

*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): **Finlay Ross**

### **Wichita Beacon**

**Wednesday, November 8, 1876**

**page**

5. Fisk and Juno, contractors, are buying up Mr. **Finlay Ross**' two story brick store room on the corner of 2nd Street and Main Street.

**Wednesday, December 20, 1876**

**page**

5. **Finlay Ross**, of Gallian, Ohio, will open out a fully stocked, first-class furniture store on the corner of Main Street and First Street the last of this week or first of the next.

**Wednesday, November 20, 1878**

**page**

5. Report of marriage of Sunday, November 17th, 1878, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. J. P. Harsen, of **Finlay Ross** and Miss Sallie S. Parham, both of Wichita.

**Wednesday, February 19, 1879**

**page**

5. **Finlay Ross** has fitted up and furnished the second story of his business house for a residence, and Mrs. Ross now keeps house upstairs and Finlay keeps store downstairs.

**Wednesday, October 29, 1879**

**page**

3. Report of death on Wednesday, October 22nd, of Mrs. Sallie S. Ross, wife of **Finlay Ross** and daughter of T. G. and E. W. Parham, at age 21 yrs., 11 months and 25 days, of puerperal peritonitis. She came here with her parents in the spring of 1874, and was married to **Finlay Ross** November 17th, 1878.
3. Mrs. **Finlay Ross** is survived by an infant daughter.

**Wednesday, December 8, 1880**

**page**

3. **Finlay Ross** has broken ground for a 40 foot extension on the rear of his furniture store.

**Wednesday, March 2, 1881****page**

3. Mr. **Finlay Ross** has about finished a 40 foot addition to his furniture store room, giving him a sales room 25 by 110 feet.

**Wednesday, June 28, 1882****page**

3. **Finlay Ross** has purchased the Emil Werner property on Main street, opposite the post office. He paid \$3000 for the 50 foot front with the frame buildings. He intends to build a two story brick, 50 by 100 feet, probably this summer, and to occupy the entire building as a furniture store and upholstering factory.

**Wednesday, January 17, 1883****page**

3. **Finlay Ross** will move his stock of furniture and carpets into his new building, opposite the post office, this week.

**Wednesday, January 24, 1883****page**

3. **Finlay Ross** will move into his new building next Thursday and Friday. This is perhaps the finest furniture and carpet house in the West.

**Wednesday, November 21, 1883****page**

2. **Finlay Ross** has improved the looks of his block by painting the front. If he will now put on a galvanized cornice, somewhat after the style, but with a difference, of the Citizens Bank, he will increase the looks 100 per cent. A building without a cornice that is a cornice, is like a king without a crown, or a bald-headed man in the street without a hat.

**Wednesday, January 2, 1884****page**

3. **Finlay Ross** is going to put plate glass windows in his Main street store.

**Wednesday, July 2, 1884****page**

3. Mr. **Finlay Ross** and Miss Ella Fuller were married June 25th.

**Saturday, August 1, 1885****page**

4. The third story of the **Finlay Ross** block is finished.

**Wednesday, October 28, 1885**

page

4. Article describing **Finlay Ross**' furniture and carpet store.

**Tuesday, April 13, 1886**

page

1. Article describing the **Finlay Ross** furniture company established in 1877 and now located at 119 and 121 North Main. Details.

**Monday, June 7, 1886**

page

4. **Finlay Ross** sold his residence, corner of 1st and Topeka, to Rev. J. D. Hewitt for \$9000. We understand this ground is bought for the YMCA.

**Saturday, August 21, 1886**

page

4. Architects Terry and Dumont are completing the plans and specifications for Mr. **Finlay Ross**' magnificent new residence to be erected on North Waco at cost between \$10 and 15,000.

**Monday, December 6, 1886**

page

1. Article describes the elegant new residence being constructed for Mr. **Finlay Ross** on North Waco street at cost of \$25,000. Work on the foundation is already commenced. Plans by architects Terry and Dumont. Details.

**Monday, February 12, 1894**

page

4. **Finlay Ross** has placed a handsome 50 foot sign across the front of his double store.

**Saturday, October 12, 1895**

page

3. Mr. and Mrs. **Finlay Ross** gave a little dinner party Tuesday evening, where Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Davidson were the guests of honor.

**Wednesday, April 7, 1897**

page

5. Report of results of city election yesterday. **Finlay Ross** elected mayor over Mr. Young by narrow margin. Details.

**Tuesday, January 25, 1898**

page

5. Cash Henderson today closed a deal which will give him possession for five years of the fine **Finlay Ross** building on Main Street. Mayor Ross did not announce his plans.

**Wednesday, April 5, 1899****page**

5. Report of results of city election yesterday. **Finlay Ross** reelected mayor over James W. Tapp by small margin. Details.

**Wednesday, April 8, 1903****page**

5. Report of results of city election yesterday. B. F. McLean elected mayor by narrow margin over **Finlay Ross**. Details. ¶ The proposed bond issue of \$125,000 for a new high school building was defeated by 4,742 against to 3,208 for.

**Monday, December 5, 1904****page**

6. L. S. Naftzger has been appointed a member of the board of trustees of the Highland Cemetery association to fill the vacancy caused by the death of J. M. Allen. Appointment was made by Judge Thomas C. Wilson of the district court after petition presented by **Finlay Ross**, Coler Sim, and Charles Lawrence asking him to do so.

**Thursday, September 2, 1909****page**

4. Building permit issued to **Finlay Ross** for a new front and improvements to his building at 119-121 North Main for \$7,500.

**Tuesday, January 2, 1917****page**

6. Report of death last night of Wichita pioneer T. W. Fuller at his residence, 304 East 1st Street, of a stroke, at age 76. Born February 5, 1840 at New Carlisle, Ohio. Came to Olathe, Kansas in the late '60s, and came to Wichita on the first train to arrive here, in 1872. Was in several businesses. Residence has been on northeast corner of 1st and Lawrence for 38 years. Was married second time in April 1902 to Miss Sadie Tregellas, who survives. Has one son, Charles I. Fuller, and one daughter, Mrs. **Finlay Ross**. Obituary.

**Monday, February 25, 1918****page**

3. Report of death in Santa Monica, California, of W. S. Woodman, son of Wichita pioneer W. C. Woodman. Says he was an artist. Mrs. J. O. Davidson, a sister-in-law, has two of his paintings, which are snow scenes, and Mrs. **Finlay Ross** has a portrait of her mother painted by Mr. Woodman. Mrs. W. E. Stanley has a large painting of his, "The Old Lady Quilting."

**Friday, March 23, 1928****page**

3. Report of death last night of Charles Irving Fuller, pioneer grocer, at his home, 911

Riverside, at age 64. Survived by wife, Maria English Fuller, a son, Thomas Wesley Fuller, and his sister, Mrs. **Finlay Ross**, Sr.

**Friday, February 24, 1933**

page

4. Report of death yesterday of pioneer business man and former mayor, **Finlay Ross**, at his home, 821 North Waco, at age 86. Born at Toronto, Canada and moved to this country as a boy, with his parents. Came from Ohio to Waco, Texas, and then to Wichita in 1877. Was in furniture business here until 1898. Married the former Miss Ella Fuller in 1878. Survived by wife, two daughters, Mrs. Fred W. Little and Mrs. George Haun, both of Wichita, and two sons, Clayton I. and **Finlay Ross**, Jr., both of Wichita. Further obituary. Photograph.

**Wichita Eagle**

**Thursday, December 9, 1880**

page

3. **Finlay Ross** is breaking ground for an extension of his business house on the corner of 1st and Main. The extension runs back on 1st Street 40 feet.

**Thursday, October 26, 1882**

page

3. The two old frames on the west side of Main street belonging to Emil Werner have been hauled out and **Finlay Ross** has let the contract to Sternberg to put up a splendid two story brick building with 50 foot front.

**Thursday, December 28, 1882**

page

3. Articles of incorporation have been issued to the Citizens Bank, with capital of \$100,000. Directors listed. They will commence business about the first of the year in the new **Finlay Ross** building on Main street. Directors listed.

**Thursday, January 25, 1883**

page

3. **Finlay Ross** has moved the great furniture emporium to his new building on the west side of Main street, opposite the post office.

**Sunday, August 22, 1886**

page

4. Mr. **Finlay Ross** has employed architects Terry and Dumont to draw plans for a residence which he will build on North Waco between Oak and Pine streets.

**Saturday, September 24, 1887**

page

4. Mr. **Finlay Ross** has taken possession of his palatial residence on Lake Side, corner of

Oak and Waco streets.

**Sunday, October 9, 1887**

**page**

4. Drawing of **Finlay Ross** residence on North Waco.

**Wednesday, February 17, 1897**

**page**

5. Letter from **Finlay Ross** accepting the request that he run for mayor.

**Wednesday, April 7, 1897**

**page**

5. Article reports **Finlay Ross** elected mayor.

**Thursday, February 9, 1899**

**page**

5. The boy fountain, the beautiful gift to the children of Wichita by Mayor **Finlay Ross**, reached the city yesterday. It was made in New York and purchased by Mr. Ross, who will present it to the children of the city. ¶ Its erection will be accomplished as soon as the weather moderates and cement can be handled. Its location has been decided upon. It will stand in the northwestern part of the park, just west of the big cannon from Philadelphia (sic), and where the road leading from the east into the park forks. ¶ Article describes the boy and boat. It will be set on a pedestal and surrounded by a 12 foot basin. ¶ Yesterday Park Commissioner George Dickson took Mr. Ross' check and receipted for the statue. Mr. Dickson said: "The fountain is a beauty. I received a book from New York with designs in it and Mayor Ross selected this one." ¶ A medallion on the basin will say that the fountain was presented to the children of Wichita by **Finlay Ross**.

**Sunday, September 16, 1900**

**page**

13. Article about the Spanish cannon, secured for the Wichita's park by Mayor **Finlay Ross**, and on display for some days past at the west door of the city building. ¶ It is described as a "six pound rifled bronze field gun," and the 800 pound piece was cast at Seville, Spain in 1794. It is unusual, in that before 1800 rifled cannon were very rare.

**Tuesday, April 9, 1901**

**page**

5. Article reports inauguration of Mayor B. F. McLean last night, succeeding **Finlay Ross**. ¶ Mayor Ross' annual report tells of purchase of the Griffenstein property on South Water street, 300 by 320 feet, for a wagon market, at cost of \$6,000. ¶ City also obtained for a park the ground between the city building and the Hamilton hotel. ¶ City also obtained a tract of ground for a park 300 by 300 feet between Lawrence and Topeka south of Lincoln street for only \$280. ¶ The Frisco, Missouri Pacific, and

Santa Fe railways have donated 56 cars of crushed rock for the walks and driveways of the parks, and the Rock Island has promised 20 cars.

### **Sunday, January 6, 1907**

#### **page**

6. After having been lost for four years a cannon ball that once was in the pile resting near the old gun taken from Fortress Monroe and stationed in North Riverside park was yesterday dug up from the bottom of the Little Arkansas river by a fisherman who located it in the bottom of the river above the cannon and the **Finlay Ross** "boot" fountain. It was taken from its watery grave and once more rests with the other cannon balls in the park. ¶ When it was missed four years ago a reward of \$25 was offered by the park commissioners for its return and the detection of the person who removed it.

### **Saturday, September 10, 1910**

#### **page**

5. The bronze fountain presented to the city of Wichita by ex-mayor **Finlay Ross** and which has stood in North Riverside park for years, has been taken down and stored away. One of the water pipes in the statue broke and it cannot be repaired, as there is no way of getting the pipe out to mend it. ¶ This statue was the one a park keeper thought needed painting, so he smeared yellow and red paint over the bronze make it "look prettier." So much joking was done at his expense that the unartistic keeper decided to remove the paint, which he did with a knife.

### **Friday, September 25, 1914**

#### **page**

5. Article saying it is unlikely the city and street car company will join in building new bridge across Little Arkansas river at the site of Woodman bridge. ¶ **Finlay Ross**, former mayor, says the proposed opening of a street through the park from the north end of Woodman bridge to Nims avenue might result in a forfeiture by the city of all of the park lands, since the lands were he thinks deeded to the city for park purposes only. ¶ However the city attorney, Earl Blake, declares that the street can be opened, without forfeiting any land, as the land was deeded to the city absolutely without forfeiture clause. ¶ "In 1897 O. G. Nims, of the Keene syndicate, deeded the land in Central Riverside park and a large portion of that in North Riverside park to the city for \$7960 and in 1898 he deeded the remainder of North Riverside park to the city for \$700. In connection with the city's suit for a portion of tax penalties in 1899 the county deeded the land in South Riverside park to the city.

### **Monday, August 8, 1921**

#### **page**

6. Wichita's "Boy and the Boot" statue is to be repaired, and the broken parts are now at the Ben Sibbitt foundry and should be restored within two weeks. ¶ It was bequeathed to the city by **Finlay Ross** during the second year of his first term as mayor and for 23 summers has stood emptying water from one of his boots. But the present summer he

has been missing. During the last winter some vandal broke off the boot and the arm which held it aloft. Now the Park Board plans to repair it.

**Sunday, July 31, 1921****page**

Rotogravure

Photographs of Wichita's five resident ex-mayors: **Finlay Ross**, B. F. McLean, C. L. Davidson, W. J. Babb, and O. H. Bentley.

**Sunday, November 29, 1925****page**

Magazine

3. Article by Dick Long about "How Beautiful Riverside Came to Adorn Wichita." Tells of part played by **Finlay Ross**.

**Friday, August 17, 1928****page**

3. Photograph of **Finlay Ross** with bottle of oil from Wright well which he secured for the Pioneer Society's museum at the court house.

**Friday, February 24, 1933****page**

1. Article reports death yesterday of **Finlay Ross** at age 86. Photograph and obituary. Came to Wichita in 1877.

**Thursday, April 19, 1945****page**

3. Report of death Tuesday night of Wichita pioneer, Mrs. Ella Fuller Ross, widow of former mayor **Finlay Ross**, at her home, 821 North Waco. Born in Atlanta, Illinois on August 13, 1862 and came to Wichita with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Fuller, from Olathe, on the first train trip to Wichita. Married **Finlay Ross** on June 25, 1884, and their first home was at 1st and Topeka. Her family resided at 1st and Lawrence. ¶ Survived by two sons, Clayton I. Ross and Finlay F. Ross Jr., two daughters, Mrs. George Haun and Mrs. Fred W. Little, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**Thursday, November 21, 1946****page**

5. Report of death last evening of **Finlay Ross**, Jr., 246 North Market, on his 56th birthday. Was son of pioneer Wichita merchant and former mayor, **Finlay Ross**, Sr. Survived by a son, Major **Finlay Ross** III, of the army air corps, a brother, Clayton Ross, of the Hillcrest Apartments, and two sisters, Mrs. George Haun, 7 Hampton Road, Eastborough, and Mrs. Fred W. Little, 357 North Roosevelt. Further biography.



**Wichita Eagle-Beacon**  
**Tuesday, June 18, 1968**

**page**

- 6B. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Christina Ross Haun, 74, of Hampton Road, Eastborough, daughter of **Finlay Ross**, pioneer Wichitan and former mayor. Born in Wichita. Survived by widower, William George, a Wichita oilman, and four daughters, Mrs. Patricia Haltom and Mrs. Edmund Pendleton, of Wichita, Mrs. Phil Errebo, Milaca, Minnesota, and Mrs. Georgia Patton, Hutchinson, Kansas. Photo. Entombment in Old Mission Mausoleum.

**Monday, November 30, 1970**

**page**

- 5A. Report of visit to the new **Finlay Ross** Park, adjacent to Century Plaza, by **Finlay Ross III**, grandson of the Wichita businessman and former mayor for whom it was named. **Finlay Ross III** recently retired as Colonel after 30 years in the Air Force. Is now living in Wichita. Details.