads. "This getting in at midnight and starting out at 2:00 a.m. has been a terribly trying nuisance."

### **Thursday, August 19, 1875**

#### **page**

3. The Grangers warehouse was completed on Monday.

The Wichita City mills are running night and day and last week shipped a car load of their "White Rose" flour to Ottumwa, Iowa.

The Occidental hotel changed hands last Monday, Messrs. Lamb and Frazier retiring and A. A. Moore and Company taking possession. (Editor's note: The name Frazier is spelled "Fraser" in August 6, 1874 edition of the *Eagle*.)

### **Thursday, August 26, 1875**

Editor's note: Dr. Tihen did not take notes from this issue.

### **Thursday, September 2, 1875**

#### **page**

3. Article lists and describes new brick business buildings planned for Wichita. Details. One is on the north side of Douglas Avenue on the alley, east of the New York block, 25 by 130 feet, two stories, with iron and glass front, with an elevator -- to be built by the Houck Brothers, hardware and implement dealers. Details.

### **Thursday, September 9, 1875**

#### **page**

3. Notice by M. M. Murdock, postmaster, that the post office will be moved next Monday morning to Number 20 Main Street.

### **Thursday, September 16, 1875**

#### **page**

3. The foundations of the new brick business houses of Hess and Getto, Henry Bolte, and Bissantz, on Douglas Avenue, are in and the superstructure will commence to rise immediately.

Mr. Charles Abbott, architect, has shown plans of the new building to be erected by Messrs. Houck. To be two stories, 24 by 120 feet, with front filled by four panes of French glass five feet wide by 11 feet high, intersected with iron columns.

**Thursday, September 23, 1875****page**

3. 18 wagons loaded with 35,000 feet of lumber pulled out of here on Sunday for the Cheyenne Agency.

A new railroad crossing is needed at the east end of 1st Street for accommodation of the grain and lumber trade.

The cut stone caps and sills for the seven new buildings on Douglas Avenue are being delivered. The stone is from the Cottonwood Falls quarry, and very fine.

The new residences of Judge Adams, Judge Little, and J. P. Allen are approaching completion.

The Sedgwick County Fair for 1875 opens next Tuesday. Details.

Article describes the bustling business activity around the depot and flour mill.

**Thursday, September 30, 1875****page**

3. The Southwestern Stage Company have put a new bus on the city line.

The new addition to the depot makes that building 270 feet long, and still it is not large enough to hold the freight which is at present waiting shipment.

**Thursday, October 7, 1875****page**

2. Article about Sedgwick County Fair last week, saying it was in many ways a failure. Details.
3. The summer has proved so cool that Henry Schweiter will have nearly 500 tons of "last winter's crop" of ice left over.

The new water mill on Chisholm creek east of town was started up last Thursday. When we visited there was but one pair of stones, one bolt and the smutter, being driven by a five foot head of water. When all the stones and machinery are in operation, enough water will be turned in to maintain a seven foot head. There are two turbine water wheels, one much smaller than the other.

**Thursday, October 14, 1875****page**

3. The Douglas Avenue house has changed proprietors. Fred Daily goes out and T. M. Lane goes in.

**Thursday, October 21, 1875**

**page**

3. The Douglas Avenue house changed hands again this morning. Mr. Lane retires and Messrs. Ruddy and Terrill take charge.

**Thursday, October 28, 1875**

Editor's note: Dr. Tihen did not take notes from this issue.

**Thursday, November 4, 1875****page**

2. Article from the *Kansas City Journal of Commerce* about Wichita says the grain trade here is gradually supplanting the cattle trade. Details.
3. Another addition to the school house is being built adjoining one of the former additions upon the south. The structure presents the appearance of a village church and boarding house combined. A study of its many angles and ways of egress and ingress equals the standard works of geometry for the development of youthful minds.

**Thursday, November 11, 1875****page**

3. The old "Rowdy Joe dance-house" is offered for sale cheap.

**Thursday, November 18, 1875****page**

3. Henry Schweiter has sold his Main Street building, formerly known as "Oak Hall" on the west side, north of 1st Street, to Mr. August Gruntz, for \$700.

Hargis and Imboden have let the contract for the building of an office, 14 feet by 25 feet, of stone, outside, but adjoining the main mill building.

**Thursday, November 25, 1875****page**

1. List showing population of Kansas counties as reported by State Board of Agriculture. Sedgwick County's (population) 8311.
3. The proprietor of the Valley House, A. Ray, is putting up quite an addition to his hotel, which is located near the depot.

The Presbyterians of this place have rented the Baptist church for a term of six months.

The wife of Judge Little returned to Wichita last week to find her new and commodious home fully completed and furnished.

W. A. Thomas and Company purchased the corner lot on Market and Douglas. They will move down the frame building formerly so well known as the "Green Front" which they will occupy until they can build a permanent building.

Advertisement says "Baldwin gives the enamel finish to all his photographs up to 11 by 14 size."

**Thursday, December 2, 1875****page**

2. Long article from the *Kansas City Times* describing Wichita and its businesses in detail.
3. The Presbyterian Church will commence next Sabbath to hold regular services in the Baptist Church instead of Eagle Hall.

Note about The Annals of Kansas, a book by 700 pages by D. W. Wilder, which has just been issued by the State Printer.

**Thursday, December 9, 1875****page**

3. The old firm of W. A. Thomas and Company have moved the old "Green Front" itself to their new location at the corner of Market and Douglas.

The new office of the City Mills is about completed.

The District Court is still grinding along in the hall adjoining our office.

**Thursday, December 16, 1875****page**

3. Henry Bolte has taken possession of his new store room on Douglas Avenue.

**Thursday, December 23, 1875****page**

3. Article announces that beginning with this issue the *Eagle* is being printed with a new steam printing press, which arrived last week from George F. Shedd, of Waltham, Massachusetts. Details.

J. W. Phillips has 200,000 brick for sale.

Article describes a large fire on North Main Street last Friday (second block) that did some \$12,000 damage.

**Thursday, December 30, 1875****page**

3. A story and a half frame building was cut loose from its moorings in old town, on Monday, and cast its anchor on the corner of Market Street and Douglas Avenue.

The bridge at the West end of Douglas Avenue has been refloored with strong sycamore planks and the approaches repaired. The upper bridge has also been overhauled and put in a passable condition, and the Chisholm creek bridge has also been thoroughly repaired.

Advertisement for Reed's Restaurant, on West side of first block of North Main Street, says "he is now the only man on Main Street giving a square meal for 25 cents."