

*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): Origins of Old Cowtown Museum; Historic Wichita, Inc.**

### **Wichita Eagle**

**Thursday, June 1, 1950**

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5. Formation of a Wichita organization devoted entirely to the restoration and preservation of early city landmarks was announced yesterday. The group was chartered by the state as Historic Wichita, Inc. and has elected Richard M. Long, day managing editor of the Eagle, as president. Other officers named. ¶ The first project will be reconstruction of Wichita's first permanent church building, erected in 1870 at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wichita for the First Presbyterian Church, sold to the Catholic parish in 1873 for \$550 and moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> and St. Francis, then for some 50 years a rooming house at 605 North Main, and recently dismantled and stored at the county yards. Details.

**Tuesday, August 14, 1951**

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5. A historic city landmark, the first city jail, a frame structure erected in 1871 and now standing at 12<sup>th</sup> and Main, was sold yesterday by the board of education to Historic Wichita, Inc. and will be restored and preserved. The building was damaged by fire in 1935, but the outer walls, built from Kansas cottonwood two-by-fours are still intact. Building is 16 by 18 feet. ¶ Initially, an old vacant building in the third block on North Main was used to hold prisoners, but in April 1871, the city council passed a resolution forming a committee to study the site and cost of a new jail or calaboose. The building was erected during the summer of 1871 and first payment was made from money raised by collection of poll taxes and dog taxes. Article indicates it was in first block on North Market. ¶ The building now is serving as a store room for junk placed there by a second hand furniture dealer who occupies the premises. The site was purchased several months ago to be used as a playground for Horace Mann school. Further details and photo of entrance.

**Wednesday, October 3, 1951**

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5. The historic Munger house was formally accepted for restoration by directors of Historic Wichita, Inc. at a meeting last night. The house, first erected in 1868 and now located on Back Bay Boulevard, was offered to Historic Wichita at the Friday meeting of the Eunice

Sterling chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which acquired it in 1942. ¶ The acceptance of the house Tuesday night followed action by the Wichita city commission Tuesday morning in accepting a 99 year lease on 25 acres of land south of Sim Park from the Wichita Water Company by Historic Wichita as a location to restore historic buildings of the community. The city will sub-lease the tract to Historic Wichita, Inc. Details.

**Saturday, October 6, 1951**

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5. The deed for the historic Munger house was presented to Historic Wichita, Inc. yesterday afternoon by officials of the Eunice Sterling chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. ¶ Article gives some history. House was originally built in 1868-69 by D. S. Munger, who was born in New York state in 1812 and came to Wichita from Topeka. The Munger family moved in early in 1869. In 1873-74 Commodore W. C. Woodman purchased the house, and in the early 1900s it passed into the hands of Dr. Dalton H. Fuller. In the 1920s it was moved from its original site at 901 North Waco to Back Bay Boulevard to make room for an apartment house. In 1942 it was sold by the Fuller family to Mrs. Robert Foulston, who in turn sold it to the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1944. Further details.

**Sunday, November 25, 1951**

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4. Another article about Wichita's first jail, now a storage house in a junk yard at 12<sup>th</sup> and Main, which is to be moved to Sim Park in a few weeks and restored by Historic Wichita Inc.. Article says it was built in 1874 and records a name carved in the walls in February 1875. Photo.

**Thursday, May 29, 1952**

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4. Historic Wichita Inc. yesterday moved Wichita's first jail from 12<sup>th</sup> and Main to the new 23 acre park site south of Sim Park where the organization's historic landmarks are to be located and restored. Details. Photo.

**Sunday, June 29, 1952**

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15. Article about progress on Wichita's "Cow Town of 1872" by Historic Wichita Inc. Restoration is proceeding rapidly on the four buildings that will form the nucleus of the cow-town. Article says the calaboose was originally on Lot 72 on Market between First and Second, and was set 60 feet back from Market Street by instruction of city council members. Details.

**Saturday, March 28, 1953**

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5. A large two story frame building almost identical in construction with an early day Wichita

land office and drug store building is being moved from its location at 712 North Market to the Cow Town of 1872, where it will be restored to its original appearance. It closely resembles the original land office building which stood at northwest corner of Douglas and Emporia. The method of construction is that known as "Texas framing," in which the two by four wall studs extend from the floor to the eaves. The building was purchased for Historic Wichita, Inc. by the Steffen Dairy Foods Company. John D. McEwen, president of the company, has also located at 1878 model soda fountain, etc., to furnish the first floor of the building. Further details. Photo. ¶ It will be the fifth structure in the group of old buildings to be preserved at Cow Town.

**Thursday, May 28, 1953****page**

- 5A. Wichita's Cow Town of 1872, now under construction, will be opened to the public in September, the directors of Historic Wichita, Inc. decided yesterday. It had been hoped to open it in June, but it will not be ready by then. Details.

**Wednesday, May 12, 1954****page**

- 10A. The Historic Wichita board yesterday approved formation of a volunteer fire department at Cow Town with hand drawn equipment. The old railway station is now being restored by the Santa Fe railroad. Details.

**Saturday, April 2, 1955****page**

- 4A. Article about plans of Historic Wichita, Inc. for "Cow Town of 1872." The next building to be constructed will probably be a caretaker's home to help control the problem of vandalism. Eventually the area will be fenced off from the park and entry will be controlled at one gate. Details.

**Thursday, July 7, 1955****page**

- 4A. Historic Wichita, Inc. is requesting 1870 era furnishings for the old Munger house in Cow Town. Details.

**Wednesday, July 17, 1957****page**

- 3A. Report of meeting yesterday of Historic Wichita Board of Directors, with election of two new directors. The organization has charge of maintenance and operation of Cow Town. Details. Names of Board of Directors.

**Sunday, July 24, 1960****page**

- 5A. Photo of an early day one story frame store building at 816 East Murdock, which has been presented to Historic Wichita, Inc. by John Jabara, for placement in Cow Town. Is

thought to have been built around 1880.

**Friday, September 2, 1960**

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3B. Photo of the old one story frame grocery store building at 816 East Murdock which has been donated to Historic Wichita, Inc. by Jabara Brothers and soon is to be moved to Cow Town. The original building on the site was built in 1888 by William M. Sutton, pioneer builder and merchant, but was destroyed by fire in 1904. The present structure was rebuilt in 1904 and has been used mainly as a grocery store. Details. Sutton was killed by bandits on October 9, 1915. Photos.