

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): Vaudeville

Wichita Eagle

Wednesday, January 31, 1906

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6. Wonderland park is progressing as rapidly as could be expected. Two new buildings are almost completed, one to contain a pool and billiard room and a bowling alley, and the other to have a penny arcade, shooting gallery, and laughing palace. ¶ Work is under way on two pavilions, at one of which soda water and other drinks will be dispensed, and at the other of which tea will be served. ¶ The summer theater is nearing completion and will seat nearly 1,000 people. The best **vaudeville** acts will be secured. ¶ The foundation of the dancing pavilion is almost finished.

Wednesday, March 18, 1908

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6. Article reports the building on North Topeka avenue recently vacated by the Innes furniture store is to be remodeled and converted into a **vaudeville** theater with seating capacity of 760.

Friday, June 12, 1908

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5. The name "Kanita," a contraction of Kansas and Wichita, was selected yesterday for the new **vaudeville** theater being prepared on North Topeka avenue.

Thursday, April 20, 1911

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9. Wonderland Park will open May 14 with several new features including a "Giant Thriller" ride of 4000 feet, costing \$10,000, and a new natatorium with a pool 48 by 110 feet and depth of one half to eight feet, located in the old theater building. The music pavilion, which will be the **vaudeville** theater, is to be enlarged and 600 additional opera chairs installed.

Saturday, August 28, 1915

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2. Because of insufficient patronage, the Summer garden, an outdoor picture and

vaudeville theater on North Main street, has been closed.

Thursday, May 10, 1917

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2. Princess theater changes over from **vaudeville** to moving pictures next Monday. A six piece orchestra will play during all the performances.

Thursday, December 19, 1918

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5. The Wichita theater, the city's newest motion picture and **vaudeville** house, will be opened Monday, December 23. It was built by the Peerless Theater company (officers listed) at a cost of more than \$150,000.

Thursday, January 20, 1921

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2. Two sites are being proposed for new **vaudeville** theaters on North Lawrence avenue. ¶ Walter A. Vincent, Oscar Shirk, and others are asking for a charter for a company called the Orpheum company which plans to erect a seven story building at northeast corner of 1st and Lawrence. Of \$700,000 needed, \$300,000 has been subscribed. ¶ George Theis, Jr. and Warren E. Brown are considering a new theater building on the property leased by George Theis, Jr. for 99 years, on the west side of Lawrence north of the alley between Douglas and 1st street.

Sunday, June 8, 1924

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5. The Central States Amusement Company, which has operated the Orpheum theater since September 1922, has sold its lease to the Orpheum Building company, which will operate the theater. High class **vaudeville** will continue to be shown.

Thursday, December 29, 1927

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25. With the completion of decorations now being carried out at the Marple theater, the name will be changed to the State and an electric sign bearing that name will shortly be hung outside the new facade. ¶ The policy will also be changed -- **vaudeville** no longer will be offered.

Wichita Beacon

Wednesday, July 18, 1888

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1. Next Saturday The Museum on South Main street will be opened up as a free museum and **vaudeville** theater.

Saturday, May 5, 1906

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5. Work will begin next Monday on construction of an air dome theater, to be opened May 28 at 1st and Market. The open amphitheater will have 500 chairs on the ground floor and circus seats across the rear and about the sides seating an additional 500 people. Olson and Baldwin, owners and managers of the Bijou theater, the popular ten cent Douglas avenue **vaudeville** house will operate the new theater. Two shows will be given nightly. The stage will be constructed across the east end of the enclosure. The pavilion will not be covered, but if weather necessitates protection, a canvas top will be spread over the theater.

Wednesday, January 19, 1910

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5. The Orpheum theater lease and fixtures have been sold by R. F. Chambers to C. L. Jury and J. H. Foster, of Iola, for \$10,000. R. F. Chambers purchased the house last August from F. A. Davis. It was built two years ago and is said to be the first **vaudeville** house ever built in Wichita.