

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): Sedgwick County courthouse

Wichita Beacon

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.

Wichita Beacon, continued

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.

Wichita Eagle**Saturday, March 22, 1890****page**

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

Sunday, August 26, 1906**page**

5. Death notice of William H. Sternberg, contractor, who died yesterday at age 75. He was contractor for the county court house, government building, south wing of Mt. Carmel Academy, Royce block, Fletcher block, Levy mansion at 1st and Topeka, so long the home of the Commercial club, the fine home of C. R. Miller, the residence of Charles Smyth on Waco avenue, Geroge Pratt house on North Emporia, home of A. W. Bitting, etc., and the many additions to the Masonic home. Came to Wichita in 1877. Survived by two sons, William O. and Oscar E.

Sunday, August 4, 1918**page**

5. New boilers and radiator valves are being installed at Sedgwick county court house and jail at cost of about \$75,000 (sic) (7500?).

Friday, December 21, 1923**page**

5. The new elevator in the Sedgwick County court house will be in operation by Christmas.

Tuesday, April 7, 1925**page**

2. Article about plans for remodeling part of the Court House.

Thursday, August 12, 1926**page**

8. Article says consideration being given to moving the Soldiers and Sailors' monument from court house grounds to Riverside park, but most of the old soldiers are against moving it.

Monday, November 6, 1933**page**

2. Workmen remodeling the two story building on northeast corner of Main and 1st are

tearing out the old brick vault of the first Sedgwick County court house, which was located in that building.

Tuesday, January 30, 1945**page**

5. Another landmark at the courthouse is due to go from lack of use and age. County commissioners are considering removing the outside steps leading to the second story on the north and south sides of the building. ¶ These steps are combination cast iron and concrete. Both sets of steps are near the danger point. The north steps have been roped off and declared dangerous by Rube Wood, building engineer. Few persons use the steps, as the majority go in the ground floor entrance and either use the elevator or inside steps. The original courthouse had second story steps on all four sides of the building. Years ago the east and west steps were taken down, the opening enclosed and made into offices and courtrooms. Commissioners plan to use the north and south entry ways on the second floor for offices.

Wednesday, August 22, 1945**page**

8. First parts for repair of the Sedgwick County court house elevator were received yesterday from the factory. ¶ The courthouse house elevator has been in operation for several decades. Originally it only extended to the third floor. More than 20 years ago the track was extended to the top, or sixth, floor. ¶ When the elevator was condemned eight months ago the war production board allowed the purchase only of parts, not an entire new lift. These are the ones now arriving, and the lift is expected to be in operation within a week after all parts are received.

Wednesday, November 28, 1945**page**

5. The court house elevator has been completely overhauled and will be back in service today. It has been out of service for over a year after being condemned last year as being unsafe.