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 1876 WICHITA EAGLE**

**Wichita Eagle**
**Thursday, January 6, 1876**
**page**
3. The Todd and Royal two story brick on the corner of Main and 1st is being lowered one story to save it from falling.

**Thursday, January 13, 1876**
**page**
3. The glass for the front of Houck Brothers' new building cost over $400. The machinery for their elevator cost about $300.

**Thursday, January 20, 1876**
**page**
3. The "Centennial Block" will be ready for occupancy in a few days.

Mr. Shellabarger, of Decatur, formerly partner of A. W. Oliver, who lately purchased Mr. Bowers' interest in the City Mills and Elevator, is in the city.

Notice was received at the Wichita post office yesterday of the discontinuance of the post office at Delano, and the postmaster of Wichita was ordered to deliver the mail of the discontinued office.

**Thursday, January 27, 1876**
**page**
3. The Houck Brothers take possession of their new magnificent business house this week.

The city is grading up 1st Street at the railroad crossing north of the depot. Four tracks, occupying a grade of three feet and over, makes it quite a job.

Steps have been taken to incorporate a city library association -- Judge W. P. Campbell taking the active steps in the matter.

It is stated that arrangements are being made for the moving of the old Empire House from
its present location over to the corner of Douglas and Emporia avenues. The building is three stories high, 60 by 40 feet, with a two story wing of 30 by 60 feet.

The whistle of the City Mills is to be regulated by railroad time, which will be corrected by telegraph every few days.

Thursday, February 3, 1876
3. Stackman’s new stone business house north of the First National Bank is going up rapidly.

Frame building Number 76, the scene of mirth and revelry in the days of yore, has slipped its moorings and found rest east of the depot.

Thursday, February 10, 1876
3. Honorable James R. Mead returned from Topeka Saturday. While there he procured from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad the right of way for two or three streets, across the railroad east of town, which obviates the necessity of the long, tedious formality of condemning, etc.

Thursday, February 17, 1876
2. At meeting February 7th of county commissioners, the contract for medical and surgical attendance to paupers and medicines was awarded to Dr. C. C. Furley at $120 per annum and 50 cents per mile for all travel outside the city of Wichita.

3. 1st Street is being graded from the First National Bank as far east as you can see.

An important trade took place in Wichita last week, whereby the well-known grocery firm of W. A. Thomas and Company takes an interest in the water mill on Chisholm Creek and Mr. Scheetz becomes proprietor of the Green Front grocery store on corner of Market and Douglas.

The new up-town residence of W. E. Stanley, on Topeka Avenue, is being enclosed.

Thursday, February 24, 1876
Editor’s note: Dr. Tihen did not take notes from this issue.

Thursday, March 2, 1876
page
3. Mr. John Fisher has commenced the erection of a residence on the corner of Market Street and Central Avenue.

Editorial note about the need for additional school rooms.
Thursday, March 9, 1876
page 3. The front of Stackman's new building is in.

Mr. A. N. Deming has moved to Wichita from Winfield and become one of the proprietors of the Douglas Avenue House.

Henry Schweiter has over 300 tons of fine thick clear ice left over from last year. In addition he has contracted for a large quantity of northern ice. Even if it didn't freeze this winter, Wichita is not going to be without ice.

Thursday, March 16, 1876
page 3. The City Mills are burning 7000 to 9000 pounds of bran per day, since the abundance of corn has destroyed the market value of bran as feed. One ton of bran goes as far as about 1200 pounds of Osage coal in generating steam.

Thursday, March 23, 1876
page 3. The water mill has been running a part of the time this week grinding out the stock on hand in order to get room to further their work on improvements.

Thursday, March 30, 1876
Editor's note: Dr. Tihen did not take notes from this issue.

Thursday, April 6, 1876
page 1. Long article gives history of early settlement of the Arkansas Valley. Several drawings of Wichita buildings and streets including Eagle block, New York block, Douglas Avenue, Main Street, Lakeside, and Fraker and Griffenstein (sic) residences. (I believe these drawings are the first to appear in the *Eagle*.)

2. Drawing of First National Bank and of Steele and Levy's map of Sedgwick County.

Articles about Wichita businesses, etc. Includes table of yearly assessed valuation of Sedgwick County 1871 through 1876.

3. The engravings alone in this issue cost $377.

Windmills for farm use are becoming very popular in this valley.

D. S. Munger, or "Father Munger," as everybody affectionately calls him, keeps the old Daily House.

The Wichita Library Association is now fully organized by act of incorporation. Officers
listed.

Drawings of Centennial Block (Houck Brothers Hardware Store), City Mills, Water Mill, Occidental Hotel and Douglas Avenue House.

Article with statistics of the Wichita post office.

J. G. Hope was elected mayor at city elections Tuesday.

Article lists monthly passenger and freight receipts of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad at Wichita for 1875 and first two months of 1876. Says the passenger and freight depot combined is over 150 feet in length.

Articles about both Wichita mills and the leading hotels.

Drawing of the crossing of Chisholm Creek, east of Wichita.

Thursday, April 13, 1876
3. Letters from Texas saying Dodge City is making strong efforts to take Wichita's cattle trade this season.

Thursday, April 20, 1876
2. Article about the Centennial Edition of the Eagle published two weeks ago. Four hundred quires of paper, 1235 pounds, were used, costing $148.20 delivered here. The 234,400 ems of type cost $93.76 to set up, and the ink cost $11.25. Value of the engravings was nearly $390.

3. Drawing of Murdock's home.

Mr. W. A. Thomas, of the Water Mill, informs us that the entire machinery has been reset, with improvements added, and that by the first of next month the mill will be under full headway.

Article lists number of petitions approved by county commissioners for opening up of public roads in Sedgwick County.

Thursday, May 4, 1876
3. The Centennial Block firms have erected a heavy awning along the entire front of the building.

Messrs. Steele and Levy last Tuesday sold the fine residence of N. A. English, a fine large brick, together with lots number 25, 27, 45, 47, Douglas Avenue, and lots number eight
and ten, 4th Avenue, to Mr. Munsen Goodyear, of Jackson, Michigan, for $5500.

The population of the city of Wichita according to returns to the County Clerk's office this week is 3263, an increase of 290 from the same returns of 2973 last year. This does not include the suburbs, but only bona fide residents living within the corporate limits.

Thursday, May 11, 1876

3. The post office at Park City, Sedgwick County, has been discontinued.

City assessor's figures show Wichita population of 3351 compared with 2703 in 1875, an increase of 648. Within the city limits there are also 225 cows, 380 horses, 91 mules, 342 hogs, and 1246 peach trees bearing.

Mr. Fecheimer (sic), of Cincinnati, owns the brick building on southwest corner of Main Street and Douglas Avenue, occupied by Trickey Brothers and Company.

Thursday, May 18, 1876

2. Table gives Sedgwick County population by townships. Total is 10,478 in 1876 compared with 8285 in 1875. Includes 3341 in Wichita, compared with 2701 in 1875, and 308 in Delano Township compared with 297 in 1875. There are 450 in Wichita Township outside of city, compared with 400 in 1875.

3. Mr. Oak Davidson, formerly a merchant of this city, but lately connected with a bank at Eldorado (sic), has returned to this city with the intention of making this his headquarters.

Editorial urging that a way be found to make the bridge at west end of Douglas Avenue a free bridge. Mentions the upper bridge at the mouth of the Little River which is free, but "is, and always was, a swindle, is out of the road, narrow, inconvenient, and hard of access."

Smith and McComb are building a brick business room between Steele and Levy's new building and the Germania Block.

Shoemaker and Braitsch have purchased a lot east of the Centennial Block, between that and Scheetz's grocery store, and have already let the contract for a brick business house.

Note about new home of N. A. English, under construction, to be two stories, 22 by 28 feet, with an L (sic) 18 by 20 feet.

The Wichita Water Mill has overhauled the entire machinery and added another larger and powerful turbine wheel, at a cost of $5000. The mills have plenty of water and started up this morning with 3000 bushels of choice wheat on hand, will be kept going night and day from this time forward.
The Douglas Avenue House has changed hands. Mr. Walters, of Ottawa, Kansas, has taken the original three year lease executed to Mr. Ruddy, afterwards Ruddy and Deming, bought the furnishings, and proposes to run a first class hotel.

Thursday, May 25, 1876

Directors of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad visited Wichita last Thursday and heard proposals for a road down the Walnut valley and for extension of the Wichita Branch into Sumner County. The latter was said to be out of the question at present, there being no real demand for the outlay of money. There is some possibility for the starting of a Walnut Valley branch this summer or fall.

Free passage over Douglas Avenue bridge ended after May 23rd, the lease having expired. Article lists the new toll charges: five cents for footman, ten cents for horseman, 15 cents for two horse team, etc.

Mike Zimmerly has purchased a lot east of the Centennial Block, joining Shoemaker's, and has started to erect a new business house thereon.

Notice of petition to County Commissioners for $700 to build bridge across Little Ark river between sections 8 and 12, in Township 27, Range 1 East.

Thursday, June 1, 1876

Statistical table of Sedgwick County population, farms, etc. by township.

Mention of Messrs. Phillip and Orme, who bought the Morris eighty and laid out an addition to Wichita this spring.

Thursday, June 8, 1876

Announcement made this morning that the Presbyterian society determined, last night, to build a brick church, 40 by 65 feet, on the corner of 1st Street and Lawrence Avenue, the corner stone to be laid on the 4th of July.

Mr. Weidner, whose farm lies in the fork of the two rivers, will commence his wheat harvest tomorrow.

Thursday, June 15, 1876

The Osage Indian name for the Little Arkansas is Washutsee Shinka.

The residences of N. A. English and J. M. Allen are about completed.

Two grain elevators are in course of construction near the depot.
Work has commenced on Woodman's new block.

Another of the landmarks of the old town has been cut loose from its moorings and is being dragged towards the depot.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad have agreed to build a railroad to Eldorado (sic), commencing at Florence.

More brick will be molded and burned in Wichita this season than in any summer before. One yard -- that of Mr. Phillips -- is turning out 10,000 of machine-made brick per day.

Article reports plans for the new Presbyterian church. To be 40 by 60 feet with walls 18 feet high, of brick, with a tower in the northeast corner with a spire reaching a height of 80 feet. Seating capacity 400. Estimated cost $4000.

Mike Zimmerly has taken possession of his new room on Douglas Avenue, where he is ready to sell stoves, agricultural implements, and hardware.

James R. Mead let contract last Thursday for building of three one story business rooms on corner of Douglas and 4th avenues. Foundations were laid on Friday.

A new business enterprise in the city is the stone and marble yard of C. Kimmerlie (sic) and Company, second door above the First National Bank on Main Street.

Thursday, June 22, 1876

McClees has sold his fine farm on the hill.

The bridge across Chisholm on the road leading from Central Avenue is in a dangerous condition.

The approach at the east end of Little River bridge is in a very bad condition, also the approach at the north end of the Big River bridge.

Thursday, June 29, 1876

J. R. Mead has concluded to build his block on the corner of 4th and Douglas avenues, two stories high, the upper story to be used as a hall.

Long article describes the many moves of the old building completed six years ago this month in which Steele and Levy originally had their office.

Ground will be broken this week for the foundation of the new Presbyterian church.

Thursday, July 6, 1876
The framework to one of the new elevators is being elevated, while another has already been enclosed.

Thirty-one applications have been made to the city School Board for the superintendency of our schools.

The commercial telegraph office, which has been located for some time past in the Occidental, has been removed to L. B. Ferrell's, three doors north of the post office.

Note about 4th of July picnic at Griffenstein's (sic) grove.

Complaint from travelers on Douglas road that the bottom, or place where there ought to be bottom, on both sides of Lower Chisholm creek bridge, is in a very bad condition.

Article reports laying of corner-stone of the Presbyterian Church on the 4th of July. Site is at 1st and Lawrence. Details.

Thursday, July 13, 1876

The first story of Mead's new building is about finished.

Report of meeting of Board of County Commissioners which approved appropriation of $500 to aid in construction of a bridge across Little Ark river between sections 8 and 17, Township 27, Range 1 East, or what is known as the Widow Evertt's ford. (Editor's note: In the January 12, 1876 issue of the Beacon, Evertt is spelled "Everets.") Also appropriated $150 for building bridge across Chisholm creek on the township line between Wichita and Gypsum townships.

Thursday, July 20, 1876

Mr. Goodyear bought and moved the old land office building, which was on Main Street and formerly belonged to Joel Goodrick, to the corner of Douglas and Emporia avenues.

R. H. Roys, an attorney from Lansing, Michigan, has opened a law office in the Centennial Block.

Thursday, July 27, 1876

Advertisement for L. G. Scheetz's Green Front grocery store, on the northwest corner of Douglas Avenue and Market Street.

The Mead Block, at the east end, is enclosed.

That man, Deming, who died at the Occidental last Tuesday, was disemboweled and
embalmed by Dr. Furley, and sent east to his friends.

Article about the popularity and management of the Valley House.

Thursday, August 3, 1876

3. Captain D. G. Russell is the proprietor of the new steam elevator at the foot of 1st Street.

We crossed the free bridge the other evening and noticed that the railing on the north side of the Big river bridge is in bad condition with about 30 feet of it ready to tumble into the river. The approaches are also in a bad condition. About 200 teams cross that bridge daily and it ought to be kept in good shape.

Thursday, August 10, 1876

2. Board of Education figures show number of children of school age within the city of Wichita to be 707 in 1876, compared with 540 in 1875, 503 in 1874, and 457 in 1873.

Report of Board of County Commissioners meeting August 7, ordering advertising for bids for construction of a bridge across the Little Ark river at what is known as the Widow Everett's ford.

3. Woodman's dry goods palace has reached the second story.

Westlake's new elevator was fired up Monday and the machinery started.

Wichita School board on Monday appointed Professor O. F. McKim, formerly of Decatur, Illinois, as superintendent, and hired six teachers for the coming year. Article discusses need for more school rooms.

Messrs. Kull and Gerber have started a vinegar factory at Number 77, Douglas Avenue.

New business house, 45 by 110 feet, is to be erected by Reese and Sawyer at corner of Lawrence and Douglas avenues.

"The attention of the proper officials of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad company is directed to the condition of the crossing at the east end of Douglas Avenue. The space between the tracks, for the entire width of the avenue should be filled up to a level with the track and planked between the rails. The present condition of the street is not only unhandy but dangerous, and it should be fixed up as designated and in accordance with law. During the season for the shipment of grain every available foot of the street in the vicinity of the depot, elevator, and crossings is occupied, and it ought to all be leveled up."

Thursday, August 17, 1876
Long editorial about the need for a new school house.

The city will take in the town on the east side of the railroad next week.

H. M. Demming (sic) is going to move the Empire House to the corner of Emporia and Douglas avenues.

Thursday, August 24, 1876

Valley Center folks propose to have about the finest school house in the country. Bonds of $1500 have been voted and the contract awarded to Reese and Sawyer, of Wichita.

Advertisement: Stages leave and arrive daily to and from all points in the south at the Richey House.

Thursday, August 31, 1876

Article says the First National Bank on Wednesday morning posted a notice that it had gone into voluntary liquidation.

J. W. Phillips advertises brick for five dollars per thousand.

The Leo Sage building is being moved from upper Main Street to the east end of Douglas Avenue.

Six hundred wagon loads of wheat was delivered to the Wichita elevators and storehouses in one day last week.

Long article describes Wichita's grain elevators. Russell and Furlong's elevator, which stands at the head end and on the north side of 1st Street and has a railroad switch, is receiving its engine and boiler this week. The machinery has already been completed. Main building is 32 by 35 feet by 50 feet high with three floors. There are two wings, one 18 by 35 feet on the west and one 26 by 26 feet on the south. A. Westlake's elevator already has steam up. Building is 24 by 72 feet on the ground.

A. Whitworth, who owns the lots on northwest corner of Main and Douglas, at present occupied by a two story frame building, is contemplating building there a three story brick hotel.

Plans for the new Presbyterian church are now completed and the building committee are ready to receive bids and to let the contract at once.

At the time of the closing of the doors of the First National Bank, Sol Kohn, president of the Wichita Savings Bank, was in Newton. The closing being telegraphed to him, he
immediately chartered a locomotive and returned to his position behind the counter of his bank.

**Thursday, September 7, 1876**

3. The brick buildings of Messrs. Mead, Woodman and Reese are nearly completed.

The center span of the El Paso bridge across the Ark river gave way the other day. It appears that the foundation of the upper side center pier washed out.

**Thursday, September 14, 1876**

3. W. W. Dill is building a brick business house on Douglas Avenue east of the depot.

Recent school house bond issue vote was lost, according to editorial, because of neglect of supporters to get out and vote.

**Thursday, September 21, 1876**

3. Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad have made a special rate to the Centennial and back. From Wichita to Philadelphia and return is $49.45.

J. F. Reese and D. C. M. Appleby have erected a new large brick stable, called the Oriental, on lots 122 and 124 on Douglas Avenue, half a block east of the Centennial block and are now in business there. It is two stories high, 50 by 100 feet, with 19 single stalls, 15 double stalls, room for 20 buggies, and a mow holding 60 tons of hay.

**Thursday, September 28, 1876**

3. Editorial urging the County Commissioners to buy the Douglas Avenue bridge and make it free. The bridge cost over $25,000, but not being remunerative, the company have offered to sell it at less than a quarter of its cost. "The upper bridge would make several small bridges for smaller streams."

Mr. H. W. Lewis, a capitalist, formerly of Tiffin, Ohio, but later of Columbus, Mississippi, has been spending several days in Wichita with a view to establishing another banking institution here.

Report of Board of Education. City owns four school rooms and rents three school rooms. Expenditures of school board to July 3rd: Teachers's salaries, $3646; total expenditures, $6998.

<table>
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<th>Number of school rooms</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Pupils, boys</th>
<th>Pupils, girls</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thursday, October 5, 1876

3. Contract for building the new Presbyterian church was awarded to W. C. West, and work will be pushed with all haste. To prevent any vexatious and expensive delay it is highly necessary that the generous friends of this enterprise be prepared to pay their subscriptions as soon as they fall due.

Mr. H. R. Brown, of Philadelphia, has been appointed temporary Receiver of the First National Bank. Details.

A count last Monday showed 37 new houses under construction in Wichita.

Thursday, October 12, 1876

2. Petition received by County Commissioners about ten days ago to locate a public road beginning at north line of Waco Street in city of Wichita and running thence west in the quarter section line between the north and south half of Section 17, Township 27, Range 1 East.

3. The new brick business room next to Aldrich and Brown's drug store, which was commenced ten days ago, is about under roof.

The Occidental, in location, may be a little out of the way, but the house has grown steadily in popularity and patronage ever since it was opened to the public, conceded by all travelers to be the best hotel, outside of Topeka, Atchison, and Kansas City, in the west. It is now being refurnished with new and stylish furniture which will make it rank second to none. Includes a large amount of marble-top bedroom sets, with easy chairs, sofas, etc. Mr. Rouse and his assistant, Mr. Lamb, are in charge.

Thursday, October 19, 1876

2. County commissioners, on approximately October 3rd, let contract to L. J. Allen for building bridge across Little Ark river at Weidner's ford for $500. Petition received for $500 to build bridge across Little Ark river on half section line between northwest and southwest quarters of Section 36, Township 25, Range 1 West, and was approved and appropriation of $500 made.
3. "Mrs. J. C. Fraker desires a few boarders. See special notice." (Wife of president of defunct First National Bank.)

Note says some men are making artificial stone from sand banks of the Ark, using sand and lime, formed into stone blocks 12 inches long by eight inches thick and ten inches high, each block containing a vacuum four by eight inches. They say their stone will equal brick and is cheaper, and are now making ornamental chimneys at 50 cents per running foot.

The old Empire house which has long stood at the head of Main Street, a three story frame building, has been on the move for the past week. Proposition of moving it over half a mile to location near the depot has been considered for over two years, and now Kempton has taken the contract for $1600, warranting it against all damages. The building is 40 by 70 feet with wing 25 by 60 feet and will accommodate 100 guests. A capstan turned by four horses and a single pulley with plain wooden rollers is all the machinery found necessary. It has nearly reached its destination and looks sound other than damage to the plastering.

The lower Chisholm creek bridge is in a dangerous condition.

The Board of Education have secured a room for a primary school in the Occidental building, to open on Thursday this week. All primary children west of Lawrence Avenue will attend this new school.

Thursday, October 26, 1876

3. John Behrns is building a brick business house 25 by 55 feet on Douglas Street adjoining the Oriental stables.

Permanent receiver for First National Bank has been appointed: Mr. H. B. Cullum of Topeka.

A new bank, the "Farmers and Merchants' Bank of Wichita," will open for business on November 1st, with capital $50,000. It will occupy the new bank building on corner of Douglas and 4th avenues recently built by J. R. Mead. Major H. W. Lewis is proprietor.

Editorial urging contributions for completion of the new Presbyterian church building.

Thursday, November 9, 1876

2. Election results. "Hayes will be president, Anthony is governor, and our nation saved" is the headline.

3. Article describing the new dry goods store of W. C. Woodman, which opened this week. Two story, on North Main Street. Details.
Long letter to *Eagle* complaining about the sidewalks in Wichita.

**Thursday, November 16, 1876**

3. The new two story brick business house on corner of Main and 1st streets is up to the first story.

Article reports the defeat of the bond issue to buy the Douglas Avenue bridge. Majority of 328 was for the bridge bonds, but this lacked 75 votes of being the necessary three-fifths vote to approve the bond issue.

**Thursday, November 23, 1876**

3. The walls of the Presbyterian church have commenced to rise.

**Thursday, November 30, 1876**

2. Editorial on the defeat of the bridge bonds.

**Thursday, December 7, 1876**

3. The Empire House is nearly ready to be opened to the public (i.e., at its new location at Douglas and Emporia avenues).

John Behrns new business house, on Douglas Avenue, is nearly ready for occupancy.

Letter from man in Ohio who was stationed at Wichita during 1868 and 1869 as a member of company "H", 5th U. S. Infantry, and would like to hear from any of the early settlers he met then, including Mr. John Ward, son-in-law to Mr. Lewellen who lived over on Chisholm creek, John Meagher, Michael Meagher, J. J. Mohen, brother-in-law to the Meaghers, George D'Amour, Squire Munger, Mr. Vigus, or Mr. Ledrick.

Note about another effort to get the Wichita Library Association on its feet.

**Thursday, December 14, 1876**

3. Messrs. Harvey and Stewart have opened a packing house near the bridge and have been cutting meats as fast as the hogs could be procured.

Report of annual meeting of Presbyterian Church of Wichita. Says the society was first incorporated in 1870. Financial details.

**Thursday, December 21, 1876**

3. Note complaining about the dangerous character of the upper (free) bridge that
"combined, double lockstitch, back action bridge that tries to cross two rivers and fails to cross either."

The Water Mills are running day and night to their fullest capacity and are in every particular a grand success. Thomas, Wheeler and Company of the Water Mills are getting up a big reputation for their "Blue Ribbon" flour.

The Methodist Episcopal church have decided to enlarge their church by running the main building out even with the bell tower, which now projects some six or ten feet in front. Murdock says this is ill-conceived, and they should add 30 feet to the back end instead.

**Thursday, December 28, 1876**

W. S. Johnson has built a livery stable on the corner of 4th Avenue and 1st Street, west of Russell and Furlong's elevator.

Westsiders are signing a petition for freeing of the big bridge in large numbers.

The services of the Presbyterian Church have again been transferred from Eagle Hall to the Baptist church.

Report of O. F. McKim, superintendent, on the Wichita public schools for three months ending December 22nd. Average daily attendance 332. There were 25 cases of corporal punishment.

Note from *Sumner County Press* about Douglas Avenue which "two years ago resembled an ordinary country road but now is pretty well-lined by business houses from the river to the depot."

Article gives by-laws of the "Wichita Library Association."