

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): Fraker, J. C.

Wichita Eagle

Friday, September 13, 1872

page

3. Note lists directors of the Wichita Bridge Co.: Griffenstein (sic), English, Gilbert, Mead, Fraker, Wright, Woodman, Hill, McCulloch, Hope, Smith, Steele, and Murdock. William Griffenstein (sic) is president.

Thursday, February 20, 1873

page

3. J. C. Fraker has bought of C. F. Gilbert one square of ground just north of Honorable J. R. Mead's new residence and will build a handsome brick residence thereon.

Thursday, February 27, 1873

page

3. Report of election Wednesday of officers of the Wichita Board of Trade. W. J. Hobson is president, J. C. Fraker is first vice-president.

Thursday, March 13, 1873

page

3. Work has been commenced on Mr. Fraker's residence.

Thursday, March 20, 1873

page

3. Mr. J. C. Fraker's new house will be 24 by 32 feet, two stories besides basement, built of brick. It is located on the opposite side of the street from Honorable J. R. Mead and will cost in the neighborhood of \$8000.

Thursday, August 21, 1873

page

3. Fraker's residence is fast approaching completion.

Thursday, August 28, 1873**page**

3. The new hotel is up, cornice on, and enclosed. Its proportions are artistic and its size approaching the magnificent. It looks grand, and the enterprise that secured its erection will be a subject of remark and commendation for years to come. We believe the stockholders as yet have not fixed upon a name. With their permission we would respectfully suggest a few names for their consideration. We give them in the order in which they strike us most favorably, being prejudiced in favor of a local name: The Southwestern, Fraker House, Valley House, Two Rivers Hotel, Sedgwick House, Wichita House, Main Street House, Granger House, Ingalls House, Grand Central Hotel.

Thursday, December 17, 1874**page**

2. Meeting of board of county commissioners on December 12th. The commission voted to subscribe \$500 to a bridge across the Little Ark river and \$1000 to one across the Ark river at or near the extension of Central Avenue westward, to be paid following completion and inspection of the bridges, which are to be pile bridges with span of not less than 30 feet across the channel and are to be constructed within six months. Also voted to make \$1000 donation to the Wichita Bridge Company on condition that the present bridge across the Ark river on the line of Douglas Avenue be made free within a period of three months. Bids for rent of rooms for county offices for year 1875 were taken. Mr. Fraker offered rooms in the Occidental at \$400 per annum; Mr. Steele offered rooms in the Commercial Block for \$500; McClees, rooms in the New York Block at \$400; and Mr. Sol Kohn offered rooms above the Wichita Savings Bank free of cost for one year from January 1, 1875 which latter offer was accepted with thanks.

Thursday, January 28, 1875**page**

3. J. C. Fraker was re-elected president of the First National Bank of Wichita last Friday and J. R. Mead, vice-president.

Thursday, April 6, 1876**page**

1. Long article gives history of early settlement of the Arkansas Valley. Several drawings of Wichita buildings and streets including Eagle block, New York block, Douglas Avenue, Main Street, Lakeside, and Fraker and Griffenstein (sic) residences. (I believe these drawings are the first to appear in the *Eagle*.)

Thursday, October 19, 1876**page**

3. "Mrs. J. C. Fraker desires a few boarders. See special notice." (Wife of president of defunct First National Bank.)

Thursday, February 1, 1877

page

1. Copy of an article in *Emporia News* saying that J. C. Fraker, late president of the defunct First National Bank of Wichita, has "lit out" and is not to be found.

Thursday, March 1, 1877**page**

2. Ad for receiver's sale of assets of First National Bank including bank building and the J. C. Fraker residence.

Thursday, May 3, 1877**page**

3. Article says J. C. Fraker, last president of the First National Bank, has been located and arrested in Texas. Editorial comment.

Thursday, June 7, 1877**page**

2. Long article about the recent capture and arrest of James C. Fraker, late President of the First National Bank, near the Mexican border.

Thursday, October 18, 1877**page**

3. J. C. Fraker, late president of the First National Bank of Wichita, plead guilty last Saturday to three charges made by the grand jury, and was sentenced on Monday by Judge Foster to five years in the penitentiary. Details.

Thursday, October 25, 1877**page**

2. Long statement by J. C. Fraker detailing his actions and reasons therefore which led to failure of the First National Bank.
3. Long editorial comment on J. C. Fraker's statement, sympathetic to him.

Thursday, November 8, 1877**page**

3. Letter to *Eagle* from J. C. Fraker.

Thursday, December 20, 1877**page**

4. The late residence of J. C. Fraker was purchased by Samuel Houck last Monday.

Thursday, June 19, 1879**page**

3. The foundation of Mr. Fraker's new grist mill on Douglas Avenue is ready for the joists.

Thursday, October 30, 1879

page

3. The Excelsior Mills of Fraker and Humble steamed up last week and are now running night and day.

Wednesday, February 1, 1888

page

5. J. C. Fraker, of Eureka Springs, in the city yesterday and says he shipped more than 3/4 million feet of oak ties for street railroads to Wichita last year.

**SELECTIONS FROM DR. EDWARD N. TIHEN'S NOTES FROM WICHITA NEWSPAPERS
COPY PROVIDED BY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY**

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: Fraker, J. C.

Wichita Beacon

Wednesday, January 29, 1873

page

5. Last Thursday evening the subscribers to the capital stock of the Wichita Building Association met in the back room of the United States Land Office. The committee on subscription of stock reported that \$20,000 had been subscribed and five percent paid in. By-laws were adopted and directors and officers elected (all named; J. C. Fraker is president). The association has secured the four lots on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Street and will commence the erection of a three story brick hotel 100 by 90 feet as soon as the weather will permit. It is intended to have ready for occupancy by June 15th.

Wednesday, March 5, 1873

page

5. Advertisement for bids to be received by 13th instant for the erection of a three story brick hotel, 100 feet front by 80 feet deep. Plans and specifications can be seen at office of W. and N. McLees. Payment will be \$2000 in the stock of the association and the balance in cash. Signed by J. C. Fraker, Pres., and S. McClees, Secr.

Wednesday, January 7, 1874

page

5. Lumber companies are also named. Article says J. R. Mead's residence cost \$10,000 and that of J. C. Fraker, \$6,000.

Wednesday, January 21, 1874

page

5. At a meeting last Thursday evening one week, officers and directors of the First National Bank for the year 1874 were elected. President is J. C. Fraker and vice-president is J. R. Mead. Directors also include J. W. Eldridge, W. A. Thomas, and W. J. Hobson.

Wednesday, September 9, 1874

page

5. Report of death on the night of September 2nd of Mrs. J. C. Fraker, wife of the president

of First National Bank.

Wednesday, July 14, 1875

page

5. Judge Little will soon commence a new residence, opposite Mr. Fraker's, on Topeka Avenue.

Wednesday, April 4, 1877

page

5. Mr. McClees, Mr. J. C. Fraker, Mr. Gascoigne are all about finishing handsome residences on Emporia Avenue, north of the school building.

Wednesday, June 6, 1877

page

5. Long article quoting Deputy Marshal Jones on the pursuit and arrest of J. C. Fraker, former president of the failed First National Bank. Says he was arrested at Ysleta, Texas and brought as a prisoner to Leavenworth, arriving on May 31st. Many details.

Wednesday, June 27, 1877

page

5. The bail of J. C. Fraker has been increased from \$9000 to \$15,000 by Judge Foster, of the United States Court.

Wednesday, August 8, 1877

page

5. Report of a three hour interview with J. C. Fraker in the Leavenworth jail, by F. G. Smyth. Details.

Wednesday, October 17, 1877

page

4. Long report and editorial about the appearance in United States District Court in Leavenworth on October 14th of J. C. Fraker, formerly president of the First National Bank of Wichita, to plead guilty of the charges on which he was indicted. Details.

Wednesday, March 20, 1878

page

5. Mr. Joe Allen, of the City Drug Store, bought of William Greiffenstein last week the brick business house formerly occupied by Shlichter and Russell, and now by Fraker and Hacker, hardware merchants. The latter firm has a lease on it until the first of September, when Mr. Allen will remove his stock of drugs to his new room.

Wednesday, March 27, 1878

page

5. Fraker and Hacker, the hardware dealers, have purchased the brick store room formerly

occupied by Brown and Hannum's Auction Store, on Douglas Avenue. They have let the contract for building a 50 foot extension on the rear to Martin Hellar, the artificial stone manufacturer. This stone will be used in its construction.

Wednesday, July 2, 1879**page**

3. Fraker and Humble have the foundation for their new flour mill completed. The main building will be 24 by 40 feet, two stories above the basement with four run of stones. There will be an addition on the rear, 16 by 24 feet, for engine and boiler, and another on the side, 16 by 40 feet, for storage room.

Wednesday, July 23, 1879**page**

3. Fraker and Humble have the frame work of their flour and grist mill up.

Wednesday, September 10, 1879**page**

3. Messrs. Fraker and Humble have ordered an engine for their steam flour mill from the Buckeye Works of Keokuk, Iowa. Details.

Wednesday, November 5, 1879**page**

3. Messrs. Fraker and Humble started the Excelsior Mills a grinding last Thursday week. They have four run of stone, with power furnished by a 50 horsepower Sample, McElroy, and Company's upright engine (from Keokuk, Iowa).

Wednesday, February 11, 1880**page**

3. J. C. Fraker has moved into the house on the northeast corner of 3rd Street and Topeka Avenue.

Wednesday, March 24, 1880**page**

3. The Excelsior Mill, Fraker and Humble, proprietors, is now in first class working order. The machinery for making what is called "New Process" flour has been put in and the mill is turning out a brand that is excelsior. The first car load was shipped to St. Louis yesterday.

Wednesday, November 10, 1880**page**

3. Report of a fire at 4:00 a.m. Tuesday last, which destroyed J. C. Fraker's steam flour mill, Col. M. Stewart's pork packery, the Elephant Livery Stable, and Martin Hellar's office at his stone yard on Douglas Avenue. Details.

Wednesday, November 17, 1880**page**

3. Mr. Fraker had put in \$1500 worth of machinery before his mill was destroyed. The mill was an excellent property, and since it started had paid a profit of over \$4000. This is the third mill that has succumbed to the destroying flames in this city. The first was a small grist and feed mill in the 1st Ward near the railroad, which was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1872-1873. The second was the water mill on Chisholm Creek, which was burned down a year ago last Christmas. Mr. Fraker had at one time a large interest in that mill.

Wednesday, July 6, 1881**page**

3. Mrs. J. C. Fraker and Mrs. J. W. Bell are preparing to move to Arkansas to join their husbands, who are permanently located near Eureka Springs in the saw mill business.

Wednesday, July 13, 1881**page**

3. Mrs. J. C. Fraker and Mrs. J. W. Bell, with their families, left for Eureka Springs, Arkansas, on Tuesday, to join their husbands.

Wednesday, October 26, 1881**page**

2. Article about alleged wrongdoings of L. N. Woodcock when he was treasurer of the former First National Bank of Wichita. Includes letter from J. C. Fraker, now in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, dated September 26, 1881, declining comment. Details.

Monday, February 14, 1910**page**

5. Report of death today of Mrs. Ida Houck, widow of Samuel Houck, at her residence, 525 North Topeka; she would have been 53 in March. She came to Wichita 32 years ago as a young bride from Denver, Colorado. Mr. Houck purchased the Fraker residence on North Market street and later moved it to 525 North Topeka. Mr. Houck died seventeen years ago and since then Mrs. Houck has owned the hardware store. Lately her son, Adrian Houck, has been in charge of the store. Also survived by one daughter, Marie Houck.

Sunday, June 30, 1940**page**

5. Article by O. C. Emery giving history of Wichita's first bank failure, that of the "Wichita National Bank" (sic) in 1876 followed by the disappearance of its president, J. C. Fraker, and his later arrest and trial. Details with some biography of J. C. Fraker.