

*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: Forum**

### **WICHITA BEACON**

**Tuesday, March 3, 1908**

**page**

5. Report of city council meeting yesterday. It was decided to submit a \$75,000 bond issue for new auditorium to the voters at the city election in April.

**Tuesday, March 2, 1909**

**page**

5. City council yesterday passed resolution to submit to voters at the April election a proposition to build a new \$150,000 auditorium and market house.

**Tuesday, October 12, 1909**

**page**

1. \$150,000 worth of city bonds have been sold for building of a new auditorium. Details.

**Monday, November 29, 1909**

**page**

12. City commission let contract Saturday for plans for the new Auditorium to be built on the Haymarket square in the second block on South Water at cost of \$140,000. Contract for plans given to Richards, McCarthy, and Bulford, architects of Columbus, Ohio, who also drew the plans for the Beacon building.

**Wednesday, March 23, 1910**

**page**

1. Drawing of proposed new auditorium building to be erected on the Haymarket square. Plans by Richards, McCarty and Bulford of Columbus, Ohio.

**Tuesday, March 29, 1910**

**page**

8. Park department employes started today tearing down the old Griffenstein barn on the site of the new auditorium and hauling the lumber to Riverside park to be used in making sheds for the animals.

**Thursday, April 14, 1910****page**

5. Superintendent Morrison in his budget has asked for an appropriation for a street car line on South Water to William, and thence east on Main, to serve the new auditorium.

**Thursday, December 22, 1910****page**

6. Dieter and Wenzel, contractor, will begin pouring the cement for the floor for the Forum tomorrow. Details.

**Monday, January 23, 1911****page**

1. Photograph of the new "Ben Hur" curtain now in place at the Forum. Made by the Kansas City Scenic Company, is an asbestos curtain 35 by 63 feet, weighs 2250 pounds with all the fixtures, and cost \$1200.

**Tuesday, January 24, 1911****page**

5. Long article about opening of the Forum tomorrow. Details.

**Wednesday, January 25, 1911****page**

1. Forum is to be opened tonight. Article with details.
5. Photograph of Forum by T. Livingston.
6. Photographs of interior of Forum.

**Thursday, January 26, 1911****page**

1. Report of grand opening of the Forum last night. Details.

**Monday, January 30, 1911****page**

5. Photograph of large crowd at Forum yesterday, taken by L. G. Whittier.

**Wednesday, February 1, 1911****page**

6. Seating plan of the Forum.

**Wednesday, May 24, 1911****page**

6. High school commencement exercises to be held at the Forum tonight. Details.

**Saturday, September 23, 1911****page**

1. Report of mass meeting at Forum last night to oppose the recall election. Details.

**Monday, January 8, 1912****page**

6. City commission has let contract to Johns-Manville company of New York City to improve the acoustics of the Forum.

**Saturday, March 9, 1912****page**

17. Advertisement with photograph of Forum.

**Wednesday, February 11, 1914****page**

5. Report of Paderewski's concert at Forum last night.

**Friday, October 16, 1914****page**

13. A booklet on the history of Wichita has been published by the Eunice Sterling Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The first 1000 were received from the press today and are being sold by the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Forum. Details.

**Friday, May 28, 1915****page**

10. Report of commencement exercises of Wichita High School at the Forum last night. One hundred eighty-six graduates, an increase of 51 from the 135 last year, which was the previous record size class of the high school. Details.

**Tuesday, March 6, 1917****page**

12. Drawing of proposed new Fair Building to be built at William and Water Streets, at opposite end of block the Forum is on.

**Wednesday, April 4, 1917****page**

1. Report of results of city election yesterday. Proposition to issue \$200,000 in bonds to build the Forum annex passed 6762 to 2765. Details.

**Thursday, April 4, 1918****page**

6. City commission Tuesday approved plans of Lorentz Schmidt for the Forum annex and decided to advertise for bids. To cost approximately \$130,000. Details.

**Thursday, April 11, 1918**

page

11. Article about extensive Arkansas Valley Interurban schedule changes effective Sunday, April 14, some at government direction for purpose of fuel economy. Details.

**Saturday, April 13, 1918**

page

4. City commission yesterday let contract for the new Forum annex and exposition building to George H. Siedhoff Construction Company. Work is to start next Monday so it will be ready for the International Wheat Show in October. Plans were prepared by Lorentz Schmidt. New building to be 150 by 300 feet, two stories, and cost approximately \$140,000. Details.

**Wednesday, May 11, 1921**

page

7. Work started this morning on the new building which is to take the place of the temporary Forum annex. To be 125 by 300 feet and be completed in time for the wheat show the last week in September.

**Sunday, June 19, 1921**

page

2. The Siedhoff Construction Company has completed the construction of the Forum annex and will have the building cleared for use by July 1. The building is one story, 150 by 300 feet, of reinforced concrete, and occupies the space between the Forum and the Exhibition Building.

**Sunday, November 27, 1921**

page

- C-1. Drawing of large Soldier Memorial project in block between City Library and Forum. Article with details. (Never built.)

**Thursday, May 29, 1924**

page

12. Report of high school graduation exercises at Forum last night, with 408 graduates. Details.

**Tuesday, December 7, 1926**

page

7. The street railroad company has rented the Forum Annex as a garage and repair shop for its buses. The company is also employing between 50 and 60 additional bus drivers, as the men will be on duty an average of nine hours and 15 minutes, the same as the union street car men, beginning Thursday, whereas those working for the independents had been working ten or 12 hours per day or even longer.

**Sunday, May 29, 1927****page**

3. Report of annual meeting of Sedgwick County Pioneer Society at Forum yesterday. Details. Charles S. Lawrence read some passages from an old diary kept by his father, Robert Lawrence, when he came here from Illinois in 1870. Details.

**Saturday, August 11, 1928****page**

11. Construction on the second story of the Forum will be started by September 1st. To be 110 by 125 feet and cost about \$40,000.

**Friday, September 28, 1928****page**

25. Photograph of construction under way on second story of the market building between the Forum and Arcadia Theater.

**Monday, November 12, 1928****page**

2. Photograph of Forum complete with the new second story center section, completed about the middle of October.

**Sunday, June 30, 1929****page**

- D-1. Aerial photographs of courthouse, Forum, city hall, Wichita High School, Roosevelt school, Wesley, Hospital, and stock yards.

**Thursday, April 17, 1930****page**

1. The \$740,000 in school bonds carried but the \$185,000 bond issue for enlargement of the Forum was defeated in Tuesday election. Details.

**Sunday, June 7, 1931****page**

1. Report of annual picnic of the Pioneer Society yesterday at the Forum. Details. Those attending included O. C. Daisy, Kos Harris, Dave Leahy and many others.

**Sunday, June 5, 1932****page**

4. Report of annual picnic yesterday at the Forum of the Sedgwick County Pioneer Society. Details.

**Sunday, June 4, 1933****page**

1. Report of annual picnic of the Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County at the Forum

yesterday. Details.

**Sunday, May 12, 1935****page**

10. The Sedgwick County Pioneer Society is planning to hold its annual picnic Saturday, June 1, at the Forum. Details. Names listed.

**Sunday, April 26, 1936****page**

1. Report that famous John Noble painting, "The Run," depicting the opening of the Cherokee Strip, and said to have been painted in a studio at the Forum a score of years ago, was purchased yesterday from the painter's widow by Frank Phillips, head of the Phillips Petroleum Co., for \$15,000. Details. To be placed in the museum at Phillips' Woolaroc ranch. John Noble died in 1934 at age 60. His brother Arthur, who resides at 1029 N. Market, stated that "The Run" was painted was painted in a temporary studio occupied by Noble in The Forum.

**Sunday, June 7, 1936****page**

1. Report of annual meeting of Pioneer Society of Sedgwick Co. yesterday at the Forum. Details, with photos on page B-11.

**Saturday, June 5, 1937****page**

1. Annual picnic of the Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County is being held at the Forum this afternoon. Details.

**Sunday, April 30, 1939****page**

- B-10. The Wichita Public Museum Association's new museum is to be located in the Forum Building on the second floor, with opening date set for June 6. Details.

**Monday, July 31, 1939****page**

2. Article about Wichita's new Public Museum on second floor of the Forum. Details. Photographs.

**Wednesday, March 4, 1942****page**

1. Report of death today of John Wenzel, 73, prominent Wichita building contractor for several decades, at his residence, 325 South Main Street. Among others, he built the Wichita Forum, Union Station, the Kansas Masonic Home, the home office of the Farmers and Bankers Life Insurance Company, and the Wenzel Apartments at Lewis and South Main. Born in Germany and came to United States at age four. Survived by

his wife, Lela, and a step-son in Indiana (named). Photo.

**SELECTIONS FROM DR. EDWARD N. TIHEN'S NOTES FROM WICHITA NEWSPAPERS  
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*Please note: 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 or 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 Library, the Wichita Public Library, or by interlibrary loan from the Kansas State Historical Society.*

**Keywords: Forum**

**WICHITA EAGLE**

**Tuesday, March 3, 1908**

**page**

7. City council yesterday ordered special election April 7 to vote on bond issue for a new auditorium.

**Wednesday, April 8, 1908**

**page**

5. Proposition for voting \$150,000 of bonds for new high school building passed in election yesterday by 4,317 to 1,934. ¶ The proposal to issue \$75,000 of bonds for a new auditorium was defeated by 3,047 to 2,776.

**Sunday, November 28, 1909**

**page**

- 5A. Contract for drawing plans and specifications for new auditorium awarded yesterday by city commission to architect firm of Richards, McCarthy and Bulford of Columbus, Ohio.

**Sunday, February 20, 1910**

**page**

1. Drawing of the interior of Wichita's new auditorium to be built on the old Haymarket square at English and Water streets, where William Griffenstein made his early home. Contract to be awarded soon.

**Thursday, March 24, 1910**

**page**

6. City commissioners yesterday opened bids for new auditorium (details).

**Friday, March 25, 1910**

**page**

5. Contract for the new auditorium and market house was let yesterday to Dieter and



Wenzel Construction company of Wichita for \$141,990. Plans for the building are by Richards, McCarty and Bulford of Columbus, Ohio.

**Wednesday, April 6, 1910****page**

5. The Chamber of Commerce voted last night to recommend that the new auditorium be named the Coliseum. Other names suggested included the Hippodrome, Wigwam, Auditorium, Convention hall, etc.

**Friday, April 8, 1910****page**

8. Another name suggested for the new auditorium building is "Wichitorium."

**Tuesday, May 17, 1910****page**

5. City commissioners yesterday selected the name "Forum" for Wichita's new auditorium.

**Thursday, May 19, 1910****page**

1. Article reports cornerstone of Forum to be laid today.

**Thursday, June 23, 1910****page**

5. Contract let yesterday for chairs for new Forum -- cost about \$10,000.

**Sunday, June 26, 1910****page**

2. The Sedgwick Home is now settled on its new location at corner of 3rd and Wichita streets. The old frame building, an historical house (Griffenstein house) that was moved from the haymarket to make way for the Forum is there a little the worse for its journey from the old site to the new. To its rear has been built a commodious addition, and by its side has been moved a two room house. A high board fence encloses the whole. The Sedgwick Home is less than one year old and its accomplishments have been marvelous. Details.

**Saturday, August 6, 1910****page**

5. Article about progress on construction of new Forum. A seventeen and a half ton truss of steel for the roof of the stage was raised yesterday. Erection of all the trusses for the roof will take about two months. Brick work is now going on at the east end of the auditorium with the walls now 25 feet high.

**Tuesday, September 13, 1910****page**

5. Article reports progress on construction of Forum. The iron work is nearly completed and the last of the big trusses for the roof have been erected. Two hundred and fifty tons of a total of 267 tons of iron is now up. About 60 percent of the brick work is finished and the walks on the sides are 20 to 25 feet high.

**Saturday, October 29, 1910****page**

9. Contracts let yesterday for heating, lighting, and stage decorations for the new Forum. Details. Includes the Ben Hur chariot race painted asbestos curtain 35 by 63 feet for \$885. ¶ Total cost of Forum will be about \$170,000.

**Thursday, January 19, 1911****page**

5. Article says the Forum will probably be finished by Saturday night. The asbestos curtain arrived this morning from Kansas City and will be placed in position today. It is 63 feet wide and 37 feet high, the largest in the land except for the New York Hippodrome. The stage of the Forum is 60 feet wide and 35 feet high. Curtain was built by Kansas City Scenic company, and on it is painted a reproduction of famous painting of Ben Hur's chariot race. Forum opening begins January 25.

**Saturday, January 21, 1911****page**

5. The big curtain for the Forum has been lost on the Santa Fe some place between Kansas City and Wichita and did not arrive on schedule Thursday.

**Sunday, January 22, 1911****page**

1. Photograph of interior of new Forum. Articles describes it. Cost \$150,000 plus about \$20,000 for furnishings, making total \$170,000. Building is 260 feet long by 160 feet wide. Height from floor of stage to dome is 80 feet. Stage opening is 60 feet wide. ¶ Forum was designed by Richards, McCarty and Bulford, architects of Columbus, Ohio, and constructed by the Dieter-Wenzel Construction company. Construction of the building was commenced last March and cornerstone laid by Mayor Davidson May 19.
17. Advertisement for opening week attractions at the Forum, beginning Wednesday night, January 25.

**Tuesday, January 24, 1911****page**

1. Photograph of new "Ben Hur" curtain at Forum, which was made by Kansas City Scenic company and cost \$1200. Artist took 40 days to paint the picture, reproducing the original owned by J. Pierpont Morgan.

**Thursday, January 26, 1911****page**

1. Article about dedication last night of new \$170,000 Forum. Five thousand people present for initial performance of oratorio, "The Children's Crusade," by Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and a 400 voice local chorus. ¶ Article describes Forum and gives history. Bonds were voted at spring election in 1909. Plans approved in January 1910, and contract let on March 24, 1910. Corner stone laid on May 17, 1910, and building completed on January 25, 1911.

**Saturday, September 23, 1911****page**

5. The new City Market, located in part of the Forum on Water street, opens today.

**Thursday, October 12, 1911****page**

8. Photograph of interior of Forum with festival booths.

**Thursday, January 11, 1912****page**

5. Work is to be done this month to improve the acoustic properties of the Forum.

**Sunday, September 8, 1912****page**

- B-9. Photograph of wagons lined up (every morning) at City Market on South Water just at north side of Forum.

**Wednesday, October 2, 1912****page**

3. Article about Forum annex structure (with drawing) -- discusses possibility of leaving it in place after the exposition is over.

**Tuesday, November 19, 1912****page**

12. Article on losses in operation of Forum building.

**Thursday, July 30, 1914****page**

5. The old Toler auditorium was sold at auction on the courthouse steps yesterday for \$11,513. The auditorium, for years the largest in Wichita, was built in the early days and later sold to the late Colonel H. G. Toler. It was the center of Wichita's theatrical world for many seasons, and until the Forum was built, the Wichita High School and other educational institutions used it for their graduation exercises. It is located at 1st street and St. Francis avenue. The previous principal owners were E. C. Toler of

Sharon and Mrs. Sallie Toler of Wichita. The company which bought it will probably sell it as soon as possible.

**Saturday, February 10, 1917****page**

2. The Forum hotel, 116-118 North Water, formerly the Planters hotel, was sold yesterday for \$16,000.

**Saturday, March 31, 1917****page**

5. Drawing of proposed Forum annex (showing tower not built), designed by Lorentz Schmidt. Bond issue to be voted on in city election next week.

**Tuesday, April 3, 1917****page**

14. Article about need to pass the \$200,000 bond issue for the Forum Annex. Says attendance has increased rapidly at the International Wheat Show Wichita Fair and Exposition -- from about 90,000 in 1914 to 110,000 in 1915 and 140,000 in 1916, and more space is needed for anticipated 180,000 this year.

**Wednesday, April 4, 1917****page**

5. Election results given. Bonds for Forum annex (\$200,000) won by 6702 to 2767.

**Monday, April 16, 1917****page**

2. A strip of land 700 feet long extending along the east bank of the Little Arkansas river from 3rd street to Central avenue was purchased by the Kansas Gas and Electric company for \$8000 from Joseph Tack, Ella Bowen, and H. W. Miller. On it are located the old Joseph Strickland home, a two story brick house, and a house owned by H. D. Miller, custodian of the Forum. ¶ For the present it will be used to store bulk materials of the company for construction and repair work.

**Friday, May 25, 1917****page**

5. Wichita High School's largest class -- 233 -- graduated at Forum last night.

**Friday, November 30, 1917****page**

5. Contract ready to present to city commission for construction of the \$140,000 addition to the Forum, to be built on the southwest corner of Water and William streets adjoining the present city market. The bond issue was for \$200,000 and the lots cost the city \$60,000, leaving \$140,000 for the building.

**Sunday, March 31, 1918****page**

5. City plans to construct a municipal swimming pool in the Forum arena.

**Sunday, April 7, 1918****page**

5. No bids received by city on the new \$130,000 Exposition building north of the Forum, so the city plans to go ahead and have the work done under direction of the city manager.

**Wednesday, April 17, 1918****page**

9. Ground was broken yesterday for the Forum annex, at corner of Water and William streets. To be 150 feet by 301 feet.

**Wednesday, April 24, 1918****page**

2. The old brick buildings on site of new Forum annex are now being wrecked. It is hoped to have the walls and roof of the new building completed in time for the fall wheat show, according to George Siedhoff, contractor.

**Monday, May 20, 1918****page**

5. Plan to build swimming pool in area of the Forum has been abandoned because of expense and war necessities.

**Saturday, September 14, 1918****page**

5. Article about progress on construction of new Forum annex. To be ready for fall wheat show opening September 30.

**Sunday, September 29, 1918****page**

5. City manager Ash advises spending \$120,000 to complete the interior of the new Forum annex and rebuild the center section of the block with steel and concrete.

**Tuesday, January 7, 1919****page**

3. Article about visits of Theodore Roosevelt to Wichita -- said to have been here four times -- 1900, April 19, 1912 (spoke at the Forum and later at the city hall), 1914, and October 4, 1918.

**Thursday, July 3, 1919****page**

1. Photograph of new Forum annex.

**Sunday, August 10, 1919****page**

## Section B

18. Ten thousand dollars is being spent to decorate Exposition Hall in the Forum for the International Wheat Show. ¶ Two hundred metal roses have been purchased from the Portland, Oregon Rose Festival to illuminate the main floor. These large red, pink and yellow roses, each with a 1000 watt tungsten lamp in its center, cost \$2500 and were used in Portland for decorating the streets.

**Sunday, November 30, 1919****page**

5. Article about cost of operating the Forum. In 1918 receipts were \$2652 and expenses \$6630, leaving deficit of \$3978. Plans are under consideration for making it self-supporting in the future.

**Sunday, May 16, 1920****page**

- C1. Article about the E. M. Laird Airplane company here, with factory at Wichita and English and an assembling plant in the second story of the Forum annex, employing 30 men and turning out two planes per week. Plane is known as the "Laird Swallow." Flying is done from the 40 acre Laird field about one mile north of Fairmount college. Photographs.

**Wednesday, July 28, 1920****page**

5. Article says city commission will probably call special election to vote bonds to erect a building connecting the Forum and Exposition buildings and to complete the latter structure. ¶ The city market now occupies the space between the two buildings -- about 125 by 300 feet.

**Sunday, October 10, 1920****page**

5. Proposals to be on ballot November 2 for municipal bond issues to improve the Forum and adjacent structures (details).

**Monday, November 1, 1920****page**

9. Statement by City Manager describing Forum buildings and urging passage of bond election to improve same.

**Friday, February 25, 1921****page**

2. C. E. Richards, senior member of Richards, McCarty, and Bulford, architects, of Columbus, Ohio, died suddenly yesterday. His firm had designed several major buildings in Wichita in the past ten years including the Beacon, Schweiter, and Wheeler-Kelly-Hagny buildings, the Forum, Wesley Hospital, and the First National Bank building.

### **Thursday, May 25, 1922**

#### **page**

14. Photograph of capacity crowd in the Forum Tuesday for Aimee Semple McPherson meeting.

### **Sunday, September 23, 1923**

Special issue for fall wheat show. Photographs of Forum, Masonic Home, new high school, Red Star mill, Kansas Gas and Electric plant, Kansas Sanitarium, string of boats in river above Murdock, Wichita Club, Barnes Building, etc. and various special articles.

### **Thursday, December 6, 1923**

#### **page**

3. Approximately 21,400 people paid admission to Wichita play houses yesterday, as follows:

Forum	6500 (matinee and evening)
Miller	2500
Palace	2500
Orpheum	2100
Princess	1700
Crawford	1100
Kansas	1100
Holland	1000
Marple	1000
Wichita	1000
Novelty	900

### **Friday, December 25, 1925**

#### **page**

10. The annual Amidon Christmas dinner will be held today at the Forum, being given this year by Mrs. S. B. Amidon. More than 2000 are expected and more than 1500 pounds of turkey will be served. Details.

**Thursday, June 3, 1926****page**

2. Graduation exercises for Wichita High School held last evening at the Forum. Four hundred twenty-six graduates. (Later report June 4 is 451, 196 boys and 255 girls.)

**Sunday, May 29, 1927****page**

- 10-A. Photograph of Forum with temporary exhibition gateway in front of Arcadia entrance.

**Friday, September 16, 1927****page**

18. Photograph of Wichita Garden Club's second annual fall flower show at the Forum, which closed last night.

**Sunday, October 2, 1927****page**

- 4A. Aerial photograph of the Forum and Arcadia.

**Wednesday, February 22, 1928****page**

5. Report of Paderewski concert at Forum last evening.

**Saturday, March 10, 1928****page**

1. Article reports farewell concert of Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink at Forum last evening. Details.

**Sunday, June 3, 1928****page**

5. Article reports annual meeting yesterday of Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County at the Forum, with short talk by Miss Rea Woodman. Details.

**Saturday, June 16, 1928****page**

3. Article about plans to build a second story on the middle section of the Forum, which was built in 1920.

**Tuesday, July 3, 1928****page**

5. City commissioners yesterday approved a resolution to be passed by the park commission calling for purchase of the California section for \$64,000. ¶ Commissioner A. J. Coombs urged the immediate opening of Broadway avenue to the California section. ¶ Proposals for new fire station and addition to the Forum annex to be voted on in August election.



**Saturday, August 11, 1928****page**

2. At the election Tuesday the bond proposals for a new fire station and for addition to Forum annex were carried, but that for a city market place was defeated. Details.

**Tuesday, August 21, 1928****page**

2. Contract let yesterday by city commission for addition to the Forum annex at cost of \$36,540. To be completed by October 15.

**Tuesday, October 16, 1928****page**

7. The new second story addition to the center part of the Forum will be completed today.

**Sunday, November 11, 1928****page**

27. Photograph of Forum showing the recent second story addition to the Annex, built at cost of \$50,000.

**Sunday, April 6, 1930****page**

5. Article about proposal to enlarge the Forum from 4000 capacity to 6800 by extending the arena sixty feet westward. Details.

**Thursday, April 17, 1930****page**

1. Bond issue of \$740,000 for schools was passed in special election yesterday by 3301 to 2078, but proposed \$185,000 bond issue for enlargement of the Forum was defeated by 3026 against to 2237 for. Article lists schools to be built or added to, included new intermediate school at east edge of town for \$279,000 and completion of North High School auditorium for \$76,500.

**Sunday, November 9, 1930****page**

- 1-B. Photograph of Forum from south.

**Sunday, February 22, 1931****page**

10. Photograph of Forum and Arcadia with exposition gateway in front at corner of William and Water.

**Tuesday, April 21, 1931****page**

12. City commissioners voted yesterday to discontinue use of the lower floor of the Forum

for garage purposes so as not to compete with private business. The present tenants were given 90 days in which to vacate.

**Sunday, June 7, 1931****page**

1. Report of annual meeting yesterday of the Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County, at the Forum. Details. Six hundred attended.

**Tuesday, August 4, 1931****page**

3. Forum garage, opened in 1918, passed out of existence last night on orders of city commission. Opened December 21, 1918. Operated by O. E. Cooley under contract with the city.

**Saturday, September 19, 1931****page**

3. The "boy with the boot" statue, which stood in a fountain in Riverside park for years, is to be seen for the first time in several years at the Wichita Garden club flower show at the Forum. ¶ Patched and repaired with wood and cement as well as it could be after being knocked to pieces by a wild automobile, the boy once more holds up an old boot to watch the water trickle out of it into a lily pond, which forms the centerpiece at the display. ¶ It has been laid away in a store room for some time. "Originally it was a gift to the city of a very well known woman here, Mrs. L. E. Carter." (sic)

**Sunday, June 5, 1932****page**

1. Article reports annual meeting yesterday of Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County at the Forum. Details.

**Monday, December 26, 1932****page**

5. Article reports 3000 served at Amidon dinner at Forum annex yesterday.

**Monday, December 25, 1933****page**

5. More than 3000 people ate turkey at the Amidon Christmas dinner at the Forum yesterday.

**Sunday, April 8, 1934****Special Section**

- 1-12-A. Special section for Builders of Wichita pageant with early Wichita photographs including first jail, now at 12th and Main, and special articles. Pageant to be tomorrow evening at Forum.

**Tuesday, June 5, 1934****page**

3. Article reports concert by Kathleen Kersting at Forum last night.

**Sunday, July 29, 1934**

Special Section for *Eagle's* 62nd anniversary.

- 11-A. Article with history of Forum. Photograph includes Arcadia.

**Sunday, March 10, 1935****page**

19. Photograph of interior of Forum filled with people.

**Sunday, June 2, 1935****page**

12. Article reports annual picnic of Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County at Forum yesterday. Details.

**Sunday, June 7, 1936****page**

1. Article reports annual picnic of Pioneer Society of Sedgwick Co., at the Forum yesterday. Details and photos on page 14.

**Sunday, June 6, 1937****page**

1. Report of annual picnic yesterday of Sedgwick County Pioneer Society at the Forum. Details and photos on page 13.

**Saturday, June 4, 1938****page**

2. Annual reunion of the Sedgwick County Pioneer Society to be held today at the Forum. Omrah Aley is president. Details.

**Sunday, March 19, 1939****page**

2. John P. Davidson was elected president of the Sedgwick County Pioneer society yesterday at its annual meeting at the Allis Hotel, succeeding Omrah Aley, who has served in that capacity for several years. Photograph. The society's big annual reunion will be held June 3 at the Forum.

**Friday, May 26, 1939****page**

16. The exhibits of the Sedgwick County Pioneer Society, on view for many years on the second floor of the court house, were moved yesterday to the new museum quarters in the Forum.

**Monday, March 11, 1940****page**

3. Photo of a crowd in the Forum yesterday.

**Sunday, June 2, 1940****page**

2. Report of annual picnic of the Sedgwick County Pioneer Society at the Forum yesterday. Details. Photos, including John P. Davidson, president.

**Saturday, December 7, 1940****page**

2. Photo of banquet inside Forum.

**Sunday, June 1, 1941****page**

24. Report of annual reunion yesterday at the Forum of the Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County. Included photographic exhibit of pioneer scenes collected by John P. Davidson.

**Wednesday, January 7, 1942****page**

3. A collection of trade articles which were obtained from the Indians in this century many years ago by James R. Mead have been put on display in the Wichita public museum by his widow, Mrs. Fern Mead Jordan, 5037 North Hydraulic. Details. Says the collection at the museum also includes a life size statue (bronze) of Mead, which one of the sons had made for Mrs. Jordan soon after her husband's death. Museum is on 2nd floor of the Forum.

**Friday, May 29, 1942****page**

3. Photo of North High School graduating class in the Forum. Shows Forum arch and stage.

**Sunday, June 6, 1943****page**

8. Report of the annual picnic of the Sedgwick County Pioneer Society at the Forum yesterday. Details and list of those present.

**Sunday, June 3, 1945****page**

4. Report of annual picnic yesterday of Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County at the Forum. Details. List of those who attended. Photos. Request for donation of early photos by John P. Davidson.

**Sunday, June 2, 1946****page**

4. Report of annual picnic of the Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County at the Forum yesterday. Names of those attending listed.

**Thursday, April 3, 1947****page**

9. Article about the doll collection of Mrs. C. M. Beachy, part of which has been loaned to the Wichita Public Historical museum exhibit in the Forum. Details.

**Sunday, June 6, 1948****page**

5. Report of annual picnic of Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County at the Forum yesterday. Lists names of those who attended. Details. One photo shows A. A. Sayles, of 1035 North Emporia.

**Sunday, October 17, 1948****page**

4. Since 1939, out-of-the-way rooms in the Forum have housed a large and growing collection of historical relics. ¶ Officers of the Wichita Historical Museum Association announced yesterday that the organization is underwriting Miss Rea Woodman's historical sketch book, "Wichitana: 1877 - 1897" and that book sale receipts will go into the building fund for construction of a historical museum building. Details.

**Tuesday, March 15, 1949****page**

4. Report of death of William Thomas Griffenstein, 73, Sunday at his home in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He was the son of Wichita pioneer, William Griffenstein. ¶ Born October 17, 1876 in the family home on South Water, near the present site of the Forum. Entered the shirt manufacturing business here. About 30 years ago he went to Tulsa and founded the Tulsa Shirt Company, which he operated until about two years ago, when he retired and moved to Shawnee. ¶ Survived by his wife, Rose, three nephews and three nieces (named -- only one in Wichita, Mrs. Osie A. Thuma, 614 North Lorraine). Burial to be at Highland cemetery beside his father and mother, Catherine. Photo.

**Sunday, June 5, 1949****page**

2. Report of the annual Sedgwick County Pioneer Society picnic at the Forum yesterday. Details.

**Sunday, June 4, 1950****page**

5. Report of annual meeting of the Sedgwick County Pioneer Society yesterday at the

Forum. John P. Davidson is president. Details and reminiscences.

**Tuesday, October 13, 1953****page**

1. Report that officials of Forum Cafeterias, Inc., of Kansas City, Missouri were in Wichita yesterday to conclude a long term lease on the property at 123 South Market on which to build a new cafeteria building 40 feet by 130 feet with seating capacity of 400. Details.

**Thursday, November 19, 1953****page**

- 9A. Photo of excavation for the new Forum cafeteria building in first block of South Market. Building to be completed in about six months.

**Tuesday, December 1, 1953****page**

- 5A. Building permit issued yesterday for the new Forum cafeteria building at 111 South Market, to cost \$182,000. To be 40 feet by 126 feet and two stories. Heating, air conditioning, and electrical work not included in the contract amount.

**Sunday, March 28, 1954****page**

## Magazine

4. Feature article about the Wichita Historical Museum on second floor of the Forum, 221 South Water. Details. Photos.

**Tuesday, May 4, 1954****page**

- 5A. The Forum Cafeteria building, now under construction, and the land it is situated on, have been purchased by Herbert P. Lindsley, Wichita insurance executive, for over \$300,000. The property is under lease to the Forum Cafeterias for 30 years. Opening of the cafeteria is scheduled for August 15. Photo.

**Thursday, July 22, 1954****page**

- 9A. Photo showing interior of new Forum Cafeteria under construction in 100 block of South Market. It is expected to open in September.

**Wednesday, October 6, 1954****page**

- 5A. City commission yesterday approved purchase of the building on a 150 by 150 foot tract at the northwest corner of the Forum for \$75,000, which is to be taken from the half million dollar off street parking fund. The police department will move its garage into the building from the Forum. Photo of building.

**Friday, December 3, 1954****page**

- 7A. Article about the Wichita Forum with some historical details and aerial photo.

**Thursday, January 13, 1955****page**

- 9B. Photo of new marquee at the Forum with 42 inch high neon letters "FORUM" on the Water Street entrance canopy.

**Tuesday, May 3, 1955****page**

- 5A. The huge task of sorting, cataloguing, and packing thousands of items in the Wichita Historical Museum at the Forum now is under way preparatory to moving some sections of the museum to a new location at 3751 East Douglas. Mrs. Frank Slay, curator of the museum, is being assisted by many volunteer workers. Details.

**Saturday, December 22, 1956****page**

- 4A. The municipally-owned parking lot east of the Forum, on Water between William and English, will be opened for public use Monday morning. Entrance and exit will be from William. A fee of 25 cents for the first hour and 50 cents for anything over four hours will be charged.

**Sunday, January 3, 1965****page**

- 1B. Article about building plans in Wichita this year. The Forum will be razed this year. The Missouri Pacific depot is already being razed.

**Sunday, April 4, 1965****page**

1. Article reminiscing about the Forum, which is soon to be torn down.
- 1D. Report of the Forum's last show, Grand Ole Opry, presented by Hap Peebles to a sell-out crowd of over 4000. Details.

**Saturday, April 17, 1965****page**

- 5A. Demolition of buildings on Wichita's new public library site is on schedule. All buildings are expected to be razed by May 15. Details. ¶ The Forum building was turned over to the George Champney Company, of Topeka, yesterday for demolition and crews began removing interior fixtures. Champney was awarded the contract to raze buildings on the nine block site for the library and civic center for \$136,580.

**Friday, April 23, 1965**

**page**

1. Photo showing interior of Forum being dismantled.

**Wednesday, May 5, 1965**

**page**

1. Final contracts were signed yesterday for construction of Wichita's new \$2.4 million public library. Details. ¶ Photo shows the block between City Hall and the Forum almost cleared of its old buildings.

**Friday, June 4, 1965**

**page**

- 10A. Aerial photo of the cleared block which is to be site of new public library. Forum is still present. Hamilton Hotel is gone.

**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.

**Saturday, October 2, 1965**

**page**

- 2C. Aerial photo of new civic center area showing only a portion of shell of Forum remaining and showing framework of new library under construction.

**Friday, October 8, 1965**

**page**

- 12A. Photos showing razing of the Forum. Only the south wall remains essentially intact.