

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.

Subject(s): Century II (aka Auditorium, Cultural Center, Civic Center, Civic Cultural Center)

Wichita Eagle

Sunday, December 23, 1956

page

- 1E. Article about proposal for a new city cultural center on south side of Douglas Avenue between Water Street and the Arkansas River. Details. Diagram.

Wichita Eagle

Wednesday, May 24, 1961

page

1. Voters yesterday approved by substantial margin bond issues of \$12.6 million for a new municipal auditorium and \$2.4 million for a new city library. Details.

Wichita Eagle

Wednesday, August 9, 1961

page

- 6A. John M. Hickman selected by City Commission yesterday as architect for phase one of the new civic center. Details.

Wichita Eagle

Sunday, March 11, 1962

page

- 5A. Aerial photo of site selected for the new library and auditorium complex south of Douglas.

Wichita Eagle

Friday, April 24, 1964

page

- 8B. Report of death yesterday of John M. Hickman, 38, of 1560 Fairfield, project architect for Wichita's Civic Cultural Center, apparently a suicide from carbon monoxide poisoning. Born May 28, 1925 in Amarillo, Texas and came to Wichita in 1938. Survived by wife, four daughters, and parents (named).

Wichita Eagle**Tuesday, April 28, 1964****page**

- 5A. Architect Roy K. Varenhorst, partner of the late John M. Hickman, reported to City Commission yesterday that planning of the Civic Cultural Center is on schedule and can be completed as envisioned despite Mr. Hickman's death. Details.

Wichita Eagle**Friday, November 6, 1964****page**

1. Tentative approval received yesterday for almost five million dollars in federal funds for the Wichita Civic Center project, Urban Renewal Agency officials announced. Details. Photo shows model of Century II building.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, November 8, 1964****page**

- 1B. Feature article on plans for Wichita's new Civic Cultural Center. Details. Drawings.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, March 28, 1965****page**

1. Article about the demolition of nine city blocks which is to be carried out to make way for the new Civic Cultural Center. Demolition of buildings on the library site got into full swing last week. All buildings on this block bounded by Main, William, Water, and English, should be razed by mid-May. Clearing of the entire site should be completed by May 1966. Details.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, August 8, 1965****page**

- 5B. Review of major building projects in downtown Wichita. Basement walls will be finished by August 15 on the \$2.6 million public library. Final architectural plans for the eight million dollar civic auditorium will be presented to the City Commission on Tuesday. Construction will take about two years. Work on the R. H. Garvey Building at 300 West Douglas now involves forming of the ninth floor of the ten story building. Scaffolding now surrounds the Sutton Place Building, formerly the KFH Building, which is receiving a two million dollar complete rebuilding and remodeling. It is expected to be ready by July 1966. A three story contemporary building on northwest corner of 1st and Main is being built for the American Savings Association at a cost of more than one million dollars. Completion is expected by December 15. A new one story brick building at 301 North Market is being built for attorneys John R. Blair, Don Matlack, Ronald Rogg, and Richard Foote, at a cost of about \$50,000. They expect to move in August 25. Remodeling of Brick's Men's Wear at 309 East Douglas is to be finished by August 15, including a new

store front and remodeling of the remainder at a cost of \$80,000. Southwestern Office Supply, Inc., 249 West Douglas, will move to newly remodeled quarters at 301 North St. Francis. Construction is expected to start this fall on a new two story YWCA Building at 3rd and Market. Construction is expected to start next month on a new building for United Savings and Loan Company at 123 North Main, to cost \$100,000 and be finished in spring 1966. First Methodist Church has completed a \$700,000 educational building that will also house office staff. Goldsmith's, Inc. has finished a \$20,000 remodeling of the front of the building. Further details and photos.

Wichita Eagle**Thursday, August 12, 1965****page**

- 5A. Article says concrete walls of new public library are rising in front of the partially razed Forum and Arcadia Theater. Razing of buildings to clear site for the auditorium is about half finished. Construction of the library began May 26. Pouring of basement walls will be finished next week. Details. Photo.

Wichita Eagle**Thursday, September 9, 1965****page**

- 12A. Photo of the Zanzabar Lounge building at 129 South Main being razed for the new Civic Cultural Center site.

Wichita Eagle**Saturday, November 13, 1965****page**

1. Bids opened yesterday for construction of Wichita's new Civic Center auditorium. Apparent low bidder was Martin K. Ely Construction Company, at \$8,445,270. Details. Roy K. Varenhorst is architect. Work to be completed in 1000 calendar days.

Wichita Eagle**Wednesday, December 8, 1965****page**

- 5A. Contract for construction of Wichita's Civic Center auditorium was approved by City Commission yesterday. Martin K. Eby Company is to be the general contractor. Details.

Wichita Eagle**Saturday, December 11, 1965****page**

- 5A. Demolition of the nine square block civic center site on which the library and auditorium will stand, is expected to be finished by the end of January. George Champney is owner of the demolition firm razing buildings on the site.

Wichita Eagle

Tuesday, December 14, 1965**page**

1. Ground breaking ceremony for Wichita's new Civic Center auditorium has been tentatively set for January 25 with actual construction to start January 31.

Wichita Eagle**Wednesday, December 15, 1965****page**

- 5A. Construction contract for the \$12.6 million Civic Center auditorium was signed yesterday. Details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Sunday, March 20, 1966****page**

- 1B. Drawing of first plan for new Civic Cultural Center auditorium (not as finally built). Article with details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Friday, August 12, 1966****page**

1. Urban Renewal Agency yesterday approved demolition of the Koch Building, 321 West Douglas, for the Civic Cultural Center project site. Price of building approximately \$450,000. Details. Photo.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Sunday, November 13, 1966****page**

- 9E. Long article about relocation of businesses displaced to clear site for Civic Cultural Center. Details. Photos.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Thursday, December 8, 1966****page**

- 10F. Workmen on the Civic Cultural Center have erected an ornamental light pole extending 50 feet above the steel skeleton at the building's center point. Photo -- shows only a portion of steel skeleton.

Wichita Eagle**Friday, January 20, 1967****page**

- 5A. Photo shows cranes lifting the second of many steel arches into place to form the roof of the new Civic Cultural Center auditorium yesterday. The arches will be placed at the rate of one or two a day and will support the domed roof of the structure.

Wichita Eagle**Tuesday, February 14, 1967****page**

1. Photo of Century II auditorium building under construction. Only framework for building and at least part of roof is visible. Article with details.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, March 5, 1967****page**

- 1B. Feature article about Wichita's new Public Library, which will open March 13. Details. Photos. (Photo on page 4B shows vertical framework but no roof of new Civic Center auditorium in background).

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, March 19, 1967****page**

- 1E. Photo of new Civic Center auditorium under construction. Shows steel framework of sides of building and roof up, but no enclosure of building.

Wichita Eagle**Friday, April 28, 1967****page**

- 6A. Photo shows steel framework in place for Civic Center Auditorium roof.

Wichita Eagle**Thursday, May 18, 1967****page**

- 10A. Photo showing interior of convention hall at Century II under construction. Roof framework all in place.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, October 22, 1967****page**

- 5A. Photo of new Civic Center Auditorium under construction. It is approximately two-thirds done, with roof now on. Construction began in the summer of 1965.

Wichita Eagle**Friday, December 15, 1967****page**

1. A cross-shaped 27 story hotel is the apparent final form of a structure that began tentatively as a 16 or 18 story hotel to be north across Douglas from the Civic Cultural Center Auditorium. The building will be built northeast of the Garvey Building and northwest of a proposed building for the Farmers and Bankers Life Insurance Company offices. The three structures are on the 4.4 acre Civic Center north urban renewal project.

Garvey Center Inc. is developer of the area. Garvey Center president, Robert A. Page, made the announcement yesterday. The expected 15 to 18 month period required for completion of the hotel could perhaps start next April. Further details.

Wichita Eagle**Sunday, December 31, 1967****page**

Special Section D giving highlights of 1967.

- 1D. Article about downtown building projects. The \$2.6 million library opened this year. Eby Company indicates the \$12.6 million auditorium will be completed by September. Under construction is the \$2 million, five story parking garage and drive-in bank for First National Bank. Twenty-seven story Holiday Inn is to be built in the Garvey Center. Remodeling is under way at the Sheraton-Allis Hotel. Further details. Aerial photo shows exterior of Century II complete, only the R. H. Garvey building constructed in Garvey Center (photo on page 20D). Further details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Sunday, January 21, 1968****page**

1. Holiday Inns of Wichita expects to start construction before April on a 27 story motel in the Civic Cultural Center urban renewal area north of Douglas. To cost over \$3.5 million and have 272 rooms and a five floor, 300 car parking garage. Scheduled to open by June 1969. Architects are Lundgren and Mauer, Austin, Texas. Coordinating architect for the Garvey Center is S. S. Platt. Details. Drawing.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Saturday, July 13, 1968****page**

- 6A. The black base coats applied to the circular domed roof of the Civic Cultural Center Auditorium starting last summer, is to be covered with blue rubbery "Hypolon" paint by August 15. Work began Wednesday. Details. Photo.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Sunday, August 4, 1968****page**

1. Application of the aqua-colored synthetic rubber coating on the roof of Wichita Civic Cultural Center auditorium is expected to be completed by mid-September.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon**Friday, October 11, 1968****page**

1. Wichitans seem content to have their city's new Civic Cultural Center renamed Century II, but they have rejected a proposal to rename Douglas Avenue to Century Avenue. Details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Wednesday, December 25, 1968

page

5A. Article with details of plans for opening Century II in January.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Sunday, January 5, 1969

page

Special section on the new Century II and Civic Center, which is to be dedicated next Saturday.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Sunday, January 12, 1969

page

1. Report of official opening and dedication of Century II yesterday.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Thursday, January 16, 1969

page

5A. A limited quantity, fewer than 300, of large bronze medallions, three inches in diameter, commemorating the dedication of Century II and bearing Wichita's new city seal, will go on sale today at a price of \$7.50 each. A smaller version about the size of a 50 cent piece, with an oxidized silverite finish, will be available for 25 cents. Some 10,000 of these have been made. Details. Photo.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Wednesday, May 28, 1969

page

5A. City commission yesterday accepted compromise calling for patterned brick and concrete paving of West Douglas between Water and Webb, to complement the decor of Century II. Details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Thursday, July 3, 1969

page

5A. Article about proposed brick and concrete pattern for Douglas Avenue in area of Century II. Details. Drawing.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Saturday, June 6, 1970

page

8A. Contract awarded yesterday by Urban Renewal Agency for construction of a multi-level park along the Arkansas River west of Century II at cost of \$323,127. Details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Saturday, July 11, 1970

page

- 5A. Sculptor James Rosati, of New York, has been chosen to create a new sculpture for the Century II park area. Details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Tuesday, June 8, 1971

page

- 4B. Work has begun on construction of a multilevel plaza and waterfall on the west bank of the Arkansas River, across from Century II. Details.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon
Wednesday, June 30, 1971

page

- 5A. City Commission yesterday rejected a proposal by Commissioner John Stevens to change the name of Century II to Wichita Century II Civic Center. Details.