

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 1878 WICHITA EAGLE

Wichita Eagle

Thursday, January 3, 1878

page

2. Long letter about history of changes in silver content of United States coinage.

Thursday, January 10, 1878

page

3. Since the loss of the Texas cattle trail, many supposed that Wichita cattle shipments were of small moment, but the report shows that we have sent out about 4000 head the past season: ¶

Shipments for 1877:	Cattle	196 cars	3920 head
	Hogs	113 cars	5650 head
	Wheat	859 cars	343,000 bushels
	Corn	176 cars	75,428 bushels

Wichita Railroad Receipts:	1875	\$230,913
	1876	\$303,137
	1877	\$404,359

Long article lists current commodity prices in Wichita.

Thursday, January 17, 1878

page

1. County Commissioners on January 8th appropriated \$175 for building a bridge across the middle branch of Chisholm creek between sections 27 and 28, Township 26, Range 1 East.
3. The Douglas Avenue House will have by the first of February a new buss (sic) with 12 seats, for accommodation of the Hotel and of the public.

Sedgwick County wheat production in 1877 was 664,788 bushels from 55,399 acres, about 12 bushels to the acre, and valued at about \$565,000. ¶ Corn production was 2,551,692 bushels from 57,993 acres, about 45 bushels per acre, valued at \$510,338. ¶ Of a total of 645,120 acres in the county, 134,313 was cultivated, or 20 percent of the whole.

Thursday, January 31, 1878

page

1. Long report about wheat raising in Kansas, with details.
3. The chances for ice next summer grow slimmer daily, owing to the warm winter.

Thursday, February 7, 1878

page

3. The turn-table at the round house has been completed.

A brand new bus for the accommodation of the Douglas Avenue House guests has arrived and is being used. It bears the name of J. M. Cleveland.

Houck Brothers find their new apparatus for generating illuminating gas very cheap and otherwise satisfactory. The store is supplied with 19 burners, and from 7 to 19 are kept lighted during each evening at an average cost of ten cents per night.

The Trickey Brothers have closed out their grocery stock in Wichita and moved to their farms in Rockford Township.

Thursday, February 14, 1878

page

3. Full text of rules and regulations for the Wichita public schools as adopted by the Board of Education on February 4th.

Thursday, February 21, 1878

page

3. Morris Kohn is fixing up his business house (i.e., the New York store) with gas fixtures.

Reese and Sawyer have purchased a pile driver and are prepared to go into the bridge building business on an extensive scale.

Thursday, February 28, 1878

page

3. Article reports on Old Settlers' reunion last Friday. Details.

Advertisement says Mr. Cleaveland (sic) of the Douglas Avenue Livery Stable has put on a new bus and will carry passengers to and from all trains to all parts of the city for 25 cents per passenger.

Thursday, March 7, 1878**page**

3. About 61 books per week are issued from the library.

Note urging the mayor to issue proclamation for a day to be designated as "Arbor Day," for everybody to plant trees.

Browney bought the first choice of places at the depot for a bus stand. Paid \$35. Cleveland got second choice.

P. Getto has purchased half a square at corner of 2nd and Water.

Thursday, March 14, 1878**page**

3. W. B. Williams traded for the place known as the Graham farm between the rivers.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad are having built at Aurora two dining-room cars, which are to be run on their road by May 1st.

Thursday, March 21, 1878**page**

3. Article reports coinage of the first new silver dollars on March 11th.

The coal shaft has reached a depth of 392 feet.

The name of William Griffenstein (sic) is announced as a candidate for Mayor. This seems meet and right, and justice (sic) also, even if it is tardy. Further editorial comment.

A portion of the fair grounds is being planted in trees.

O. C. Daisy returned a few days ago from Chicago where he purchased tanks and sprinklers to be used in sprinkling the streets.

Thursday, March 28, 1878**page**

3. Work on the Houck Brothers building has commenced. It will be 48 by 130 feet. There are but few vacant lots left on Douglas Avenue.

Weigand (sic) bought 130 tons of ice at Lawrence.

J. P. Allen has purchased the old Schlichter (sic) and Russell building.

Uncle Billy Griffenstein (sic) is receiving a hearty endorsement for mayor everywhere throughout the city.

Article urging establishment in Wichita of a public reading room in connection with the library, now maintained by the Library Association. Details.

Thursday, April 4, 1878**Special 6th anniversary edition of the *Eagle*.****page**

1. Drawings of several buildings. (Same as last year or 1876?)
2. Article listing Wichita businesses.
3. A more detailed list of Wichita business houses.

Drawings of several residences.

The express office has been moved from Douglas Avenue to Wright's building on Main Street, a more commodious place.

Good brick are made here and are worth six to ten dollars per thousand. Coal is brought in by the railroad and sells at five to six dollars per ton. The best of pine lumber sells here for \$20 to \$35 per 1000 feet.

Henry Schweiter is on hand again with nice cool crystal ice.

At the city election yesterday William Griffenstein (sic) defeated W. S. Corbett for mayor by 529 to 390.

Thursday, April 11, 1878**page**

3. The Southwestern Stage Company will in a short time put on four new four horse stages, two of them to run from Wichita via Waco, Belle Plaine, London, and Wellington to Caldwell, and the other two from Wichita via El Paso and Winfield to Arkansas City, both daily.

O. C. Daisy has purchased and is using upon our streets two fine sprinklers which were purchased in Chicago.

Reese and Sawyer are building a bridge across middle Chisholm.

Mr. Emmert has determined to prepare a directory of the city. Details. At least 1000 copies are to be printed for free distribution by the advertisers.

Thursday, April 18, 1878**page**

2. The House Committee on Commerce has decided to provide for a survey of the Arkansas river from Ft. Smith to the mouth of the Little Ark river to determine the cost and

practicability of making it navigable for commercial boats. ¶ In this connection Messrs. Walton and Speers, of Arkansas City, are building a light draught boat, of 50 feet length by 16 feet beam, capable of carrying 20 tons of freight, drawing about 17 inches of water. The boat is about ready to receive its engines and the proprietors propose to visit Wichita within two or three weeks.

3. The new town laid out in Harper County is called Anthony in honor of the Governor.

The management and conduct of the Occidental Hotel has undergone a radical change under the new firm of Lyon and Lamb. In the dining room, which has been renovated, the colored brigade has given place to a company of fine looking, neat, tidy young women, for one thing. As to the cuisine, the change for the better is equally remarkable. The Occidental is bound to regain her old popularity as a first-class hotel, and we are glad to record the fact.

The Douglas Avenue House has changed hands. Edward Hassing (sic), late of Chicago, is the new landlord. Mr. Lane, the owner of the property, has let the contract for building a veranda on the north side and is otherwise improving it.

The bone trade grows apace. John Exton and H. J. Hall are "gathering them in." Several thousand dollars worth of these bones, which are picked up principally in Harper and Kingman counties by freighters, have been sold here and shipped East within the past few months. The price has advanced to eight dollars per ton for a choice article.

Thursday, April 25, 1878

page

3. Mr. Emmert has completed his census of the 1st ward and is nearly through the 2nd. The items are being collected for his directory of the city.

M. Hellar has moved his artificial stone works to Douglas Avenue, near the bridge.

Thursday, May 2, 1878

page

3. Material for the new grist mill, corner of Topeka and Douglas, is being piled up on the ground.

A petition to the City Council to open up the avenue east of the railroad to a uniform width with the rest of the street, is in circulation.

Thursday, May 9, 1878

page

2. Contracts were let May 3rd by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company for the earth-work, tunneling, and track-laying on the first 100 miles of its New Mexico extension, which includes the tunnel on Raton Mountain. Details. The contracts cover the extension of the line from La Junta (Colorado) to Clifton, New Mexico, and provide

for completion of the railroad to Trinidad (Colorado) by August 15th, to the summit of Raton Mountain tunnel by November 1st, and to Clifton, New Mexico, by February 1st. The awards let total \$1,500,000.

3. The steamboat spoken of two weeks ago has been launched at Arkansas City and made a successful trip from there to Oxford, 20 miles up the river.

Will Hays has a telephone running from his house to the mill.

Arrangements have been made to open out Douglas Avenue east of the railroad to a uniform width with the east (sic) side. We understand that arrangements are being made by the owners of the land lying east of the city as far as Chisholm creek, to plat it out into acre lots, to be sold on easy terms. Wichita will soon reach from the river to the creek, is the *Eagle's* prediction.

Article reports a destructive hail storm in Sedgwick County last Wednesday night. Details.

Thursday, May 16, 1878

page

3. Editorial urging the organization of a permanent Board of Trade in Wichita.

The site for the new Methodist Episcopal Church was purchased last week. The new church is to cost \$10,000.

Thursday, May 23, 1878

page

3. The Commissioners hope to build the new bridge across Chisholm creek by the time the wheat trade fairly opens.

A fine and extensive veranda is being erected along the entire front of the Douglas Avenue House.

The Wichita Library will be closed until further notice.

Thursday, May 30, 1878

page

3. The school house in West Wichita ought to be repaired and painted. It presents a very dilapidated appearance.

The Douglas Avenue House has been thoroughly overhauled and renovated by its new landlord, Mr. Hassig.

The title to the Water Mills has been settled, we learn, beyond any possible future disturbance, and as soon as some important additions can be made, they will be running regularly again.

J. P. Allen is moving his drug establishment into his new quarters on Douglas Avenue in the New York block.

Article about a recent smallpox breakout in Wichita.

Thursday, June 6, 1878

page

3. Note about a family picnic at Feichheimer's (sic) grove the other day.

Table of Sedgwick County statistics for 1878 from the assessor's returns. Of total 645,120 acres of land, 171,205 are now being cultivated. Population of Wichita City is 4209; Wichita Township, 654; and Delano Township, 498.

Article describes the "Arkansas Traveller", the new steamboat now plying between Ark City and the mouth of the Walnut river. Details.

Report of weather record for May from United States Army Signal Service Dodge City station.

Mr. F. A. Sowers and Mr. W. B. Hutchinson, the two pioneer editors and publishers of this valley, who, as partners, established the *Wichita Vidette*, a spicy paper of spicy days and lively times, are both in the harness again, the one on the *Herald* and the other on the *Beacon*.

Thursday, June 13, 1878

page

3. Note about meeting last Monday to plan for a new permanent Methodist Episcopal church.

Our police force looks just splendid in its new uniforms. The cloth is blue, the buttons, buckles and stars silver, and all was paid for out of their own pockets and no thanks to the city.

The Wichita and Southwestern Railroad, including side tracks, rolling stock, tools, material, and buildings, was assessed by the State Board at \$193,789. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and its branches in the state at \$4,385,716.

John Exton has raised his elevator another story.

Thursday, June 20, 1878

page

3. Westlake's elevator, operated by Boyle and Melville, is receiving an addition to its top.

The Great and Little Ark rivers are bank full.

The white woman and colored man have at last been forced to leave the city.

Seven grain elevators will be in operation in Wichita this summer.

The fire company have received their uniforms.

Ad: The managers of the Beer Garden have chartered the steamer from Arkansas City which will make trips to and from the bridge every half hour next Sunday. Fare to be free to all.

Thursday, June 27, 1878

page

3. Statistical report of the Wichita public schools for the past school year. Average daily attendance, 514. Of the original enrollment of 871, 21 were in the high school class. Teachers and their salaries listed. ¶ The three buildings owned by the board of education contain only eight rooms for seating of pupils. Details.

Thursday, July 4, 1878

page

2. Article reports the arrival June 30th at Arkansas City of the steamboat "Aunt Sally," from Little Rock. It is 85 feet long, 18 feet wide, and draws 14 inches light and about 2 feet when fully loaded, it carries 40 tons, and made the run from Little Rock to Arkansas City in six days.

Article describes the "Arkansas Traveler" steamboat operating at Arkansas City, converted from a common ferry used at Arkansas City.

The Illinois House, with stables attached, will be for rent in a few days.

What about a City Weigher? What say the Council and Board of Trade? Couldn't the two bodies between them provide for one for about four months in the year — at least during the height of the grain trade? We would not urge, but suggest.

Thursday, July 11, 1878

page

2. County commission meeting report July 1st shows county expenses including \$50 to William Griffenstein (sic) for rent of Eagle Hall.
3. The depot is undergoing a change — that is, they are giving it a dose of cheap paint. The company ought to build a passenger depot and ticket office separate from the freight depot.

M. M. Fechheimer has purchased two lots on the corner of Douglas Avenue and Market Street, north side, and will commence the erection of a brick business house.

Side tracks are being put in to the new elevators of Miller and Kellar (sic), and Abbott and West.

Report of a meeting last Saturday to consider organization of a Board of Trade. A temporary organization was formed. Details.

Thursday, July 18, 1878**page**

3. Board of education Monday elected H. F. Woodard (sic), of Indiana, as superintendent of the Wichita Public Schools, for \$200 less salary than was paid his predecessor, Mr. McKim. Murdock questions wisdom for such frequent changes with good cause.

Thursday, July 25, 1878**page**

3. The matter of curbing and guttering our two principal business streets is being discussed.

Thursday, August 1, 1878**page**

3. The facilities for getting out of Wichita now in any direction are excellent. Hocks and stages run from here to Winfield, El Paso, and Arkansas City; from here to Belle Plaine, Wellington, and Caldwell; from here to Douglass and Independence; from here to Eldorado (sic); from here to Hutchinson; from here to Milan.

Editorial note urging a steamboat for Wichita.

Thursday, August 8, 1878**page**

3. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad is offering eight day excursion tickets from Wichita to Niagara Falls and return for \$27.50.

Thursday, August 15, 1878**page**

3. A telephone line has been put up between the Savings Bank and the Merchants' and Farmers'(sic).

The *Eagle* is indebted to D. B. Emmert for copies of the City Directory and Immigrant's Guide for 1878.

The corner stone of the new German Methodist Episcopal church was laid yesterday.

Note calling attention to the poor condition of the road leading south out of town on the west side of the Arkansas River to Hays' Mill, over which comes and goes the major portion of the travel and trade of Sumner County.

Thursday, August 22, 1878**page**

3. Note says W. H. Sternberg has just completed a large substantial residence for Peter Getto and is starting another for Charles R. Miller on a block south of Douglas Avenue.

Thursday, August 29, 1878**page**

3. Note from *Winfield Courier*: "The Wichita stage, which is now a four horse Concord Coach, comes in every evening, loaded with passengers. Last Friday it brought in 16 passengers."

The work of widening Douglas Avenue east of the depot is progressing rapidly by the removal of shops, barns, etc., which will add greatly to the aspect and convenience of the east end.

Article listing several new residences being constructed in Wichita.

Thursday, September 5, 1878**page**

3. Dr. Ray has had a large number of street views photographed, which he will dispose of at reasonable prices.

Bitting Brothers have bought the lot on the corner of Market and Douglas, known as the green front corner, and, we understand, will build a two story brick thereon.

The county authorities will be compelled to keep a sharp watch on the city bridge. From 500 to 1000 heavily loaded teams go over it daily, and from 10 to 20 wagons at a time.

The Water Mills are now running under full head.

Drs. Smith and Kroskey (sic) are fitting up a public hall in the McPherson block, which will be available for rent. It will be 37 by 47 feet and seat 250 to 300 persons.

The Wichita Water Mills have recently been purchased by N. W. Ellis, a gentleman of ample means, and gone through a thorough repair and remodeling, it is now in first class order and running day and night.

Thursday, September 12, 1878**page**

3. The railroad men say that they have hired, begged and borrowed every car possible from the western and eastern railroads and that their new cars will be turned out as rapidly as possible. All the western roads are short of grain cars this season. Mr. Strong, the General Manager, and President Nickerson (of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe) both say they are as anxious to thoroughly meet the demands upon their roads as the people can possibly be.

Thursday, September 19, 1878**page**

3. On Sunday the Episcopalians will hold services in the new hall in McPherson Block.

Henry Schweiter, our popular ice man, made 286 gallons of wine from grapes grown upon his place. It is an entire success, rich and of fine flavor.

For the forthcoming fair, the Floral Hall has been extended 50 feet, an Agricultural and Horticultural Hall has been built, 24 by 150 feet, and the grand pavilion extended so as to seat 4000 persons comfortably.

The Eldorado (sic) Bobtail Railroad is proving a big thing. The business is increasing daily, and at an unprecedented rate. One morning last week the express train north to Florence carried 165 passengers, 162 of them were hogs, these with two other citizens of Butler County and the Vice-President made 165.

The Wichita and Southwestern Railroad is probably for its entire length the smoothest and lightest grade road in America. One of the light engines of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe last week pulled from Newton to Wichita 72 box cars against a head wind, but Sunday last a like-sized engine pulled over the entire length of the road 106 cars against quite a breeze. Of course the engineer did not dare stop on the road, as he never could have started again, but kept "hoopen 'em up" clear through.

Program of the Sedgwick County Fair, to be held September 24th-27th.

Thursday, September 26, 1878

page

3. The approaches to the bridge across Chisholm creek at Hoover's ought to be filled up and widened.

Thursday, October 3, 1878

page

3. Long report of the Sixth Annual Fair of Sedgwick County, which was held last week. Details.

Note refers to John Davidson, the oldest lumber dealer in Wichita, whose yard is on Market Street.

The Wichita City Mills are about ready to start up again. The old 90 horsepower engine has been replaced by a magnificent 125 horsepower engine — a splendid and perfect piece of machinery.

Last Wednesday evening was the occasion of a pleasant gathering at the new hall in McPherson building, to dedicate it and select a suitable name. The voting resulted in the appellation "Russell Hall." W. C. Woodman paid high tribute to the lady for whom the hall was named.

Thursday, October 10, 1878

page

3. The "Eagle Building" and McMillan's (sic) new business house, two story bricks adjoining the Eagle Block on the east, are nearly ready for the roof.

Mr. Scheetz has purchased the two business lots on the corner of Douglas and Market, south side, opposite Hess' store, upon which he will erect business houses next summer. Consideration, \$2200.

Those enterprising gentlemen, the Bitting Brothers, having purchased the Green Front on the corner of Douglas and Market, will immediately erect thereon a fine two story brick building, 27 by 100 feet, with iron and plate glass front and with artistic cut stone window caps, stone sills and cornice. We have no doubt it will be one of the finest buildings in the city.

Thursday, October 17, 1878

page

3. The work of stone guttering and curbing on Main Street has commenced.

City Surveyor Bear is locating the lampposts for the city. Fifty lamps will be put in place for immediate use, most of them in the business part of the city and north on the streets leading to each one of the churches.

Thursday, October 24, 1878

page

3. Another school has been opened in a building on Market Street, near the Presbyterian Church. Our school houses would be a disgrace to any town this side of Mexico.

The Douglas Avenue House, under the new management of Messrs. Manuel and Rogers, is fast gaining patronage and favor and served dinner to 95 guests last Sunday.

Thursday, October 31, 1878

page

3. Miss Baldwin, the librarian, announces that the library will be open from 2:00 until 6:00..

The new Eagle building will be most fitly dedicated by a rousing Republican meeting this afternoon.

The new German Methodist Episcopal Church looms up in pleasing outlines and goodly proportions. All but \$300 or \$400 have been secured for the completion of the building.

Both sides of Main Street for 600 feet north of Douglas Avenue are being curbed and guttered at a contract price of \$2.14 per lineal feet Details of the construction given.

Article about the new German Methodist Episcopal Church, now under construction on corner of Emporia Avenue and 1st Street. Lot and a good foundation costing \$400 are paid for. The contract for the superstructure is let to Messrs. Sullivan and Stillheimer for

\$1050. Total cost will be about \$1500 without furniture. Of this about \$1106 has been secured by subscriptions, of which \$640 is paid and \$466 unpaid. About \$300 more needs to be secured.

Thursday, November 7, 1878**page**

3. A small addition is being built to the post office by Mr. Woodman, the owner of the property.

The McMillen building is fast approaching completion and will be occupied by Dr. Losee's drug store.

Note about Lloyd B. Ferrell, "our gentlemanly and accommodating telegraph operator and enterprising merchant."

Thursday, November 14, 1878**page**

3. Dr. Losee and Brother are installed in the McMillen building, two doors east of the Eagle block, with their stock of fresh new drugs.

The *Eagle* moved into and took possession of its new and permanent quarters last Friday and Saturday. The new entrance is only four doors east of the old. Our new room is 80 feet by 25 feet with 12 foot ceiling, or just twice as large as our old quarters.

The Philadelphia Store will move from its present location on Main Street to the new room in the Eagle building on Douglas Avenue, three doors east of the Savings Bank.

Thursday, November 21, 1878**page**

3. The road between the railroad and Chisholm creek, at the east end of Central Avenue, has been graded up in first class style.

The Augusta road, from the railroad to the bridge on Chisholm near Dr. Allen's, has been graded.

Thursday, December 5, 1878**page**

2. Article says stock in Wichita and Southwestern Railroad Branch of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad reached nearly 50 cents in August or September.

3. Quarterly report on the Wichita schools by G. H. Woodward, superintendent.

Sarcastic editorial from the *Eldorado* (sic) *Times* about the *Eagle's* new quarters.

Our contemporary, the *Beacon*, commences its seventh volume this week. Its proprietors

are fair and honorable men and we congratulate them upon their prosperity. The *Beacon* is one of the recognized and solid and enterprising institutions of Wichita under its present management and its future is an assured fact.

Thursday, December 12, 1878

page

3. The Empire House is receiving another commodious addition (i.e., now the Tremont House).

The spire of the German Methodist Episcopal church reaches nearer to heaven than any other steeple in the city.

The Wichita Water Mills has just put in new flouring bolts in their mill.

Lloyd B. Ferrell has opened out in his new building. The new quarters for the telegraph office are convenient and roomy.

Thursday, December 19, 1878

page

3. Mr. H. L. Pierce is the new agent who succeeds Charles Warriner at this point.

The last vacant lot on the north side of Douglas Avenue, between Topeka and Emporia avenues, is now occupied. A German gentleman recently purchased the three remaining lots on Topeka and Douglas and erected three two story buildings. These are occupied by a variety of businesses — article lists those located here — includes real estate firm of Healy and Niederlander.

Thursday, December 26, 1878

page

2. Article about Wichita from the *Kansas City Journal*.
3. Hassig has sold the Daily House to P. W. Trimmer.

The Douglas Avenue has changed hands. Mr. Baker assumes control.

Nice six inch ice has been piled into ice houses at the rate of many tons per day the past week. Friday and Saturday Wiegand and Murphy had 61 teams hauling ice, each team hauling an average 2800 pounds to the load. On Friday, they put up 200,000 pounds. Their ice houses will hold 4000 tons, which they propose to fill if the ice holds good. ¶ We are glad for this fact. Last year this city paid out for ice that had to be shipped in, from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

The work of grading, filling, and ditching of the road commencing at the west end of the bridge and running three miles west, is being rapidly completed.

St. Aloysius church will hold services commencing at 10:00 a.m.

The Wichita Packing House is doing an immense business. Last Monday they killed 80 hogs weighing about 275 pounds each.

Note mentions editorial complaint about the want of efficiency and cheapness of Wichita's street lamps.