

*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): Fair**

### **Wichita Eagle**

**Thursday, February 6, 1873**

**page**

3. Meeting is called for Saturday to consider organization of an agricultural society and to establish a county fair.

**Thursday, May 8, 1873**

**page**

3. Directors of Sedgwick County Agricultural Society met Saturday and accepted Mr. R. A. Neely's proposition for a site for a fair grounds. It consists of 40 acres lying just east of Chisholm creek, opposite the stock yards.

**Thursday, July 10, 1873**

**page**

2. Report of meeting July 8th of committee of Sedgwick County Agricultural Society reporting the purchase for fair grounds of 40 acres of land from J. H. Dagner, lying north of Wichita and north of Munger's. Price is \$1500 to be paid \$500 in paid-up stock, \$500 at close of the fair, and \$500 in 12 months at 12 % per annum, secured by mortgage on land and improvements.

**Thursday, August 7, 1873**

**page**

3. Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad will offer a special reduced rate of \$6.50 round trip to Topeka September 22nd through 26th for those visiting the state fair. This rate is very liberal, being only one third of the regular rate.

**Thursday, August 21, 1873**

**page**

1. Article gives rules and regulations and premium list of the first annual fair of the Sedgwick County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, to be held September 30th through October 4th, 1873.
3. Travelers and tourists say that the fair grounds track is the best in the state. The

amphitheater at the fair grounds is intended to seat 1000 persons. The fair grounds are enclosed with a tight board fence seven ft. high.

**Thursday, September 4, 1873****page**

2. Article describing the new fair grounds. The entire 40 acres have been enclosed with a strong, tight board fence. A half mile elliptic track has been graded and floral hall and judges stand have been built.

**Thursday, September 25, 1873****page**

2. Another printing of regulations and prizes for the first annual fair of Sedgwick County Agricultural and Mechanical Association. Lists various admission charges.

**Thursday, September 25, 1873****page**

3. Contract for the floral hall at the fair grounds was let last Monday. The building is to be 25 x 100 ft. The judges stand is nearly finished. It is 12 ft. square and double decked.

**Thursday, October 2, 1873****page**

2. Description of the fair grounds.

Articles describing the fair.

**Thursday, October 15, 1874****page**

3. A limited horse fair was held for three days last week, a full annual fair having been "postponed" this year.

**Thursday, April 15, 1875****page**

2. The county fair grounds has been beautified the past ten days by tree planting, arranged to correspond with the new drives.

**Thursday, September 23, 1875****page**

3. The Sedgwick County Fair for 1875 opens next Tuesday. Details.

**Thursday, October 7, 1875****page**

2. Article about Sedgwick County Fair last week, saying it was in many ways a failure. Details.

**Thursday, April 5, 1877**

**page**

3. Article discusses the need for a county fair this fall.

**Thursday, September 27, 1877**

**page**

2. The eating house at the fair grounds, conducted by the ladies of the Methodist church, serves a nice dinner of good, clean victuals and plenty of them, for 25 cents.

**Thursday, October 4, 1877**

**page**

2. Long article reporting on the fifth annual Sedgwick County Fair last week, which was a great success and included an Old Settlers meeting on Friday the 28th, at which they voted to form a permanent organization. H. W. Vigus was elected president, and D. S. Munger, vice president.

**Thursday, March 21, 1878**

**page**

3. A portion of the fair grounds is being planted in trees.

**Thursday, September 19, 1878**

**page**

3. For the forthcoming fair, the Floral Hall has been extended 50 feet, an Agricultural and Horticultural Hall has been built, 24 by 150 feet, and the grand pavilion extended so as to seat 4000 persons comfortably.

Program of the Sedgwick County Fair, to be held September 24th-27th.

**Thursday, October 3, 1878**

**page**

3. Long report of the sixth Annual Fair of Sedgwick County, which was held last week. Details.

**Thursday, July 31, 1879**

**page**

3. The race track at the fair grounds has undergone a thorough overhauling, making it the best half mile track in the Arkansas Valley.

**Thursday, September 25, 1879**

**page**

3. Report on the seventh annual exhibition (fair) given by the Sedgwick County Agricultural, Mechanical, and Stock Association the past week. Details.

**Thursday, September 2, 1880**

**page**

3. Article about plans for the County Fair of the Sedgwick County Agricultural and Stock Association. Details.

**Thursday, September 9, 1880****page**

3. Article describes improvements up at the Fair Grounds. They include a new two story amphitheater seating 1000 or 2000. The grounds next to the Little River and on the northwest have been closely mown for the encampment.

**Thursday, September 16, 1880****page**

3. Article reports the opening of the 8th Annual Fair of Sedgwick County. Details.

**Thursday, September 23, 1880****page**

1. Detailed description of the 8th Annual Fair last week of the Sedgwick County Agricultural, Mechanical and Stock Association.

**Thursday, October 7, 1880****page**

3. On the second day of the fair the proprietors of the pleasure steamboat which plies between Comm. Woodman's residence — Lake Side — and the mouth of the river, allowed too many passengers to get aboard for a trip, the consequence being that the large and elegant steamer went down, which necessitated about 60 or 75 persons to hang themselves up to dry on the sunny side of the river bank.

**Thursday, September 15, 1881****page**

3. Editorial discusses and regrets the fact that Wichita now has two competing Fair associations, the old one in existence about nine years, which will hold its 9<sup>th</sup>, annual fair at their fair grounds, north of the city, and the new association, which will hold another fair the following week at Shuman's Driving Park. The new association was started two years ago. Details.

**Thursday, October 6, 1881**

3. Article describes the recent Fairs in Wichita.

**Thursday, November 10, 1881****page**

3. Meeting held November 4th by committees of the Sedgwick County Agricultural and Mechanical Association and of the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society recommended consolidation of the two groups to form the new "Arkansas Valley District Fair Association."

**Thursday, May 4, 1882****page**

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

**Thursday, August 31, 1882****page**

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

**Thursday, March 29, 1883****page**

3. The Arkansas Valley Fair Association purchased new fair grounds on Monday on the west side of the river from Enoch Dodge and have been moving their buildings from Shuman's park.

**Thursday, April 26, 1883****page**

3. The 4th Annual Fair of the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society will be held September 3rd-6th on their new grounds one half mile west of the Arkansas river bridge.

**Thursday, August 9, 1883****page**

3. There will be two fairs in the county again this year. The old fair will be held at their grounds, north of the city, on the last four days of this month. The new fair will hold their exhibition on their new grounds on the west side of the river. Details.

**Thursday, September 6, 1883****page**

3. The Arkansas Valley Fair Association opened their 4th annual exhibition Tuesday on their grounds one-half mile north of the west end of the big bridge.

**Sunday, July 20, 1884****page**

4. Men and teams are now grading and opening up Waco Ave. north through Lewellen's Addition. We understand that the street is to be opened to the old fair grounds.

**Tuesday, September 30, 1884****page**

1. The St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita RR will run special trains from their depot on 2nd St. to the fair grounds in West Wichita and back every hour from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the fair.

**Wednesday, October 1, 1884****page**

1. Article reports on first day of the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society Fair yesterday at the new fair grounds in West Wichita. Details.

**Saturday, February 21, 1885****page**

4. Report of the Old Settlers annual ball at the opera house. Gives history of organization, saying it was formed after August 8, 1877, when W. T. Jewett and D. R. B. Greenlee proposed to call a meeting of all persons who had settled in Sedgwick county prior to 1872. The *Eagle* of August 30, 1877 announced such a meeting on the last day of the fair, and this was subsequently held on September 27, 1877.

**Tuesday, April 14, 1885****page**

2. Map of Rouse's addition shows fairgrounds just north of Carey avenue (17th st.) between Arkansas avenue and Fairview avenue.

**Saturday, May 30, 1885****page**

4. Seventy odd men are at work on the northern extension of the street railway, which Capt. Powell hopes to have completed to the old fairgrounds by tomorrow and in full running order by the opening day of the June races. A five cent fare to the race track in brand new cars will be no bad thing.

**Friday, July 24, 1885****page**

4. An *Eagle* reporter went through the 5th ward yesterday and visited the fair grounds west of the city. An agricultural hall, 40 x 80 ft. and two stories high, is being erected within the grounds, and two new stables will be built, each 20 x 100 ft. The track has been much improved. The grounds contain 36 acres.

**Wednesday, September 30, 1885****page**

4. Article describes improvements at the Wichita fairgrounds.

**Wednesday, October 7, 1885****page**

1. Report of the second day of the fair. Details.

**Friday, October 9, 1885****page**

4. Article reports a jam-up of vehicles returning from the fair at the west end of the bridge yesterday, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. which took nearly an hour and a half to get across

the bridge. "That, together with other occurrences in the afternoon, convinced us that the west side fairgrounds would never prove as convenient as the old fairgrounds."

**Tuesday, February 23, 1886****page**

4. Capt. John B. Carey says he will begin pulling down the fence about the old fair grounds today, and that it would immediately be platted and placed on the market.

**Sunday, August 22, 1886****page**

4. The baseball Clippers have secured the fair grounds in West Wichita and have cleared a diamond convenient to the amphitheater.

**Wednesday, September 22, 1886****page**

4. The 7th annual Sedgwick county fair opened yesterday at the West Wichita fair grounds. Details.

**Sunday, February 27, 1887****page**

4. The Arkansas Valley Fair association met yesterday and sold the fair grounds to Mr. W. D. McCormick the highest bidder, for \$62,500. The association will remove buildings at once and give possession to the new owner.

**Sunday, March 6, 1887****page**

4. The directors of the Arkansas Valley Agricultural society opened bids yesterday for new grounds, to be acted on next Wednesday, and they instructed the committee on grounds to sell the buildings on the present fair grounds next Saturday.

**Thursday, May 19, 1887****page**

4. A proposed site for a new fair grounds lies on the West Side between Central ave. and 13th st., 100 acres, part of the Wilkins' farm.

**Sunday, September 4, 1887****page**

8. Ad encouraging people to build in "McCormick's second addition-old fair grounds."

**Thursday, October 13, 1887****page**

4. Article reports opening yesterday of the Wichita Horse Fair in Riverside park, at foot of Central ave. ¶The old Street Railway company has completed an extension west on Central ave. from Main st., giving service to the park. During the fair extra cars will

run on Central from Main, giving connections with all Main st. cars.

**Thursday, November 3, 1887****page**

4. Soon after the close of the Wichita and Southwestern Horse Fair it was urged that a company be organized to hold a general fair here next fall. A site would be the next consideration. ¶The association will meet today and take steps for changing the original charter and company. The new company will be styled the Wichita Inter-State Fair Association and organized with capital stock of \$100,000. ¶Site for the grounds has been selected, it being the baseball grounds and several acres adjoining it belonging to Mr. N. A. English. 75 acres can be secured. Mr. English would not sell it but agreed yesterday to give a lease to the association lasting ten years. The location is just two miles from Main and Douglas, with two street car lines completed to the grounds near the river. ¶The improvement on the ball grounds amount to \$8,000 and are included in the lease. The amphitheater is one of the best in the state. The fencing will have to be removed, but the grounds will give room for a mile race track.

**Thursday, November 17, 1887****page**

5. Charter filed recently at Topeka for the Wichita Exposition and Inter-State Fair Association, with capital stock \$100,000. Directors listed.

**Friday, January 6, 1888****page**

5. Surveyors are working on the new grounds for the fair association. The track is being outlined and different buildings located. Architects are drawing plans for the buildings. It seems that the grandstand erected by the baseball association is not suitably located to be used by the fair association, and will have to be torn down, but the lumber can be used in some of the buildings that will be erected.

**Sunday, February 26, 1888****page**

5. The Rock Island is putting in a switch on Levy st. to the Wichita Exposition and Inter-State Fair grounds. The new fair grounds at fast being put into shape. The mile track is nearing completion and the fence is being constructed. The large amphitheater formerly used at the baseball grounds is on trucks ready to be moved to its position on the new track.

**Sunday, April 8, 1888****page**

3. Letter describes the new grounds of the Wichita Exposition and Inter-State Fair Association, located two miles south of Douglas ave. and Main st., just outside the city limits. Description and details. Has a one mile track.



**Wednesday, June 6, 1888****page**

5. Yesterday was the opening day of the spring races at the new grounds of the Wichita Exposition and Interstate Fair association. Attendance was estimated at between 2,500 and 3,000. The street railway company brought in cars from the outside lines and had 30 cars conveying people from Douglas ave. to the grounds. By the way, they received five new large cars last evening and they were put on the track last night and are ready for service today. The company will have today over 40 cars for use at hours when they are most needed by the crowd. While the taking of cars from outside lines for an hour or two may inconvenience one man, it may accommodate 50, and hence they conclude to accommodate the greater number. The outside service, however, will be neglected as little as possible.

**Tuesday, October 1, 1889****page**

5. Article reports opening of the fair today. The new fair association has built a new building at the fairgrounds, built in shape of a cross, each leg being two stories, 80 ft. long and 24 ft. wide.

**Friday, August 8, 1890****page**

5. The race track at the fair grounds will be completed by Saturday night.

**Sunday, August 10, 1890****page**

6. Editorial says the Fair association has succeeded in making out of the old track what expert horsemen say will be the fastest track in Kansas. The turns have been eased.

**Sunday, September 14, 1890****page**

5. Fair week will be opened September 29. The electric cars will run to the main entrance. Drawing.

**Saturday, September 27, 1890****page**

5. Article gives details of building improvements at fair grounds.

**Wednesday, October 1, 1890****page**

5. Article reports on opening of the Southern Kansas District Fair yesterday with 2,544 paid admissions.

**Thursday, October 2, 1890****page**

5. Admissions to fair yesterday were 5,486.

**Friday, October 3, 1890**

**page**

5. Yesterday was Wichita Day at the fair, with 21,757 tickets taken in.

**Wednesday, August 26, 1891**

**page**

5. Editorial about the forthcoming 2nd annual Southern Kansas Fair to be held September 28 to October 3.

**Wednesday, September 30, 1891**

**page**

5. Article describes the second day of the Southern Kansas Fair yesterday.

**Saturday, October 3, 1891**

**page**

5. Article about fair yesterday includes note about handling of the crowds by the trolleys.

Supt. Fitch of the Wichita Electric railway announced that from 8 a.m. until noon yesterday upwards of 7,000 people were transported from Main and Douglas to the fairgrounds, and upwards of 3,000 additional in the afternoon, making between 10, and 11,000 people each way or 20,000 for the day.

**Tuesday, July 5, 1892**

**page**

5. Street cars overcrowded on the 4th, and some brought as high as 100 persons from the fair grounds. On top of one car alone the writer counted as high as 20 persons.

**Wednesday, May 16, 1894**

**page**

5. The Wichita baseball team is now a permanent organization. Griswold park could not be secured so the fair grounds have been secured as a ball park. The grandstand at the fair grounds is one of the finest in the state.

**Sunday, September 23, 1894**

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5. The grand stand at the fair grounds has been enlarged and will now hold 5,000 people.

**Tuesday, October 2, 1894**

**page**

5. State fair will open here today. Details.

**Saturday, October 6, 1894**

**page**

5. Largest crowd of the week visited the fair grounds yesterday. The street car company, it is said, handled nearly 20,000 people both ways as against 17,500 the day before.

**Wednesday, October 2, 1895****page**

5. Article reports opening of the State Fair in Wichita yesterday. Details.

**Friday, May 15, 1896****page**

5. The Wichita Driving association and Wichita Wheelman have combined to obtain the use of the half mile track in Griswold park. ¶ It is well known that the property fell among the assets of the Wichita National bank when that institution passed into the hands of Receiver Ewing. ¶ The track at the fair grounds is a good mile track, but the horsemen wanted to train their horses on the shorter half mile track at Griswold.

**Friday, September 20, 1896****page**

5. State Fair to open in Wichita tomorrow. Details.

**Friday, November 22, 1896****page**

5. Article gives financial report of the State Fair association which changed its name three years ago from the old Wichita Mechanical and Agricultural Fair association. Details.

**Saturday, April 17, 1897****page**

2. There will be street car service to the fair grounds this afternoon for the field day exercises of the high school athletic association.

**Tuesday, January 4, 1898****page**

5. The matter of holding a county fair in Griswold park is now being discussed. Griswold belongs to the county.

**Thursday, February 2, 1899****page**

5. Article about a fire Tuesday night which destroyed 45 stalls at the State Fair grounds. The fair grounds are owned by the Keene Syndicate of New Hampshire and are under lease to the State Fair association.