

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 1879 WICHITA EAGLE

Wichita Eagle

Thursday, January 2, 1879

page

3. H. Schweiter has stored away over 1000 tons of clear beautiful ice and is still piling it up.

Thursday, January 9, 1879

page

1. Long historical review of Wichita and Sedgwick County with drawings of Eagle block, New York block, etc.
2. Drawings of county building, water mills.
3. Drawings of residences of W. C. Woodman, William Griffenstein (sic), Samuel Houck, and M. M. Murdock.

Article describes in detail Wichita's banks.

According to census in spring of 1878, Wichita's population was 4209 including 1304 white males over 21, 968 white females over 21, and 85 colored males and females over 21. This does not include the residents of West Wichita.

The new two story brick business house 120 feet long at Market and Douglas just erected by the Bitting Brothers is an ornament to the city.

The German Methodist Episcopal church is nearly completed.

The Big River is spanned at this point by a wooden truss bridge resting on iron piers and is nearly 1000 feet long.

The Occidental hotel is now in the hands of C. A. Lyon.

The Douglas Avenue House is second to none in the city. The building is owned by T. M. Lane and conducted by J. Baker.

The depot at this place is 125 feet long. In addition the railroad company owns extensive cattle yards, a round house, water station, coal yard, and ice house.

The two halls of the city are both fitted up with stage and scenery. Eagle Hall has a seating capacity of 800 and Russell Hall 260.

The Wichita Library has just fairly entered upon its second year of existence and contains over a thousand volumes. Officers and directors are listed.

Article says two business blocks were put up a year ago using artificial stone.

Article reports volume of business at the Wichita Post Office. Details.

Other hotels include the Valley House, Richey House, Pacific House, Globe House, and Tremont House.

The Frontier Hook and Ladder Company, Number 1, has been in existence for a number of years.

Note records amount of pork packing in Wichita since 1874.

Long list gives occupations of many Wichita men.

Article lists a complete county and city directory.

Drawings of Wichita City Mills and the city government building.

Thursday, January 16, 1879

page

3. Article describes new cells recently added to the county jail.

There is no longer any doubt that the Turners of this city will erect a fine public hall the coming season. Lots have been purchased at the corner of 1st and Market streets.

Thursday, January 30, 1879

page

3. Work on the Bitting building has been resumed since the weather has had a thaw.

Thursday, February 6, 1879

page

3. The Turner Society announce that they have resolved to build a hall on the southeast corner of Market and 1st streets. Building is to be 54 by 130 feet, of brick.

Thursday, February 13, 1879

page

3. The second annual meeting of the Old Settlers will be held in the Eagle Hall, Friday, February 21st. Those are invited who came to this country before January 1, 1872.

Thursday, February 20, 1879

page

3. Article reports the annual meeting of the Library Association last Wednesday. Details. President is W. P. Campbell.

The plan for Turner Hall has been received and accepted by the building committee, and work will be commenced immediately.

Rowdy Joe joined the boys at Newton Tuesday en route to Leadville.

Thursday, February 27, 1879

page

2. Editorial on Sedgwick County and Harvey County dispute — “Should Harvey County be compelled to meet her contract?” Gives the history of the separation of northern part of Sedgwick County and formation of Harvey County in legislative session of 1871-72. Details.

Detailed report of engineer’s survey of the Arkansas River from the mouth of the Little Arkansas river to Ft. Smith. Says it could be made navigable from Wichita to Ft. Smith for \$900,000. Details.

Editorial says we now have an opportunity to get an extension of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad to Wichita from its present terminus of Oswego.

3. Report of a meeting held Saturday which passed resolutions favoring voting of bonds to aid the extension of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad from Oswego to Wichita.

The corner stone of St. John’s Episcopal Church, a frame gothic edifice to stand on the west side of Lawrence Avenue near 1st Street, will be laid the first of next week. It will cost about \$1500 and seat about 150.

Thursday, March 6, 1879

page

1. Text of charter of “Old Settlers Association of Sedgwick County, Kansas,” recorded by secretary of state at Topeka on February 4, 1879.
3. Shuman’s grove has been spoken of as a fit and suitable place for a city park. The grounds could be fixed up, boat and bath houses erected on the banks of the Little Arkansas, speaker’s stand erected, platform for dances, etc. We understand that the grounds can be had at a very reasonable figure now, while in a few years it would be impossible to purchase them.

The Wichita Water Mills burned down early Sunday morning. The cause of the fire is a mystery. Mr. Ellis is the proprietor. The mill ought to be rebuilt.

The Hartwig building, corner of 4th and Douglas, is enclosed and will be soon ready for occupancy.

Thursday, March 13, 1879

page

3. The Main Street curbing and guttering is being rapidly completed by the contractors.

Note mentions an illustrated edition of the *Beacon* this week.

Detailed report of Superintendent of Schools G. H. Woodward. Total enrolled is 780 with average attendance of 622. In high school there are 54 enrolled with average attendance of 52. Details.

Thursday, March 20, 1879

page

1. Note mentions dances in February in St. Mark and Germania.

3. Letter to *Eagle* suggests a code of locations for the fire bell.

The frame of the new Episcopal church is up.

Thursday, March 27, 1879

page

3. Article describes the new building to be erected by the Turners. To be 50 by 130 feet with floor of auditorium 80 by 50 feet and stage 30 by 50 feet. Ceiling is arched. Plans drawn by J. H. Stem, architect of Indianapolis, Indiana, a brother of Wichita resident, W. P. Stem. (Editor's note: In the April 2, 1879 issue of the *Beacon* the name J. H. Stem is listed as "H. P. Stem.")

Thursday, April 3, 1879

page

3. Sol Kohn elected mayor April 1st by 516 to 510 for William Griffenstein (sic). Details of election results.

Legal publication of petition calling for special election to vote bonds to aid construction of railway from Oswego to Wichita by the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad Company. Details.

Thursday, April 10, 1879

page

3. Legal publication of proclamation for special election May 20th to vote bonds for St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad project. Total amount of bonds: \$230,000.

Thursday, May 8, 1879**page**

3. Dedication of the German Methodist Episcopal church at Emporia and 1st Street will take place Sunday, May 18th.

The Eagle that surmounts this office is four feet five inches high and over ten feet from tip to tip.

Telephones are becoming quite a popular contrivance in Wichita and wires are being stretched in many directions from business houses to homes.

Thursday, May 15, 1879**page**

2. Article summarizes terms of proposed bond issue for the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad: ¶ Must commence construction within 60 days. ¶ Must build and operate 75 miles of the road by next January. ¶ If it builds only to Wichita it gets just \$35,000. ¶ If it builds only one line from Wichita to western line of Sedgwick County it gets \$140,000. ¶ Only if it builds to Wichita by August 1880 and two lines to the western line of the county by August 1881 does it get the full \$230,000.
3. Lloyd Ferrell's new patent silver fountain spurts out soda water at five cents a glass, pure, sweet, and highly flavored, which makes it very popular.

The difference in freight, when there are competing lines, was illustrated last week with a car load of lime shipped to John Exton from Hannibal, Missouri. Freight on the car from Hannibal to Kansas City, 226 miles, was \$12.50. From Kansas City to Wichita, it was \$52.38.

Thursday, May 22, 1879**page**

2. Article reports vote on May 20th which carried by a large margin for the subscription of bonds for the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad. Details.
3. The Episcopal church on Lawrence Avenue has nearly reached completion.

Thursday, May 29, 1879**page**

2. Table of Sedgwick County population, valuation, and crops by township. Wichita population given as 5235.
3. The Turner building is under contract to Reese and Sawyer for about \$10,000, and work will be commenced immediately.

Thursday, June 5, 1879

page

3. Commencement exercises for the Wichita public schools were held last week in Russell Hall.

The School Board on Monday evening asked the mayor to call an election to vote \$15,000 for moving old school buildings and building new ones: \$6000 each for erection of brick buildings in 1st and 4th wards, and the balance to be spent on lots and moving of old buildings. First ward building is to be moved to the 2nd ward, and 4th ward building to be moved further up in the ward and set apart for the colored children in the city.

Eighty acres more of ground is to be platted, east of the railroad and south of Douglas Avenue, and put into the limits of the city.

Shuman has his park fenced in and cleared up, the trees trimmed up, with rustic seats hither and thither. He also has nice boats to let.

The foundation of the new opera house is going in.

Thursday, June 12, 1879**page**

2. The German-English school of this city will open a new six week term on June (sic) 2nd in the high school building, the use of which has been granted by the Board of Education. The school enjoys the patronage of the Turner Association of Wichita.
3. Detailed report on Wichita Public Schools by Superintendent G. H. Woodward. Eleven school rooms provided and 11 regular teachers employed. For the year ended May 30th, 894 white and 22 colored children were enrolled.

Thursday, June 19, 1879**page**

3. Contract awarded Monday for the new Methodist Episcopal Church for \$4500. The plans are to use the present building in the construction of the edifice. To be ready for occupancy by September 1st. Details.

Episcopal Church is to be consecrated next Sunday morning.

The Frontier Fire Company, Number 1, will give a grand dress ball on July 4th at Eagle Hall, to raise money.

The voters on Tuesday passed the bond issue for new school buildings.

The foundation of Mr. Fraker's new grist mill on Douglas Avenue is ready for the joists.

The Wellington stage went out Monday morning drawn by a small pair of horses and loaded with five trunks, five passengers, and 13 sacks of mail.

Until further notice the Methodists will hold their Sunday services in Eagle Hall (i.e., while the new building is under construction).

Thursday, June 26, 1879**page**

3. The Tremont House has been repaired and repainted. Mr. A. N. Deming is now the sole proprietor.

Article reports consecration of new Episcopal church last Sunday. Details.

Grading of the first 20 miles of the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad from Oswego started a week ago last Saturday. Thirteen thousand tons of steel rails have been bought, to be delivered before January 1st.

The construction train is at work south of the city. The track extends four or five miles south and is rapidly going down.

Thursday, July 3, 1879**page**

2. Table compares prices of a list of standard household items in 1879 with those in 1864-65. They are much lower in 1879.
3. About 1000 men are at work on the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad west of Oswego. Delivery of steel rails will commence the second week in August and will continue at the rate of 3000 tons per month. The distance is 144 miles.

Thursday, July 10, 1879**page**

3. Article describes Wichita's 4th of July celebrations. Says Shuman's grove was the center of attraction throughout the day.

Thursday, July 17, 1879**page**

3. Editorial urging building of improved sidewalks, preferably permanent ones. Says Wichita has ten miles of board sidewalks now at cost of about 25 cents per foot, or \$13,200. They are of two inch by four inch pine stringers and one inch pine boards which do not last on the average over five years, thus at least 20 percent need repairs annually. If the city must stick to lumber walks, they should be built as in other towns of four inch by four inch oak stringers and two inch thick pine planks.

Cornerstone of new Methodist Episcopal church was laid last Wednesday.

Fechheimer's building at corner of Douglas and Market is going up rapidly.

Thursday, July 24, 1879

page

2. Detailed report on progress of grading for the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad.
3. Stockholders of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad voted July 17th to increase bonded debt of the company \$1,100,000 in order to acquire the Missouri and Western Railroad (from Pierce City, Missouri to Oswego) and to guarantee the bonds for the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad extension and to lease the latter road. Details. The entire road is under contract from Oswego to Wichita and is to be completed by January 1, 1880.

Contract let for curbing and guttering in front of the Eagle Block from Main to Market.

Thursday, July 31, 1879**page**

3. The Methodist Episcopal congregation will use the Presbyterian church in the evening for their services the next five Sundays instead of Eagle Hall.

Mayor Kohn's resignation was presented to the City Council on Monday.

The race track at the Fair Grounds has undergone a thorough overhauling, making it the best half mile track in the Arkansas Valley.

Thursday, August 7, 1879**page**

3. Mr. Edward Woodman, a capitalist of Jacksonville, Illinois, and a brother to our W. C. Woodman, is visiting in Wichita.

Thursday, August 14, 1879**page**

3. Editorial on Harvey County's continued refusal to pay its obligations to Sedgwick County.

Thursday, August 21, 1879**page**

3. A United States Senatorial Commission left Wichita last Thursday for a visit to Reno and the Cheyenne Agency. The round trip of 344 miles will take ten to 14 days. Tents, robes, blankets, and provisions were taken in a supply train, the party being conveyed in four carriages. Of course the party will be compelled to resort to camp life.

Bids to be opened August 28th for two new school buildings.

Thursday, September 4, 1879**page**

3. The ventilating dome of the opera house is going on.

Contracts for building the two ward schools are to be re-let September 17th.

Thursday, September 11, 1879**page**

3. William Griffenstein (sic) elected mayor at special election to fill vacancy due to resignation of Sol B. Kohn.

Article says a *Daily Beacon* was started last Monday week and ran just one week and stopped. The demand for a daily in Wichita is not sufficient to sustain it. Two years ago we made all arrangements to issue a daily but a careful canvass convinced us there were not over 200 business men in the town who would support such an enterprise, and half of those wanted a metropolitan affair with expensive specials and paid correspondence.

Note about a new two cent postal card, which has made its appearance. It has two stamps, one at each end, and space for two messages. The sender writes on one of the spaces and the return correspondent on the other. One stamp is canceled at the office from which it is sent and the other at the office from which it is returned.

The roof of the Opera House is nearly finished, the arched ceiling is being formed and a hard pine floor going down.

The tri-weekly mail service to Anthony, to have gone into service October 1st, has been increased to daily. For months past mail between Anthony and Wichita has been from 5 to 13 days en route.

Thursday, September 18, 1879**page**

3. Professor Nereus Baldwin has added to his gallery the latest improved solar camera by which ordinary photos are enlarged faithfully to life size.

Article gives summary of the different signals of the City Mills whistle: A long steady blow is for a fire in the mill; two blows starting lightly, increasing to full strength and then dying away, calls the engineer; one long steady blow and one short one, calls the millers; one long steady blow at full strength in the early morning indicates 6:00 a.m., railroad time; a steady succession of toots making all the fuss and noise that can be made is a signal of fire in the city.

Track laying on the St. Louis, Wichita and Western Railroad is progressing at the rate of one and one half miles daily. The road will be finished to Cherryvale by the last of this month and to Fredonia by the 1st of November. A large force is at work grading in the Flint Hills.

The passenger train, be it recorded, commenced to run through to Wellington, Monday, the 15th of September, 1879, on the following schedule: Leave Wichita at 10:35 p.m., El Paso 11:30, Mulvane 11:55, Belle Plaine 12:25, arriving at Wellington 1:20. Leave Wellington at 2:45 and arrive Wichita 5:30, trains running not to exceed 15 miles an hour.

Thursday, September 25, 1879**page**

3. Report on the seventh annual exhibition (fair) given by the Sedgwick County Agricultural, Mechanical, and Stock Association the past week. Details.

The time set for the opening and dedication of the Opera House is Monday and Tuesday, November 3rd and 4th.

Thursday, October 2, 1879**page**

3. School Board has let the contract for a building in the 1st ward. Work will be commenced immediately.

Thursday, October 9, 1879**page**

3. The trustees of the Presbyterian church are contemplating finishing up the main tower, or spire, of their church.

The track of St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad reached Cherryvale Saturday night.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad have agreed to furnish transportation for the steam fire engine from either Atchison or Kansas City to Wichita.

Thursday, October 16, 1879**page**

3. Detailed description of the Opera House stage and scenery.

Thursday, October 23, 1879**page**

3. The foundation for the new brick school house in the 1st ward is completed and the brick work commenced.

Thursday, October 30, 1879**page**

3. The dedication of the new Methodist Episcopal church will take place November 16th.

The Turner's Opera House will be opened formally by the Turners on Thursday, November 6th. Details.

The Excelsior Mills of Fraker and Humble steamed up last week and are now running night and day.

"There is talk again of a steam fire engine and a fire department. Wichita is not ready for these things yet."

Shuman's grove bids fair to become the resort for all outdoor sports, picnics, celebrations, etc. Mr. Shuman has expended a large amount of labor on the place this year in taking out stumps, clearing out undergrowth, trimming trees, etc., and no small sum of money in making a half mile elliptic track for trotting. The finest boating place in the country is the lake formed by the Little River. The Little River encircles two sides of the park and the Big River another side. Another favorable item for Shuman's Park is its nearness to the city.

Thursday, November 6, 1879**page**

2. The carpenters of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe have just completed their depot at El Paso (i.e., Derby).
3. The Opera House will be formally opened this evening. Details.

Thursday, November 13, 1879**page**

3. The formal opening of the Opera House last Thursday was a success.

Detailed description of the new Methodist Episcopal church, to be dedicated next Sunday, November 16th.

Thursday, November 20, 1879**page**

3. The new Methodist Episcopal church was formally dedicated last Sunday.

Cars commenced running through to Neodesha on Sunday, November 9th. Track laying is pushing for Fredonia. Seven new ten wheel Baldwin engines, 19 by 24 feet, arrived at Springfield November 10th.

Note says the George Innes and Company firm, located next to the post office, opened here on November 17th three years ago.

The bell for the Presbyterian church has arrived and is hanging in the tower.

Thursday, November 27, 1879**page**

3. Reverend J. D. Hewitt was elected permanent pastor by the Presbyterian congregation Monday at a salary of \$1200 per annum with parsonage furnished or \$1350 per annum if he pays his own rent.

Thursday, December 11, 1879**page**

3. The board of appraisers, or condemning commission, have been very busy for some days past, condemning the right of way through this county for the St. Louis, Wichita, and

Western Railroad. The line approaches from the eastern boundary of the county on a section line which for seven miles does not swerve a hair, until it reaches the brow of the high prairie east of the city, thence it angles down through the depression south of the cemetery into the valley, thence west to the head of Pine Street which street it occupies its entire length to its intersection with Water Street. The passenger depot has been located at the intersection of Pine and Main streets, the freight depot one block further west, at the intersection of Pine and Water streets, then angles down to the river bank into an open plot of ground of which seven acres have been condemned for round house and machine shop purposes. The commissioners seem to have been very liberal in their estimates of condemned property. Along the section line for seven miles east of town they allowed \$12 per acre for land, 80 cents a rod for hedge, and five dollars additional per acre for growing wheat. The price allowed for lots is about what the same lots have been held at for three years past. As to the depot their (sic) seems very little adverse criticism. All agree that so far as the general interests of the city are concerned it is good enough, although a large number would have, upon personal grounds, preferred other locations. There was a strong pull to have it located south of Douglas Avenue on the Big River bank. Also another pull to have it located near the Santa Fe stock yard. But, after all, the main anxiety has been, and is still, to secure an independent competing line of railway to the Mississippi river.

Death notice of D. S. Munger at age 67.

Thursday, December 18, 1879

page

3. The fire company building has been moved to the next square above on the lot with the calaboose.

The "South Kansas Medical Society" completed its organization in Wichita December 4th (date unclear). Officers are listed, including Dr. Furley of Wichita, president. Next meeting will be in Winfield on the first Tuesday in January.