

*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): Valentine**

### **WICHITA BEACON**

**Thursday, October 26, 1933**

**page**

11. Article about the new Valentine Lunch, which will open a new \$10,000 all porcelain structure at the corner of Beacon Lane and Market Street on the old post office grounds in about ten days, according to announcement today by A. H. Valentine, manager of the system. The Valentine System operates several cafes and eating places near Wichita, but this will be their first place opened here. ¶ The building is said to be the largest all porcelain structure ever built and is finished inside and out with porcelain covered steel. It is built in sections and bolted together. It was built by the Metal Building Company, 1101 Brown Building, of which C. J. Fox is manager, and the Martin Perry Company, York, New York, manufacturers for the Wichita agency. Photograph.

### **WICHITA EAGLE**

**Sunday, February 10, 1946**

**page**

11. Ad with photo of the new location of the "Krystal Kitchen" hamburger stand at 1615 East Kellogg, with small photo of owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rankin, who operated previously the Valentine Lunch, 404 East Douglas.

### **WICHITA EAGLE**

**Sunday, February 1, 1948**

**page**

- 4B. Ad for Valentine Manufacturing Company's sandwich shop buildings. Photo. Company located at 317 East 18th Street. Ad says company has been designers and manufacturers of portable steel sandwich shops since 1934.

### **WICHITA EAGLE**

**Sunday, February 29, 1948**

**page**

33. Valentine Manufacturing, Inc. ad for its portable steel sandwich shops, with drawing. Company located at 317 East 18th Street.

**WICHITA EAGLE****Sunday, July 25, 1948****page**

Special 76th anniversary edition of the Eagle with special articles, etc.

- 11B. Full page ad of Valentine Manufacturing Company, which recently moved its offices into larger quarters at 307 North Main. Includes photos and drawings of several of the company's all-steel portable sandwich shops, popular since 1934. Includes photo of Arthur H. Valentine, president of the company.

**WICHITA EAGLE****Sunday, March 18, 1962****Magazine****page**

16. Feature article on the Valentine Manufacturing Company, 1020 South McComas, founded in 1938, which manufactures small portable buildings used for various purposes. Diners account for fifty percent of the production. Founder of the company was Arthur H. Valentine, a Wichita restaurateur and promoter. Valentine died in 1953. After several owners, the company was purchased by the Radcliff family in 1958. Byron Radcliff is president and Robert J. Radcliff is vice-president and general manager, and Kent Radcliff, secretary-treasurer. When they purchased the firm it was located at 1446 Barwise. The McComas Street factory was started in the fall of 1959 and occupied in early 1960. ¶ More than 70 of the Valentine structures are situated in Wichita, although the buildings are now in every state in the nation. Service stations now represent 25 percent of the firm's business. ¶ Several thousand diners have been built in the last 24 years at prices ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000. The original diner had six stools, but now the most popular model seats are up to 40. The all-steel buildings are shipped in sections from Wichita to their future sites. ¶ The company employs 40 persons.

**WICHITA EAGLE****Friday, April 18, 1980****page**

- 1B. Article about the Floinn Cafe, 2305 East Central, one of the few survivors of about 2200 portable diners made in Wichita by the Valentine Manufacturing Company in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s and sold all over the country. Several models were made according to Boyde Kyle, one of the founders of Valentine, Inc. The most popular model was the ten stool Little Chef restaurant, which retailed for \$3300. The Floinn Cafe is a slightly smaller eight stool unit. A larger Double Deluxe model had stool and booth seating for 30. Further details. Photo of Floinn Cafe.

