TIHEN NOTES FROM 1880 WICHITA EAGLE

Wichita Eagle
Thursday, January 1, 1880
page 3.

The St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad is now completed more than 75 miles west of Oswego and will commence on December 28th running passenger and freight trains over this 75 miles, thus complying with conditions of the Sedgwick County bond subsidy. (Letter from C. W. Rogers, St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad General Manager in St. Louis, dated December 26, 1879.)

The best map ever made of Sedgwick County now hangs in Capt. Steele’s Land and Loan Office. It was executed by Capt. Bear. Details.

The Wichita colored band made its first public appearance on the evening of the 24th. Details.

Owing to the material increase in the price of raw paper, the Beacon has advanced its subscription to two dollars per annum.

Thursday, January 8, 1880
page 3.

The central school building of Wichita was consumed by fire last Wednesday night (December 31st-January 1st). The main building was erected in 1871 (or 1874?; probably 1874) from the proceeds of $4000 in bonds. Three additions have since been added. It consisted of seven rooms, three hallways, and two pairs of stairs, and altogether was the most miserable old banged-up clap-trap in the way of a central school building upon the American continent. But it made a pretty fire. How it caught fire seems inexplicable. A teachers’ meeting was being held at the time. The building was insured for $2500. The new brick building in the 1st ward ought to have been finished weeks ago, but it has not been. The school board met Monday and decided to hold classes temporarily as follows: Four rooms held in the first floor rooms of the Occidental block, one room to be held in the Stackman block, and one room in the French block. The high school will not hold sessions, but the students will go and recite to their respective tutors at a designated hour.
The Occidental has changed hands, Mr. O. B. Hornbarger succeeding Mr. Lyon.

The balance of the old awkward and ungainly awning, which has so long marred the architectural beauty of the Eagle Block, has been ordered down.

**Thursday, January 15, 1880**

Article lists summary of events in Wichita during the past year by date.

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<td>Bonds carried for the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western Railroad in Wilson and Labette counties</td>
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<td>May 22nd</td>
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<td>November 7th</td>
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<td>December 1st</td>
<td>Right of way into Wichita of the St. Louis, Wichita, and Western</td>
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<td>Election of officers to the medical society</td>
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The latest work of curbing on the north side of Douglas between Main and Market has begun.

The *Lawrence Journal* issued last week a special edition giving a history of the city.

The School Board decided at their last meeting to ask the Mayor to call an election to vote bonds of $5000 for the purpose of building a larger school house that first proposed.

**Thursday, January 22, 1880**

The Occidental hotel was sold last week by Judge W. C. Little, receiver of the First National Bank, to Mrs. Emma J. Houston, of Winfield.
M. Kohn and Company purchased the Golden Eagle stock last Saturday for $6960 (i.e., bankrupt stock).

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway company are now running Palace Chair Cars between Newton and Kansas City.

**Thursday, January 29, 1880**

page 3.

The City Mills will close down March 1st for about two months to install new machinery, including seven run of burrs in place of three, which will more than double their present capacity.

**Thursday, February 5, 1880**

page 3.

Article about a disastrous fire in downtown Wichita last Friday evening with loss of about $20,000. Details. On Main Street north of the post office.

**Thursday, February 12, 1880**

page 3.

The Library in the future will be open only Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, by order of the board of directors. New directors of the Library Association are listed.

Committee on school buildings has recommended that a two story, eight room building be erected on the site of the old burned building. It is estimated that $12,000 more will be necessary.

**Thursday, February 19, 1880**

page 3.

Article about proposed city coal illuminating gas works for Wichita. Details. Says city has had weak flickering gasoline “fire-bugs” on 17 nights of each month giving very inadequate illumination.

Article about the new officers of the city library.

Grading is under way between Augusta and Wichita for the new east-west railroad.

**Thursday, February 26, 1880**

page 3.

Article reports Old Settlers reunion at the Opera House last Thursday with reminiscences by James R. Mead. Details.

The graders on the St. Louis and San Francisco are in sight of town.

The Caldwell extension south of Wellington has already begun.
Thursday, March 4, 1880

3. Article reports proposal by Sears and Irland for installation of a water works in Wichita. Details.

Letter urging voting of the $12,500 in additional school bonds requested and explanation of proposed use.

The council, four to three, agreed to the purchase of a steam fire engine last week, but Mayor Griffenstein refuses to sign the contract for the delivery of the machine for the reason he is satisfied that a majority of the taxpayers and real estate owners along the business streets are not yet ready for the purchase and necessarily costly maintenance of such an investment.

Messrs. Hobart and Allen, directors of the St. Louis and San Francisco road, have been in Wichita this week. It was thought that the depot and so forth were permanently located in the north part of town, but Mr. Hobart informs us that the right of way into that part of the city will cost them so much more than they had calculated upon that he did not feel justified in recommending its adoption, unless something could be done. The lower end and east side of the city have made very favorable propositions, and unless high prices at the upper end can be materially compromised or reduced the location will be changed, he thinks. At present the matter is held open. We are sorry that it was deemed necessary to re-open the question, but as it has been we have no hesitancy in saying we, as a people, do not want the depot located in connection with the present one. Put it on the west side, if not above the avenue then below it.

Thursday, March 11, 1880

3. The new school building in the 1st ward has been completed and will be occupied as soon as the furniture can be put in place, perhaps next week.

A company will be incorporated shortly, we learn, and a right of way asked for for the construction and running of street cars from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe depot west on Douglas to Wichita Street and north on Wichita Street to the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad depot.

Thursday, March 25, 1880

3. Article reports a variety show Saturday night at Russell Hall.

Thursday, April 8, 1880

3. Article describes the new three story block now being erected on Main Street (in area of recent fire destruction?) with 100 foot front. Details.
The School Board have ordered the building of two more school houses, one six room building in the 4th ward on the old school ground, and one four room building in the 2nd ward.

Thursday, April 15, 1880
page
3. The city schools, as announced heretofore, close this week for the year for want of funds to continue longer.

Thursday, April 29, 1880
page
3. The east and west railroad will be open for business to Augusta on the 8th of next month, so the new timetable indicates. The railroad is expected to reach Augusta Saturday evening, May 1st. The grading between Augusta and Wichita is nearly finished.

Thursday, May 6, 1880
page
3. The Wichita City Mills have undergone extensive and costly improvements in the last few weeks and much new machinery has been added. A large frame structure three stories high is being put up at the southwest corner of the mill.

The east and west railroad reaches Augusta today.

The depot on the east and west railroad was located yesterday at Cloud, ten miles east of Wichita.

Thursday, May 13, 1880
page
3. The railroad will be in Caldwell within a week.

Thursday, May 20, 1880
page
3. The smoke of the construction train of the St. Louis road can be seen over the hill as we go to press. The general passenger agent of the St. Louis and San Francisco was in Wichita last week making arrangements for operating the new railroad. The terminal facilities of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe will be used and for the present the railroad will run into the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe depot.

The curve in the grade, running to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, is being made by the St. Louis and San Francisco.

Thursday, May 27, 1880
page
2. Map of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad.
3. The last rail was laid Sunday evening and the Great East and West Railroad is completed to Wichita. On Monday evening Superintendent Rogers reached here by a special. Regular passenger trains commence running this week. The first dirt on this extension was broken at Oswego on June 17, 1879 and steel rails laid the full distance of 145 miles since then.

Host Deming is having a fine veranda erected running around the south and west sides of the popular Tremont.

Thursday, June 3, 1880

2. Quotes of several newspaper articles on the completion of the St. Louis and San Francisco railway to Wichita. Mentions that since the voting of bonds, the stock of the St. Louis and San Francisco road has been acquired by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Company, and Wichita is unhappy that the new road will not be independent and compete with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and is therefore reluctant to pay the whole $230,000 bond issue.

3. Long article describes the City Mills and Elevator of Shellabarger, Imboden and Oliver, from whose massive stack volumes of black smoke seems ever-pouring. The mill was erected in 1874, but has recently been completely rebuilt with new machinery installed and its capacity more than doubled. Capacity is 200 barrels of flour per day. Cost of the new improvements and machinery is about $23,000.

The frame school house in the 1st ward was burned to the ground last Thursday night. It is believed to have been a set fire. The building was owned by W. C. West.

30 passengers came in on the second through train over the St. Louis and San Francisco. The new passenger train consists of three coaches and an express and mail car, painted dark and gilt. The train started carrying St. Louis mail on Tuesday, June 1st.

Thursday, June 10, 1880

2. Table of Sedgwick County statistics of crops, livestock, population and valuation, etc. for 1880 by township. Wichita population is 5482 and Sedgwick County 17,813. Delano township has 504. Details.

The Board of Education Monday decided to commence erection of two new school buildings forthwith. Both will be of brick, one of six rooms, and the other four. The six room building will occupy the site of the old Central building in the 3rd ward and the other will be erected in the 2nd ward. Contracts to be let June 21st and buildings completed by September 21st.

One hundred nineteen car loads of freight, etc. have been received over the St. Louis, and Wichita road up to Saturday night.
Thursday, June 17, 1880

3. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe road has been finished to Caldwell.

A balloon ascension has been arranged for at Shuman’s grove on July 4th.

The St. Louis road is shipping in Butler County stone and has shipped out 40 car loads of sand.

Thursday, June 24, 1880

3. Text of proposed water works ordinance to be submitted to city council by Mr. D. B. Sears. Details.

Official United States census gives population of Wichita at 5184. Within the school district comprised of the city and platted portions adjoining, there are about 5700.

The school board have let the contract for the building of two school houses to H. F. Butler for $16,600.

The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company have laid a track about 300 feet long alongside of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe for transfer purposes.

Thursday, July 1, 1880

3. The front of the I.O.O.F. Temple building on Main Street was finished on Tuesday.

Shuman has sold his driving park and grove adjoining the city, including his farm, to an eastern party for $11,000.

Thursday, July 29, 1880

3. The “Whitworth corner” on Main and Douglas has been sold to S. C. Mendenhall of Richmond, Indiana, and E. J. Drake of this city for $24,000. They expect to replace the old wooden structures with a good brick block.

A meeting of several gentlemen interested in education was held last Wednesday evening with Rev. J. D. Hewitt as presiding officer, and it was decided to take the preliminary steps to establish the Wichita College and to incorporate same under the laws of Kansas. Details.

Mr. O. H. Bentley, an attorney from Cleveland, Ohio, arrived in our city this week with a view to permanent location.

The new school house in the 4th ward is going forward rapidly. The other new building
is not so far along.

Thursday, August 5, 1880

3. From State Board of Agriculture, population figures for Kansas’ largest cities:
   Leavenworth 16,651
   Topeka 15,528
   Atchison 15,381
   Lawrence 8,395
   Wichita 5,482
   Wyandotte 5,402

   The Wichita College has been duly incorporated and will be open for instruction about September 1st.

   The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe management contemplate repairing and fitting up their depot at this point at an early date. We hope it will not be done. Wichita deserves better at the hands of the Santa Fe. The old freight shed will never be anything else. It was put up at an early day for temporary purposes out of material carted across the country. Wichita is the third best town on that line of railroad in the State, and the best town on the line for business and we sincerely hope the management will think better of it and order the erection of at least a passenger depot of respectable appearance and with some of the modern comforts. Don’t attempt patching up that dilapidated old comfortless freight shed.

Thursday, August 12, 1880

3. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe is pushing a line west from Wellington toward Anthony and Medicine Lodge. No one outside of the management knows the destination of the line. The Lawrence, Leavenworth and Galveston Railroad has reached the western line of Sumner County with its track and the grade is about complete to Harper City.

   The most substantial business house ever erected in Wichita is the new building nearing completion on Main, near Douglas Avenue, being erected by John A. Field. It corners on an alley next to the Dagner block and stands nearly opposite the post office. It is two story, of cherry-red brick, and cost upwards of $6000. Details.

Thursday, August 26, 1880

2. Article about the Wichita College. Admission fee is ten dollars per term or $30 for the college year.

3. The second story of the 4th ward school is about finished.

   Article about plans for building a steam cracker factory in Wichita. Details.
The St. Louis and San Francisco will extend their track along Pine Street and will at its intersection with Main Street erect an independent depot. It seems that the proposition to build a union passenger depot on the triangle at the intersection of the roads has fallen through.

**Thursday, September 2, 1880**

3. Article about plans for the County Fair of the Sedgwick County Agricultural and Stock Association. Details.

The roof of the 4th ward school house is nearly on and the 2nd ward school house is nearly ready for the roof.

**Thursday, September 9, 1880**

3. Article describes improvements up at the Fair Grounds. They include a new two story amphitheater seating 1000 or 2000. The grounds next to the Little River and on the northwest have been closely mown for the encampment.

**Thursday, September 16, 1880**

3. Article reports the opening of the 8th Annual Fair of Sedgwick County. Details.

A survey is being made by the St. Louis and San Francisco from Sedgwick City to Halstead along the banks of the Little River to a connection with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.

**Thursday, September 23, 1880**

1. Detailed description of the 8th Annual Fair last week of the Sedgwick County Agricultural, Mechanical and Stock Association.

**Thursday, September 30, 1880**

3. A petition is being circulated asking the School Board to move the frame building in the 1st ward to the east side of the railroad.

**Thursday, October 7, 1880**

2. The city schools will open the school year next Monday. All pupils belonging to the high school will report to the 4th ward building. Teachers listed.

3. The new depot has come — at least the old one has been furnished with a new coat of paint, which adds greatly to its appearance.
The Occidental will be opened in a short time furnished throughout with new rich furniture, marble-topped dresser stands, with bedsteads and chairs to match, costing when ready to open to the public, about $10,000. Mr. A. W. Davis, of Winfield, and W. S. Forry will take charge of the establishment.

On the second day of the fair the proprietors of the pleasure steamboat which plies between Comm. Woodman’s residence — Lake Side — and the mouth of the river, allowed too many passengers to get aboard for a trip, the consequence being that the large and elegant steamer went down, which necessitated about 60 or 75 persons to hang themselves up to dry on the sunny side of the river bank.

Thursday, November 4, 1880
page 2.
Election results: Garfield and Arthur elected.

3. The Occidental will re-open on Sunday.

The new I.O.O.F. hall has been taken possession of by the Odd Fellows. The Masons also use the same rooms.

Thursday, November 11, 1880
page 3.
The Excelsior Flour Mills burned Tuesday morning.

The Occidental under the new regime is running full blast and is second to no other hotel in the state. Partitions have been cut away and rooms made larger and handsomely furnished.

Thursday, November 18, 1880
page 3.
The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad is now advertised in St. Louis as the “Frisco Line,” which is short and handy.

Thursday, December 2, 1880
page 3.
The Tremont House changed hands yesterday, Mr. Deming having leased it to Messrs. Kelly and Young.

The two principal ice dealers, Henry Schweiter and George F. Harris, are making preparations for cutting and storing ice. The ice ranges now from four to six inches thick.

Thursday, December 9, 1880
page 3.
Finlay Ross is breaking ground for an extension of his business house on the corner of 1st and Main. The extension runs back on 1st Street 40 feet.
Thursday, December 16, 1880

page 3. The first term of the Wichita College will come to a close December 15th. Dr. L. DeLew is Principal.

Thursday, December 23, 1880

page 3. Article says the *Eagle* has added in the last few days the machinery for a first class book bindery to its news and job printing establishment.

Thursday, December 30, 1880

page 3. Article lists stockholders of The Kansas State Bank, which is to be opened in Wichita in a few days.