

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): Sullivan's Dam

Wichita Eagle

Tuesday, November 28, 1893

page

5. Letter to editor urging a head gate in the canal off the Little River at Sullivan's dam to allow diversion of water into the Little River or into Chisholm creek depending on the season, water flow, etc. ¶ Says at present the Arkansas river is dry above the mouth of the Little Arkansas, and the latter below Sullivan's dam is smaller than Chisholm creek. The dam is now thoroughly repaired and is over 300 feet long, and the canal or creek leading to Chisholm creek proper is filled with a large clear current, so that the sewers may be flushed satisfactorily. ¶ Says an enterprising gentlemen has but recently purchased the lovely park at the foot of Central avenue and if he beautifies this as a public resort, they should be entitled to pure fresh water in the river during the warm seasons.

Tuesday, November 19, 1896

page

5. The Little Arkansas river is very low, and advantage is being taken of this to make repairs on Sullivan's dam. Willows are tied in bundles about a foot in diameter and laid along the places needing repair and compactly pressed down, after which dirt is thrown on them. This after it settles makes it impervious to water, while the willows hold it together.

Wednesday, June 23, 1897

page

5. Some parties are fixing a nice place at Sullivan's dam for boating and a general resort for the hot weather. A boat house is now in course of construction, and a refreshment resort for ice cream and lemonade will be erected.

Sunday, July 25, 1897

page

4. Article describes a "chuting the chutes" structure 150 feet long now being built at Sullivan's dam. Details.

Sunday, August 1, 1897

page

6. Big crowds go out every night to Sullivan's dam to shoot the chutes. An extension will be built soon, making the chute 20 feet long.

Friday, January 7, 1898**page**

5. The question has been raised as to whether Wichita owns what is known as Sullivan's dam and the land adjacent. The property cost the city \$15,000 some years ago, which was paid to the Carey estate to secure the dam and water for sewer purposes. The question now is whether the city has a clear title. ¶ The city has been paying \$1,200 per year for several years for the services of a man to watch the dam. ¶ The \$15,000 paid for the property would now buy it about ten times over.

Wednesday, February 15, 1899**page**

6. Article about suit for damages by Mr. Sullivan regarding the Sullivan's dam. Article says the dam was built in 1878. Mr. Sullivan claims the dam floods about three acres of his land, etc. Details.

Sunday, March 12, 1899**page**

7. Since the breaking of Sullivan's dam last summer, Chisholm creek has stagnant, scum covered, and very odorous. The new dam being constructed by the city is now nearly finished and has raised the water in the creek so that it is now much less offensive.

Tuesday, March 28, 1899**page**

6. The new Sullivan's dam has been completed.

Tuesday, April 11, 1899**page**

- 3., 6. City engineer's annual report: ¶ Says the wooden sidewalks have almost disappeared from the streets of Wichita and are being replaced by cinder, cement, or brick walks. ¶ Three dams have been constructed in past year: ¶ New Sullivan's dam -- cost \$2,632; Across Little river at Central avenue -- cost \$675; Across Chisholm creek -- cost \$102.

Wednesday, July 29, 1908**page**

8. City will make temporary repairs to Sullivan's dam to insure adequate flow of water through drainage canal to keep it flushed out. Plans under way for a permanent concrete dam to replace the old Sullivan's dam.

Thursday, August 13, 1908**page**

5. The city will repair the 38 foot break in Sullivan's dam so that the water can be forced

through Chisholm creek and the drainage canal to relieve the unsanitary conditions existing in a number of places along the creek and canal.

Sunday, August 15, 1909**page**

- 5A. Article discussing plan for replacement of old Sullivan's dam. Plans previously submitted to old council on November 6, 1908 and approved, but no action taken since. New concrete dam proposed to replace the old wood dam and would be built about 200 feet downstream from the old dam. Would cost about \$12,000. Base to be 12 feet in diameter and total length of dam 220 feet. Dam to extend six feet below and five feet above low water mark and will raise the water level three feet higher than that in the drainage canal.

Tuesday, August 17, 1909**page**

6. Commission last night decided to proceed with replacement of Sullivan's dam and will advertise for bids. Some suggested changing the name of the new dam.

Thursday, June 16, 1910**page**

6. Steel laying on the first unit of the Arkansas Valley Interurban from Valley Center to Wichita will reach Sullivan's dam heading southward by Saturday night, and the entire stretch will be completed within ten days.

Wednesday, June 22, 1910**page**

8. Advertisement for sale of the Arkansas Valley Interurban stock states: "The graders are three miles north of Valley Center. The bridge is being built near Sullivan's dam. Only two and a half miles of track yet to lay between Wichita and Valley Center." Photograph of work train.

Sunday, January 19, 1913**page**

5. Arthur Sullivan, 63, pioneer farmer, died yesterday at his suburban residence five miles north of Wichita. He was the last of seven Sullivan boys and came to Wichita in May 1870 from Ottawa City (sic), Canada. On his homestead, which is situated on the banks of the Little Arkansas river, he built the famous Sullivan dam, known for miles around as a big picnic grounds. He also built a canal or mill race a half mile long and 25 feet across, connecting Little river with Chisholm creek. This canal furnished power for a hydraulic mill he erected. His wife and two sons, Robert and Albert, survive.

Tuesday, May 13, 1919**page**

5. Arkansas Valley Interurban has built four new bridges in past month, one at Halstead, one at Emma Creek, and two others near Newton. A concrete structure of this kind will also

be built in a short time at Sullivan's Dam just north of the city.

Sunday, May 8, 1921

page

5. Repair of Sullivan's dam has been completed and it is now in the best condition it has been in for ten years according to P. L. Brockway, city engineer.

Sunday, June 6, 1926

page

2. Sullivan's dam has been leased to Russ Borah and Ted L. Maddux, who will fix it up with picnic grounds, swings, a dancing pavilion, and improved swimming facilities.

Sunday, August 14, 1927

page

5. Article says the city is considering the future of Sullivan's dam, which again needs repairs. Details and brief history.

Saturday, June 30, 1928

page

2. Article says city commission is reluctant to spend \$1500 to repair the south end of Sullivan's dam, which washed out in recent high waters. Brief history of the dam's purpose.

Wichita Beacon

Tuesday, August 28, 1894

page

4. Note says Sullivan's dam is a popular place for lovers to go. In boom days when Alamo was a populous suburb, it boasted some 20 young couples who frequently selected Sullivan's dam as the place for their parties, and of the 20 couples about 16 became engaged in the romantic surroundings there and 12 of the 16 were married in the same surroundings.

Monday, September 26, 1898

page

5. City council is no longer disturbed about the street railway matter since the City Treasurer has received the \$10,000 cash deposit from the company. They are satisfied the new line will be built, because J. O. Davidson's syndicate stands ready to pay Mr. Church a good round sum for his franchise if he is unable to finish the line.

City's controversy with Mr. Sullivan over payments for upkeep of Sullivan's dam expected to come before city council tonight. Details.

Wednesday, November 16, 1898

page

5. Article about city's dispute with Arthur Sullivan over its ownership of Sullivan's dam and right to rebuilt it since it was washed out last summer. City started to work on dam this morning and Mr. Sullivan obtained temporary restraining order to stop the work. Details.

Tuesday, April 25, 1899

page

6. The new Sullivan's dam is now complete and a current of clear water is running into the race. Description of dam.

Saturday, June 16, 1900

page

5. Long article about a lawsuit over the city's title to Sullivan's dam, with details and history.

Saturday, October 26, 1901

page

5. A. Sullivan has offered for sale the 40 acre tract of land owned by him five miles north of the city to the Wichita Railroad and Light company as a site for the pleasure resort the street railway expects to establish. This is the location of "Sullivan's Dam" and is naturally fitted for a park.

Sunday, January 28, 1923

page

Magazine

7. Article about Sullivan's Dam with photograph.