

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): Court

WICHITA BEACON

Wednesday, January 6, 1875

page

4. Another editorial on the Supreme Court decision in the Sedgwick-Harvey County RR bond case. Details. Text of the court's decision is printed on p. 5. (Wichita and Southwestern RR.)

Wednesday, January 17, 1877

page

5. Long article about the suggestion that the county purchase the First National Bank Building for a court house. The county had on deposit in the bank \$11,075 at the time of its failure. Total bank indebtedness about \$110,000.

Wednesday, September 29, 1880

page

3. A petition now is in circulation asking the county board to build a court room on the rear of the county building, the addition to be one story, with 20 ft. ceiling, and to be 50 x 70 ft. Details.

Wednesday, February 16, 1881

page

3. The new Sedgwick County court convened for the first time on Saturday. It was held in the reading rooms of the Tremont House, that being the only available place until the contemplated court house is erected.

Wednesday, April 6, 1881

page

2. The court house proposition was snowed under in the vote on Thursday last. The people seemed determined on a rigid economy, and they propose to do without even necessary conveniences rather than assume any further burden.

Wednesday, July 20, 1881

page

3. The Council have moved into their new chambers in the Eagle Block. About 20 feet of the front part of the old hall has been partitioned off for their purposes. Back of the council room is a wide hall, separating it from the court room which occupies two-thirds of the old hall. The Council, the School Board, and the Board of Trade will jointly use the front rooms.

Wednesday, January 10, 1883

page

3. Proceedings of Board of County Commissioners on January 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. On January 5th, Russell Hall, in McPherson Block, on Main street, was leased for a term of five years at \$200 per annum for court purposes. Two rooms in the northeast corner of same building, same floor, were leased for use of the Probate Judge at \$120 per annum. ¶ The house of John Stewart was rented for one year at \$300 for the use of the poor. ¶ Dr. C. C. Furley was appointed county physician at a salary of \$250 per annum. ¶ John Stewart was employed as superintendent of the poor at a salary of \$400 per annum.

Note says county board has rented Russell Hall, in second story of the McPherson block, which is now the property of County Clerk Dorsey. The old stage will be taken out and the room fitted up for a court room. The front rooms of the upper story of the north building will be occupied by the Probate Judge.

Wednesday, February 7, 1883

page

2. The bill organizing the 18th Judicial District has passed both houses and has no doubt received the signature of the Governor, and is now a law. The district is composed of the counties of Sedgwick, Butler, Kingman, Harper and Barbour.
3. The old Lotus Club hall (Russell hall?) will be fitted up permanently for court purposes. It is more convenient to the county building than Eagle Hall is, and being more quiet is better adapted to the purpose. The matter should be settled upon its merits. The Board, having rented Eagle Hall for one year, is in for a half year's rent for the unexpired time, amounting to \$75.

Wednesday, February 21, 1883

page

3. Judge Harris will open court (i.e., 18th Judicial District) in Barbour County on the first Tuesday in March.

Tuesday, January 6, 1885

page

4. Article says the contract for the new (i.e., enlarged) Sedgwick county court house has been let to Mr. Abe Smith for \$13,586. Details. Messrs. Terry and Dumont are the

architects.

Tuesday, February 17, 1885**page**

4. The bill authorizing a U.S. court building for Wichita has passed the House of Representatives, with an appropriation of \$50,000.

Thursday, March 19, 1885**page**

4. The Congregationalists will hold services regularly in Russell Hall (known also as the court room, on west side of Main street) on Sabbath afternoons at 3 o'clock. Sunday school every Sunday morning at public school building on South Lawrence, at 11 o'clock.

Wednesday, September 16, 1885**page**

1. Long article describes the newly enlarged county court house. Terry and Dumont, architects. Abe Smith, contractor. Cost \$22,500. To be completed by October 1st. Details.

Thursday, April 15, 1886**page**

1. Real estate activity: The Episcopal corner in back of the court house, 125 by 40, was sold today to Mr. Blackwelder for \$15,000. John Fisher sold his 100 foot front on Market and 3rd street to the Presbyterian college for \$6500.

Friday, May 21, 1886**page**

4. Rossington, Smith, and Dallas of Newton, filed suit in district court of Harvey County yesterday to foreclose the first mortgage of the St. Louis, Ft. Scott, and Wichita Railroad. The mortgage amounts to about \$4,000,000. The suit is begun by the Union Trust Company of New York, trustee under the mortgage. Details. (Report from *Commonwealth* (Newton), May 20.)

Friday, July 23, 1886**page**

1. Article reports plan to sell the county building at 1st and Main and build a new court house. Details.

Thursday, December 23, 1886**page**

4. Contract for excavations for the U.S. court house and post office in Wichita has been awarded to J. N. Stone, and work will be commenced Monday.

Monday, December 26, 1887**page**

2. Editorial favoring the approval of the court house bonds in the election next Saturday.

Tuesday, January 3, 1888**page**

4. The court house bonds carried by about 700 majority.

Friday, January 6, 1888**page**

1. Official returns from the election last Saturday shows a majority of 1172 in favor of issuing bonds worth \$200,000 for building a court house and jail.

Wednesday, March 28, 1888**page**

1. Sedgwick County bonds in amount of \$200,000, for building of a court house and jail, were sold yesterday to the Wichita National Bank at a premium of \$3230.

Wednesday, June 27, 1888**page**

4. The contract for the foundations of the new \$200,000 court house has been let to Messrs. Ballance and Jones of the Wichita stone mills.

Saturday, July 7, 1888**page**

1. Long article describes in detail the plans for the new court house, now on view in architect W. R. McPherson's office.

Tuesday, July 31, 1888**page**

1. Photographer Baldwin is showing a very fine photograph, 22 by 26 inches, of the proposed Sedgwick county court house. The picture will be sent to the Cincinnati exposition to join the rest of Wichita's exhibits.

Thursday, August 30, 1888**page**

1. County commissioners today let the contract for the new court house to W. H. Sternberg, on bid of \$197,329 in Grouse creek stone. Mr. W. McPherson is the architect. Details and list of bids received. All bids were approximately \$10-15,000 higher for Bedford, Indiana stone in comparison with Grouse creek stone.

Monday, November 19, 1888**page**

1. Report of ceremonies on the laying the corner stone of the new court house today. Details. Building to be 191 feet 6 inches by 90 feet 6 inches, not including the corner pavilions and porticoes, which will project about 20 feet each way from the main building. It will be built of Grouse creek stone.

Tuesday, February 26, 1889**page**

1. The Sedgwick County court bill passed the Senate yesterday and goes to the governor for signature. It establishes a court to be known as the court of common pleas of Sedgwick County.

Tuesday, March 5, 1889**page**

1. J. M. Balderston last night received the appointment as judge of the new common pleas court.

Friday, March 8, 1889**page**

1. The new common pleas court will meet in the room over the market house after it is fitted up for the purpose.

Tuesday, July 30, 1889**page**

4. The Gordon store block on North Main street, opposite the court house, was completed today at cost of \$31,000.

Wednesday, March 12, 1890**page**

4. The two goddesses of liberty, to be placed on top of the new court house, have arrived.

Saturday, March 22, 1890**page**

4. The stone work of the new court house was completed yesterday by the laying of the last stone in the tower.

Wednesday, March 26, 1890**page**

1. County commission has awarded contract for clock to be located in tower of new court house to Edward Vail and Company of Wichita. It will be the E. Howard and Company's hour striking tower clock, with dials nine feet in diameter, of plate glass, and arranged for illuminating at night with electric light and gas. The clock will strike the hour on an enormous bell weighing 5000 pounds.

Friday, October 10, 1890**page**

4. Article describes the interior of the new court house, location of offices and court rooms, etc. Details.

Friday, October 17, 1890**page**

4. The county officials will begin moving into the new court house tomorrow afternoon.

Monday, October 20, 1890**page**

4. The county officials are all snugly ensconced in their bright and cheerful offices in the new court house today.

WICHITA EAGLE

Friday, May 24, 1872**page**

3. The district court is still dragging along. The court room is a reconstructed livery stable.

Thursday, October 10, 1872**page**

2. At meeting of board of county commissioners on October 7th, resolution was passed to rent five rooms on second floor of Griffenstein's (sic) store building, over the Wichita savings bank, including the use of the hall during the day while district court is in session, at the cost of \$900 per annum payable on the first day of January of each year.

Thursday, November 12, 1874**page**

3. Article describes in detail the new county jail, located on the court house square north of Central Ave. and fronting on Market St., leaving a site for the courthouse on the same plat. Building consists of the sheriff's residence, 25 x 34 ft., and the jail proper, 50 x 22 ft., two stories high, with hip roof, covered with tin. Foundation and cellar are of stone and the upper walls of brick 18 inches thick and 25 ft. high, the contract price being \$10,700.

Thursday, January 11, 1877**page**

3. Letter to editor suggesting that Sedgwick County purchase the First National Bank building for use as a court house.

Thursday, June 23, 1881**page**

3. The old Eagle hall is being transformed. The stage has been torn out and a wide hall run through it from west to east. Between the hall and front is one large room, rented by the city for a council chamber. Back of the hall is a room about 50 feet square, which will be for county courts.

Sunday, January 1, 1888**page**

5. Incomplete returns indicate the passage in the election yesterday of the bond issue of \$200,000 for a new court house and jail.

Sunday, May 6, 1888**page**

5. Article says county commissioners yesterday employed Mr. W. R. McPherson as architect for the court house. He came here about one year ago from Indianapolis and has made court house designing a specialty. Details.

Wednesday, June 27, 1888**page**

5. Article reports county commissioners yesterday let contract for the stone work on the foundation of the new court house. Details.

Wednesday, July 4, 1888**page**

5. On Tuesday the excavations for the new court house foundation were staked off and a force of men began excavating.

Friday, July 13, 1888**page**

5. Concrete is being put in for the foundation of the court house.

Tuesday, August 14, 1888

page

5. County commissioners yesterday opened bids for building the court house. Details. Contract not yet awarded.

Friday, August 31, 1888**page**

5. Contract for new court house was awarded yesterday to W. H. Sternberg for \$197,319 on certain conditions. After building the jail, only \$155,000 of the 200,000 bonds voted will remain, so it is thought another \$50,000 in bonds will have to be submitted to the voters in November. The contract gives two years in which to do the work.

Thursday, October 11, 1888**page**

5. 350,000 brick are now on the ground for the new court house. Stone setting will commence next week. Two derricks will be put in place this week to do the stone lifting. Power will be furnished by steam or horses.

Thursday, October 18, 1888**page**

4. Long editorial discusses the new court house and new jail and the bonds voted for same. Details. Says the new jail is up and occupied at this time and will soon be complete.

Wednesday, October 31, 1888**page**

5. About the new court house: the foundation is of yellow sandstone and the basement of dressed white manesian (sic) lime in blocks about two feet square and from 4 to 7 ft. long. The top course of the basement story, which is about 14 ft. above street level, is going on at this writing.

Tuesday, November 20, 1888**page**

5. Article reports laying of corner stone of new court house yesterday. Details. To cost about \$200,000.

Sunday, January 6, 1889**page**

5. The iron girders and joists of the lower floors of the

court house are all in and the smooth cut stone walls are growing all around, and the inside brick walls and backings going steadily in.

Wednesday, May 29, 1889**page**

5. Article about sale of \$50,000 of court house bonds yesterday-this is in addition to the \$200,000 sold a year ago (used for both court house and new jail).

Tuesday, September 10, 1889**page**

5. It is expected the north part of the court house will be roofed within two weeks.

Thursday, November 21, 1889**page**

5. Article about temporary injunction granted Wichita street railway company restraining Riverside and Suburban from interfering with the company's track on S. Market between Douglas and William. Details.

Work on the roof of the new court house was completed yesterday and the tower will commence to show itself in a few days.

Friday, November 22, 1889**page**

5. Another article about the Wichita street railway injunction suit hearing in district court.

Tuesday, February 4, 1890**page**

2. From Topeka February 3: The St. Louis, Ft. Scott, and Wichita RR was sold today by order of the U. S. circuit court at public sale. The Union Trust company of New York was the purchaser. The price paid was \$6,466,742.67, the amount of the first mortgage held by the Trust company against the road.

Saturday, March 22, 1890**page**

5. Article about the New York Soap company on Rock Island near Division. Drawing of building three stories. Details.

The last stone in the building proper was laid yesterday on the tower of the new court house. The mason was John Bamburgher, the same that laid the first stone. There are 99,676 stones in the structure, weighing 85,000 tons.

Thursday, April 10, 1890

page

5. Another article about the muddle in selection of type of stone for the city building, the Alma stone sent from the quarry having been rejected by the architects.

The last load of stone to complete the new court house was hauled from the yards of Ballance and Jaus yesterday.

Sunday, April 20, 1890

page

1. Drawing of the new government building in Wichita.
4. Drawing of the new court house.

Wednesday, May 14, 1890

page

5. Article describes Wichita Fire Department in detail with drawings of the engine house.

The bell for the new court house has arrived and will be put in position as soon as the tower is finished. It weighs 5,000 pounds and will be part of the E. Howard and Company hour striking tower clock which will ornament the building.

Saturday, May 24, 1890

page

5. Article about power house and other plans of the Wichita Electric railway.

Mr. Reed has the contract for wiring the new court house building for incandescent electric lights and will probably have the work completed within two weeks.

Tuesday, June 3, 1890

page

5. The striking bell will be put in position today on the new court house.

Friday, September 26, 1890

page

5. Lehman and Higgins (sic who have secured the Miller block on Water near 1st st. for their wholesale grocery business, are getting their stock in and will be ready for business within a few weeks. Mr. C. R. Miller, who owns the building, is having a Mitchell elevator put in, to be powered by a 10 h. p. electric motor. They will get their power from the Electric railway company.

The second car of furniture for the court house was unloaded yesterday.