

*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):** Economic depression, 1890s

**Wichita Beacon**

**Friday, March 28, 1890**

**page**

1. The Faith Home, an institution for fallen women on East Central avenue, closed its doors today, and the goods are being packed for the present. The Open Door, another institution near by, is also closed. ¶ The cause of their closing is owing to the demand of benevolent institutions on the citizens during the general financial depression. The superintendent hopes to be able to re-open the Faith Home by next fall.

**Thursday, December 4, 1890**

**page**

4. Interview with Col. H. W. Lewis on the current national financial depression. Details.

**Wednesday, May 11, 1892**

**page**

4. Because of the many demands for financial retrenchment on all sides, the board of education yesterday voted to reduce the salary paid the superintendent of schools from \$2,500 to \$2,000 per annum. Details.

**Tuesday, December 12, 1893**

**page**

4. Report of city council discussion yesterday of the city's serious financial problems. Details.

**Wednesday, October 24, 1894**

**page**

4. The Wayside Home association, which one year ago was forced by financial hardship to close the doors of its institution and to pay off an indebtedness of \$75 out of the board's own pockets, is supporting the new Rescue Home for workmen and on Monday, October 22, turned over to the new establishment the house furnishings, etc., still in their possession. The Rescue Home is to be opened immediately on the corner of 10th street and North 4th avenue.

**Thursday, October 25, 1894****page**

4. Article about suits against board of trade and prominent merchants and business men for past-due notes arising from loans made during the boom times. Suits are being brought by the principal banks which collectively hold about \$40,000 of this paper. ¶ During the latter part of the boom the Burton car works and the packing houses were given large sums of money to locate here. Much of the donations were in lots and plots of ground at that time valuable. Individual donations were paid with these lots or with notes, and these notes were endorsed in many cases by the board of trade and afterwards the banks advanced the money. Since that time many of the people who gave the notes have financially collapsed and the property given as collateral has so depreciated the value as to be about worthless. ¶ The suits are trying to make the members of the board of trade individually liable, or treat the board as a company organized for gain, when it is asserted that it is only a sort of trade congress of business men. ¶ At the last meeting it was undecided under what charter the board was working. Some contended that it was under an 1887 charter while other declared that there was no 1887 charter. Captain Dickson than wrote Secretary of State Osborn for a copy of the different board of trade charters and today learned that a charter had been issued in 1878 to "The Board of Trade of Wichita, Kansas." In 1880 a new charter was issued to "The board of Trade of Wichita." No charter was issued in 1887, so the board are now working under the 1880 charter, which provided a capital stock of \$20,000 in 200 shares of \$100 each.

**Monday, November 4, 1895****page**

1. J. O. Davidson came in from Chicago on Saturday and returned this evening. While here he talked about the future of Wichita. "Wichita, he said, is doing as well as any other city of its size. Business is dull in Chicago now just the same as it is here. The cause is not local, but a general depression prevails. I do not now know whether I will ever come back to Wichita to live, but that does not signify that I have lost faith in the outcome of Wichita. I believe this is going to be a great city, and even now you would be on the up grade if it were not for this worse than foolish prohibition fight. You must stop it. It is simply wonderful how this city holds up under the trying times you have had here in the last two and one-half months."

**Wednesday, June 3, 1896****page**

5. Article reports close of a successful year at the Lewis Academy despite the financial and commercial depression everywhere. Details.

**Sunday, July 7, 1896****page**

5. Report of school board meeting yesterday with details of finances and retrenchment in their times of depression.

**Monday, June 10, 1901**

**page**

2. Long article about progress of the First Presbyterian church in Wichita from the depression days of five years ago. Details.

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**Keywords: Economic depression, 1890s**

**Wichita Eagle**

**Thursday, September 25, 1890**

**page**

5. Editorial on the park purchase question. Says it was advocated originally by the *Eagle* and a map of the plot published last spring, but "we have said nothing in advocacy of the matter lately simply because of the changed condition of financial affairs."

**Friday, February 6, 1891**

**page**

5. Notice that the Arkansas Valley bank suspended business yesterday owing to the great financial stringency now prevailing. It was established as a private bank by Mr. W. C. Woodman in the spring of 1870. He died in 1887.

**Tuesday, April 12, 1892**

**page**

5. Article reports annual address of Mayor Carey to city council yesterday. When he entered office he found unpaid bills of \$25,575 and there was a reduction of nearly half a million dollars in the assessed valuation of city property, so financial stringency in expenditures was imperative to place the city back on a sound financial basis. ¶ Despite this the 11th street bridge was built and paid for and the source of annoyance, the mill dam property, was condemned, and one third of this is already paid. Details.

**Friday, March 22, 1895**

**page**

5. Article lamenting the loss of the old leaders from Wichita during the period of financial adversity.

**Sunday, September 4, 1898**

**page**

11. Long summary of the history of the boom and bust period in Wichita -- "The Story of

Wichita.”

**Wednesday, March 1, 1899**

**page**

5. Over \$1,100,000 in mortgage releases have been made in Wichita and Sedgwick county in the past ten months since April 1, 1898, indicating the improved financial condition of property owners.

**Sunday, February 18, 1900**

**page**

3. Article gives annual report of Wichita hospital with financial details, etc.

**Sunday, May 26, 1929**

**page**

35. Reminiscence by Judge Wilson, who came here in 1887, about effects of Murdock's "Call a Halt" editorial and subsequent bust. In latter period "it was nothing for owners to offer their houses rent free, without even charging upkeep, in order to protect their fire insurance. The courts were cluttered with action after action to foreclose, much of the land being plastered with mortgages. Many of these suits never were settled; others were settled for as little as \$10 for the payment of releases on judgements."

**Sunday, January 10, 1937**

**page**

11. Article about the recent projects eliminating Ackerman Island and improving the area. Gives history of island -- bought by Joseph Ackerman in 1887 for planned packing house expansion, which was prevented by panic of 1891. Ackerman died on October 3, 1934. Says home plate of Island Park is beneath the police and firemen's memorial on McLean Boulevard. Photos including good one of new Arkansas Valley Interurban Railroad and Missouri Pacific bridges.

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**Wichita Eagle-Beacon**

**Sunday, April 17, 1966**

**page**

- 1B. Feature article about the old Wichita University at 3700 East Lincoln. History. Says Bishop Hennessy paid \$5000 to the Dutch Reformed Church for the building in 1901. The structure and land had once been valued at more than \$55,000. The school operated from 1886 until the financial panic of 1893. ¶ The school was built in what was known as the University Hill addition. Harry and Emma Hill, who lived nearby, agreed to help the school if a building costing at least \$25,000 were built. A man named Fees gave the school part of the site for \$1. There were 24 rooms in the building with an elaborate chapel. The building was destroyed by fire Sunday, September 7, 1913. The closest water supply was on Hillside. A new convent was opened on the site in 1915. Details. Photo.