

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: Beech -- World War II employment and expansion

WICHITA BEACON

Tuesday, February 14, 1939

page

13. Beech Aircraft Corporation announced today that it has received a contract to build ten biplanes for the army air corps. To be powered with 400 h.p. Pratt and Whitney Wasp Junior engines.

Thursday, April 27, 1939

page

1. Beech Aircraft Company today received confirmation of a \$528,749 contract to build fourteen photographic planes for the U.S. Army Air Corps. The ships cost approximately \$37,000 each.

Friday, April 28, 1939

page

5. Short article says Beech Aircraft has already started work on its new government contract and that more than 700 men are working in the factory.

Thursday, May 25, 1939

page

12. The Beech payroll for 1939 will amount to \$1,000,000.

Wednesday, June 14, 1939

page

9. With the hiring of additional men today, the Beech Aircraft Company payroll is now over 700 men. A new plant addition is under construction.

Sunday, September 10, 1939

page

Special Section honoring Beech Aircraft Company with articles and photographs C 1-8.

- C-1. Aerial photograph of Beech factory.

- C-5. Drawing of new Beech administration building, which has just been completed and

occupied. Building was designed by the Austin Company, of Chicago.

Monday, September 25, 1939**page**

1. Armagost and Son will construct a new building and several additions for the Stearman Aircraft Division of the Boeing Airplane Company at a cost of approximately \$200,000. The work is to be finished within 60 days. The main new building will be 200 by 130 feet, and the additions 40 by 48 feet and 50 by 180 feet. Overend and Boucher are architects for these and also for some work planned at the Beech plant.

Saturday, June 15, 1940**page**

1. Directors of the Beech Aircraft Corporation today announced plans to double the present 160 acre field by purchase of the land south of their field and to expand the plant by use of a large hangar and workshop now standing on the newly acquired land adjoining the present field.

Saturday, August 17, 1940**page**

1. The war department today announced awarding of contracts to Stearman Aircraft Division for \$2,041,948 for 404 primary training planes and to Beech Aircraft Corporation for \$3,410,747 for 67 advanced training planes. Details.

Sunday, February 2, 1941**page**

2. Buildings constructed under Beech Aircraft Company's \$1,600,000 expansion program were virtually completed yesterday. Details. ¶ Stearman Aircraft Division expects to occupy the new \$540,000 addition to the Number 1 plant by February 15. Details.

Friday, September 11, 1942**page**

30. Three Wichita aircraft plants, Boeing, Beech, and Cessna, are engaged in building large transport gliders carrying 15 fully equipped soldiers, the Army Air Forces announced officially today. Details.

**SELECTIONS FROM DR. EDWARD N. TIHEN'S NOTES FROM WICHITA NEWSPAPERS
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Keywords: Beech -- World War II employment and expansion

WICHITA EAGLE

Friday, February 10, 1939

page

5. Article reports eight single-engined Beechcraft planes have been ordered by the war department at Washington.

Monday, May 20, 1940

page

3. Photo of army air corps' new Beech C-45 light personnel transport.

Thursday, August 29, 1940

page

5. Beech Aircraft yesterday received a \$4,847,217 contract for 150 training planes and 20 transport planes, all of a similar twin-motor type, for the United States Army.

The Beech Aircraft company's single-motor biplanes are already being constructed in the building south of the main plant on East Kellogg, formerly known as the Yellow Air Cab building, and the East Central plant is being devoted solely to building twin-motor planes. Plans have been prepared for additions to the Beech plant, and construction will start immediately.

Wednesday, September 18, 1940

page

1. Beech Aircraft Company yesterday received \$13,115,138 order from War Department for training planes, increasing the backlog of orders at Wichita aircraft plants to about \$53 million. Photo of Beech plant on page 3.

Saturday, September 21, 1940

page

3. Photo of the old Yellow Air Cab hangar on East Kellogg, vacant many times in recent years and used only occasionally for part time activities, which has now been converted into Factory Number 2 by the Beech Aircraft Corporation.

Sunday, November 17, 1940**page**

10. Article about expansion of Beech plant. Details and photos, including plant Number 2. When completed, floor space will be 550,000 square feet compared with original area of 125,000 square feet.

Monday, January 13, 1941**page**

3. Aerial photo of expansion at Beech plant.

Sunday, April 20, 1941**page**

11. Article about Walter Beech.
14. Article giving history of Beech Aircraft company, with aerial photo of Beech plant, with addition. Yearly net deliveries by Beech:
- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1933 | \$17,552 |
| 1934 | 173,799 |
| 1935 | 332,249 |
| 1936 | 546,224 |
| 1937 | 787,574 |
| 1938 | 1,141,399 |
| 1939 | 1,328,296 |
| 1940 | 2,345,255 |
| 1941 est | 25,000,000 |

Saturday, June 7, 1941**page**

1. War Department yesterday announced placing another order with Beech Aircraft Corporation for \$50,699,902 of planes and parts.

Sunday, June 8, 1941**page**

5. Aviation employment in Wichita approaching 12,000, with about 5000 at Stearman, slightly over 4000 at Beech, over 2000 at Cessna, and 400 at Culver.

Sunday, June 15, 1941**page**

5. Employment at Wichita plane plants is reported to be 5025 at Stearman, 4300 at Beech, 2180 at Cessna, and 200 at Culver.

Sunday, July 13, 1941**page**

5. Beech Aircraft announced that work would start immediately to increase the factory space there by 100,000 square feet from the present 600,000 square feet.

6. Photo (aerial) of Beech plant taken last week.

Article about proposals for highway projects around Wichita. Includes re-routing of Highway 54 to bring it straight west on Kellogg from 10 mile corner instead of north to Central and then west. Central to widened from 18 to 24 feet from Oliver to the Beech plant. Details.

Sunday, September 28, 1941

page

7. Cessna employment at present is about 2800, that at Beech is 5381 and at Stearman about 6000.

Sunday, November 9, 1941

page

10.	Wichita aviation employes:	September 15, 1939	1,460
		September 15, 1940	3,780
		September 15, 1941	14,000

Sunday, November 30, 1941

page

12. Annual report of Beech Aircraft reported gross sales of \$8,062,203 for the year ended September 30, with net profit of \$471,715.

Sunday, March 1, 1942

page

5. Photo of the Beechcraft AT-11 advanced trainer, one of several types being built here by the Beech Aircraft Corporation. Details.

Wednesday, June 3, 1942

page

2. Contracts have been let for site for 500 defense housing units near Beech factory and 4500 units near Boeing factory, and ground work should begin in the next day or two. Details.

Tuesday, November 10, 1942

page

5. Report of presentation of the army-navy "E" award to Beech Aircraft Corporation. Details.

Sunday, November 29, 1942

page

16. Article about Plainview (sic) and Beechwood defense housing projects now under construction. Plainview to have 4382 units and Beechwood 500 units. Details.

Sunday, April 25, 1943**page**

Special Section regarding Wichita's many emergency war housing developments, which are to be dedicated today. Details and photos.

14-A. Article with biography of Walter Beech, and photo.

Sunday, November 5, 1944**page**

13. Article says the entire wing assembly for the army's new Douglas A-26 Invader attack bomber is being made in Wichita by Beech Aircraft. Other assemblies are being made by Cessna Aircraft. Details.

Saturday, May 26, 1945**page**

5. A drastic cutback in aircraft production announced yesterday by the war department in Washington will cause some 3000 workers to be terminated immediately at the Beech Aircraft Corporation. Production at the Boeing-Wichita plant will not be affected. Details.

Thursday, June 14, 1945**page**

3. An additional two or three thousand workers will be released within the next 60 days by Beech and Cessna aircraft plants at Wichita, the war manpower commission said in Topeka yesterday. ¶ Recently nearly 3000 workers had been released because of a cutback in the expansion program for building the Douglas A-26 plane.

Sunday, July 1, 1945**page**

7. Beech Aircraft Corporation already is making plans for the coming period of transition. Production of commercial Model 18 twin-engine Beechcrafts will be resumed about October 1st if materials can be obtained.

Sunday, August 5, 1945**page**

5. Beech Aircraft will suspend production a full week September 23-30 for a complete inventory, resulting from completion of the Beech A-26 wing contract. Details.

Sunday, August 19, 1945**page**

3. Article about layoffs of thousands of workers at Wichita aircraft plants. Boeing has terminated 5000 employees in the past two days. Cessna's war contracts have all been cancelled and 300 of the company's employees will be terminated Monday. Beech has terminated a large number of employees. ¶ The International Association of Machinists

says approximately 10,000 workers have been terminated and another 7000 will be laid off by the first week of September.

18. Article discusses Beech Aircraft Corporation's plans for the future. Details. The company will produce its standard biplane and twin-engine Beechcraft until the new postwar models are ready for production in about six months.

Sunday, December 9, 1945

page

12. Beginning last Thursday the Beech Aircraft Corporation has delivered the first 12 postwar Model 18 twin engined executive transports to commercial purchasers, representing more than a million dollars worth. ¶ Outwardly the postwar Model 18 differs little from its prewar predecessors. However the landing gear is redesigned to give a softer landing, the engine nacelles have been extended to the rear of the wings. Details. Photo.

Friday, April 26, 1946

page

5. Article summarizing Beech Aircraft Corporation's annual report to stockholders. Details.

Sunday, October 31, 1948

page

1. Announcement made yesterday that Beech Aircraft Company has received a United States Navy contract for modification and overhaul of 457 military twin-engine Beechcrafts at an estimated cost of \$6,000,000. Details.