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 1882 WICHITA EAGLE

Wichita Eagle
Thursday, January 5, 1882
page
3. This intimation given out by the Eagle last spring that a passenger depot would be built at the intersection of the Frisco and Santa Fe Railroad, near the northern limits of the city, was received with some little skepticism. ¶ In addition to the grounds within the “Y” the companies have purchased strips on each side of the track 50 and 100 feet respectively by 1000 feet long. The plan shows a very nice passenger depot 80 feet long and 30 feet wide and two stories high. The freight business of both roads will be done at the old depot; the passenger, mail, and transfer business at the new. The spot designated for the new depot is on the west side of the main track of Santa Fe and north of Oak street.

Thursday, January 12, 1882
page
3. The right-of-way agent of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe was here this week securing a deed to the property upon which to locate the new passenger depot.

Article reports a new milling company has been organized by Ed A. Dorsey and others under the name of the Diamond Mills Company. They have purchased the Grange Elevator property and are converting it into a flouring mill. Three run of wheat buns are already in. Details.

Thursday, January 26, 1882
page
3. The Occidental hotel has been taken over by the proprietors, Platter, Hewitt and Williams, we hear, and will be run by them until a satisfactory lessee can be found.

Thursday, February 9, 1882
page
3. The Occidental hotel is now in the hands of A. A. Moore.

Thursday, February 16, 1882
page
3. The track of the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad is completed to Toronto, Woodson county.

The telephone exchange now reaches 70 odd subscribers and may be considered a permanent institution.

Thursday, March 2, 1882
page 3.

The new union depot was staked off last week. It is about 87 feet long by 30 feet wide and, we believe, two stories high; at least the original plans were so drawn. Several car loads of material arrived on Monday, and a number of teams are forming the grades for the side tracks. The depot will be of frame, and the masons commence work today if the order for a different location is not received. The site is too far north by at least 800 or 1000 feet, which fact has been impressed upon the management.

Thursday, March 9, 1882
page 3.

The Diamond Mills are in full blast.

The Methodist Episcopal church, colored, is enclosed at a cost of $200. It will take $250 more to finish it.

Thursday, March 16, 1882
page 3.

*Edwards’ Historical Atlas of Sedgwick County* is upon our table. Details.

The grand new union depot is looming up rapidly into a one-story wooden building worth, for taxable purposes -- well, it would not be safe to guess.

Thursday, March 23, 1882
page 3.

Jacob Bissantz is building a $2000 residence on corner of 2nd and Water.

The new union depot for Wichita is not located at Valley Center, but a considerable distance this side in the direction of this city. There will be a material reduction in fares east after it opens for the reason that it is much nearer all competing points than is the old depot. It hasn’t been determined whether the fare to Caldwell and points south will be increased or not.

The firm names of Wichita principal flouring mills are as ponderous as their machinery, namely: ¶ *Wichita City Mill and Elevator-Shellabarger, Imboden and Oliver; Hydraulic Flouring Mills-Dieffenbaugh, Lewis and Company; Wichita Diamond Mills-Dorsey, Alexander, Tucker and Company.*

Thursday, March 30, 1882
Editorial urging replacement of Wichita’s light pine board sidewalks by flagstone walks from Cowley or Butler counties.

The telephone company is putting in a new and expensive system board to accommodate 25 more wires.

The surveyors on the Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad were between Towanda and Wichita on Monday.

The alleged grand new union depot is being painted, plastered, and platformed, and after next week postals and passengers for the north will leave two and a half minutes earlier so as to make sure connection with the morning 5:45 fast freight.

Thursday, April 13, 1882


Note reports death of Henry Vigus, one of the very earliest settlers of the county. Survived by one son. Had lost two wives.

There is a good deal of grumbling about the naked appearance of the public square upon which the jail is located. The truth is it is a hardpan spot of the stickiest gumbo, and no ordinary cultivation will ever grow trees upon the unsightly spot.

Contract has been let for Colonel William Innes’ new residence on Topeka avenue. Details.

Thursday, April 20, 1882

Article about the new “Wichita Carriage Works” of McDaniel, Powitzky, and Paulis.

Article lists several residences to be built this year.

Root Brothers will either put on a herdic or bus number three.

Thursday, April 27, 1882

The new depot platform is very smooth, 400 feet long and 40 or 50 feet wide.

Thursday, May 4, 1882

Letter indicates the two competing Fair Associations have broken off their negotiations
for merger. Details.

3. Article reports graduation exercises of the high school last Friday at the Opera House with five men and eight women graduates. Details.

The old freight depot is to be overhauled, remodeled, and a new foundation put under it, the material for which is already being shipped in. The new passenger house is about finished except the last coat of paint. It would have been ready some time ago except for the plasterers, who were busy at another point.

**Thursday, May 11, 1882**

3. Committee recommends to Board of Trade the establishment of an institution of learning to be called “The Wichita Academy.” Details.

**Thursday, May 18, 1882**

3. Article reports the *Eagle* is now being printed on a new combination press received from Cottrell and Company, Westerly, R.I. Details.

More than $1000 has been spent on the Occidental Hotel this spring making changes on the lower floor. Windows and doors have been opened out on 2nd street on the south side of the building.

The Root Brothers have, in connection with their transfer business, erected a derrick, or crane, alongside the track south of the depot, for the loading and unloading of heavy machinery, etc.

**Thursday, May 25, 1882**

3. F. G. Smythe and Son have purchased the corner on Douglas and Lawrence avenues, opposite Smith and Keating’s, from Russell and Holcraft, at present occupied by a sale stable, for $3000 and will erect there a two story brick store house and sales room.

The Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad reaches Eureka today.

**Thursday, June 1, 1882**

3. The depot on Douglas avenue is going to be made almost new and greatly improved. When finished, it will be one of the best freight houses in the State.

**Thursday, June 8, 1882**

3. The Occidental Hotel is receiving a coat of ocher colored paint which will completely change the appearance of the great brick pile.
Thursday, June 15, 1882
3. It seems the ocher color applied to the Occidental was only the foundation for a deep brick red color.

Thursday, June 22, 1882
3. Mr. S. L. Davidson will enlarge and remodel the building at corner of 2nd and Topeka for his residence.

Note in letter comments “15 saloons are today running in Wichita.”

Thursday, June 29, 1882
3. Four brick yards are now in full blast.

Thursday, July 6, 1882
3. Professor Copley was succeeded as superintendent of the Wichita city schools by E. L. Hallock, of Newton, by the action of the Board of Education on Monday night. Editorial comment.

T. M. Lane has again resumed control of the Douglas Avenue House.

The telephone exchange is now open day and night. You can say “hello” at any hour and be answered.

Thursday, July 13, 1882
3. Article reports the city on Tuesday voted $25,000 for the erection of a building for the use of a higher educational institution, either academic or collegiate.

The colored Methodist Episcopal church will be dedicated on the fourth Sunday of this month.

The new union passenger depot has been attached to the telegraph lines, and the operator and ticket agent will take up their residence in the country between Wichita and Valley Center some time this month. The new depot promises to be a very quiet and retired loafing place.

Thursday, July 20, 1882
3. The new passenger depot was taken possession of yesterday, the wire attached and furniture put in, and today the mails and passengers will be delivered there.
Thursday, July 27, 1882

3. Colonel Hartzell spent a day in our city last week looking after the future of the street railway that is to run from depot to depot, out Douglas avenue, up Main street, and by the college. A meeting of the company developed the promise of active operations within a few months. J. M. Steele is president, Kos Harris secretary, and L. D. Skinner treasurer.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church of this city was dedicated last Sunday. Details.

Thursday, August 3, 1882

page
1. Annual statistical table of Wichita and Sedgwick county crops, live stock, valuation, etc. (Supplement.)

Thursday, August 10, 1882

page
2. Work is now progressing on the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita in the Flint Hills with expectation that the road will be completed to Eldorado by January 1, 1883. About 1000 men are now at work upon the cuts. Details. The road is now in successful operation to Eureka.

3. Almost every proper name is susceptible of a variety of ways of spelling, but Wichita seems to take the cake. Letters received at the postoffice are spelled all the way from four letters to half of the alphabet. Ihita, Ouitchataha and Wihtau being common styles. The last new departure coming under our notice was one received on Saturday spelled Witchitahataugh, fifteen letters. If the writer had commenced further back on the envelope the result might have been startling. ¶ (Editor’s note: Upon checking the microfilm, it was found that page 3 was filmed twice. The first has a supplement page on it.)

Thursday, August 17, 1882

page
3. Article reports the charter for the new Wichita Academy was received from the secretary of state in Topeka last Friday. Board of directors organized with M. M. Murdock, president. Details.

L. C. Woods has purchased the cracker factory.

Thursday, August 24, 1882

page
3. The drivers, runners, agents and messengers of the buses, mail and express wagons are a musical set. As the caravan nightly comes up to the country depot to meet the trains a stranger would take the outfit for a traveling camp meeting, for that is the kind of music they like. When the train happens to be ten minutes late, Eagle Roost gets a serenade of no mean proportions as the teams are pulled up under the cottonwoods and elms in front of the place.
Mr. Henry Bolte has let contract for building of a fine residence on the bank of the river south of Mayor Grieffenstein’s home.

**Thursday, August 31, 1882**

3. The Old Fair Association will hold their 10th annual exhibition at their beautiful grounds north of the city next week.

The Kansas State Bank takes possession of its new quarters on the southwest corner of Main and Douglas in a day or two. The old front and corner have been taken out and heavy French plate glass put in. The building has been completely overhauled. Details.

**Thursday, September 14, 1882**

3. Mr. Goodyear has sold his flouring and feed mills on Douglas avenue to Marshall Hurst.

**Thursday, September 21, 1882**

3. Article says the old bridge on Douglas avenue has become dangerous and the county commissioners have issued a proclamation for the erection of a new one. It is proposed to put up a first class iron bridge of nine spans costing about $25,000. The present abutments and seven pier foundations in bed of the river are sound and can be re-used. The sound timbers in the superstructure will be utilized for smaller bridges in the county. Proposal is to be submitted to the voters.

Article says the *Eagle* has opposed the expense of a city water works, but the city council has decided otherwise and has contracted with a St. Louis firm for laying of a 14 inch main, six inch supply pipes, and furnishing the city with 60 hydrants. Work is to commence within 30 days.

Smyth and Sons’ new building is 50 feet 140 feet.

**Thursday, September 28, 1882**

3. Three out of the four banks of this city will, within a short time, take out charters as national banks.

**Thursday, October 12, 1882**

1. Legal publication of proclamation for election November 7, 1882 to vote $25,000 for erection of an iron bridge across the Arkansas river.

Hereafter the school time will be 21 minutes slower than railroad time.

The Wichita and Southwestern, the Cowley, Sumner and Ft. Smith, and the Harvey
County Railway companies have been consolidated, forming the Wichita and Southwestern Railroad with capital stock $2,125,000.

Thursday, October 26, 1882

Mr. P. Getto is building a brick building, 25 by 50 feet, at corner of Main and 2nd for a soda factory.

The two old frames on the west side of Main street belonging to Emil Werner have been hauled out and Finlay Ross has let the contract to Sternberg to put up a splendid two story brick building with 50 foot front.

Emil Werner is building a two story brick building on Douglas avenue.

Thursday, November 2, 1882

Legal publication of proclamation for re-voting on $25,000 school bond issue on November 7th.

Kansas National Bank and Wichita National Bank are now operating as National Banks.

Thursday, November 9, 1882

The bridge proposition carried at the election November 7 by 2720 for to 741 against.

Article describes the fine residence of Mr. S. L. Davidson at 2nd and Topeka, now nearing completion. Details.

Letter from a colored woman to *Eagle* complaining of colored men buying liquor early in the morning before proprietors are themselves in the saloons.

The Wichita water-works company have purchased 14 acres of ground lying north of Central avenue and west of Waco street. The tract lies along the Little river. The well and engines will be located on the north side, near the river.

“Wichita, two years ago, gave the prohibition amendment 225 majority, while the county, outside of the city, went against the amendment. There don’t seem to be much change.”

Thursday, November 16, 1882

The vote for $25,000 in school bonds for the Wichita Academy carried almost unanimously for the second time in the election on November 7.

Thursday, November 23, 1882
3. The ground for the water-works building has been staked off.

**Thursday, November 30, 1882**

3. The new city directory of Cox and Glenn is all right.

The Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad is completed beyond Reece’s place, about 12 miles west of Eureka, at which place a half mile of side track is being put down. This will be a station and will be known as Reeceville.

**Thursday, December 7, 1882**

3. Mrs. I. D. Gunn, who with her husband came to Wichita in an early day and for a year or two kept the then famous Southern Hotel, which occupied the corner where the Herrington building now stands, is back in Wichita to make it her permanent abode.

Mr. Robert Black, of Warsaw, Illinois, is to become a permanent resident of Wichita. Mr. Steele sold him the Sam Hoover farm, lying one half mile east of the lower depot on Chisholm creek, for $8,000, on which Mr. Black will erect a permanent home. He also owns four lots at the corner of Douglas and Topeka, on which he will erect a business block.

Wichita’s sixth flouring mill will be running within a few days. It is the “Zephyr Flouring Mills Company” headed by Dr. J. C. Dean. This company purchased the Ozane building and elevator and are rapidly transforming it into a first class flouring mill with four run of store.

The Finlay Ross building is rapidly nearing completion.

**Thursday, December 14, 1882**

3. The City Directory is in the hands of the printer.

Article about the new iron bridge to be built across the Arkansas river. To be 900 feet long.

Editorial on the Wichita and Ft. Scott Railway

**Thursday, December 21, 1882**

3. The contract for the new Arkansas river bridge has been let to the Missouri Valley Bridge Company of Leavenworth, Kansas, for $25,000. To be completed by April and have a six foot sidewalk.

E. A. Dorsey has purchased the McPherson block on Main street.
“The street railway must be built; no more extensions of time by the council to the present company will be made.”

Thursday, December 28, 1882

Articles of incorporation have been issued to the Citizens Bank, with capital of $100,000. Directors listed. They will commence business about the first of the year in the new Finlay Ross building on Main street. Directors listed.

Wichita will soon celebrate the completion of her water-works.