

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): Boeing -- World War II expansion and employment

WICHITA BEACON

Wednesday, June 26, 1940

page

1. Stearman Aircraft Division of the Boeing Airplane Company received the largest aircraft order ever received by a Wichita manufacturer. It calls for construction of \$3,779,258 worth of primary training planes and parts to be used by the navy. Additional expansion of the Stearman plant will be carried out and the company plans to operate two full shifts instead of the one full shift now employed. Details.

Thursday, August 22, 1940

page

1. Announcement made in Washington yesterday of plans to expand Boeing's Wichita plant to approximately five times its present size. A three million dollar Reconstruction Finance Corporation loan has been approved to finance the plant expansion. Details of the plans are not yet available, but the interest rate on the loan will be four percent and it is to be repaid in five years.

Sunday, September 29, 1940

page

1. J. Earl Schaefer, general manager, yesterday announced a \$545,000 expansion program that will enable the Stearman Aircraft Division of the Boeing Airplane Company to employ 3000 workers and double the present rate of production. Work on the new structure will begin Monday morning on the west side of the present plant and will increase the present 200,000 square feet of plant space to 300,000 square feet. Article also refers to a proposed Number 2 Stearman plant to be built entirely separate from the present factory. Details.

Wednesday, October 16, 1940

page

1. Announcement made today of details of plans for new warplane factory to be built for Stearman Aircraft Division of Boeing Airplane Company at cost of approximately \$3,500,000. Construction to start next week. Plant to have 442,000 square feet and employ 4000 persons and will build parts for the Boeing B-17 bombers. These will be

shipped to Seattle for assembly. New factory to be 1900 feet long and 330 feet wide and will be completed about March 1. Further details. A year ago Stearman had approximately 560 employes and at present it has approximately 1550. Drawing of new plant.

Tuesday, October 22, 1940**page**

1. Contracts let yesterday for the new units to be built under the Beech Aircraft Company's \$1,600,000 expansion program. ¶ Excavation was started yesterday for the new Number 2 plant for the Stearman Division of Boeing. Santa Fe Railroad is building a one mile track to the new plant, to be completed in ten days.

Thursday, October 24, 1940**page**

1. Article says Boeing Airplane Company contemplates a new aircraft factory in Wichita five times as large as the huge new unit started by the company here Monday. The latter is only the first stage of a factory which will eventually employ 14,000 persons and build complete four motored "flying fortresses." Details.

Sunday, January 12, 1941**page**

12. Aerial photo of progress on construction of new Plant 2 building for Stearman Aircraft Division of Boeing Airplane Company. To be 1000 feet long and 330 feet wide. Details.

Wednesday, May 28, 1941**page**

1. Announcement made of a huge expansion to be made at the Stearman Aircraft Division of Boeing Airplane Company to provide one million square feet of space for building \$125,000,000 worth of super-bombers. Details.

Sunday, November 23, 1941**page**

- B-16. At the close of business yesterday, employment at Boeing was 5777, at Beech 5761, and at Cessna 3200.

Sunday, October 25, 1942**page****Special Boeing Section**

2. Work has started on erection of two large covered bridges connecting the new bus loading platforms across the highway to the south parking lot of Boeing plant Number 2. The wooden bridges will each be 350 feet long and 12 feet wide.

24. Biographical article about J. Earl Schaefer, vice-president of Wichita division of Boeing, with photo.
31. Article with history of Stearman Aircraft Company. Details.

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

WICHITA EAGLE

Thursday, June 27, 1940

page

5. Stearman division of the Boeing Airplane company yesterday was awarded a \$3,779,628 order for planes by the United States Navy, the largest contract ever placed in Wichita. Expansion of the plant is probable. Details.

Sunday, July 7, 1940

page

5. The Cessna company during the week moved into its new unit, started several months ago. ¶ Plans have been drawn by Boeing engineers for new units at Stearman to cost over \$250,000.

Sunday, July 14, 1940

page

5. Ground breaking started yesterday for a new \$250,000 unit at the Stearman division of Boeing Airplane Company, which will give 40,000 square feet of additional factory space.

Thursday, August 22, 1940

page

5. It was announced yesterday in Washington that \$3,000,000 to \$3,500,000 will be spent on an immediate expansion of the Stearman division of the Boeing Airplane company at Wichita. Details. ¶ Last week more than 1100 were on the Stearman payroll, the highest in history.

Sunday, September 1, 1940

page

5. The Stearman Aircraft division of Boeing Airplane Company is producing a new

training plane every three hours during two eight hour shifts, or nearly six planes every day.

Sunday, October 6, 1940**page**

5. Article about probable further expansion of Wichita airplane plants. Details. Mentions plans for a new Boeing plant costing around \$3,500,000, discussed before the city commission recently. Says the first group of Culver workmen being brought from Columbus, Ohio, are due to arrive this week. A total of 160 employes or family members are moving from Columbus to Wichita. Photos of construction on Stearman and Cessna plants.

Friday, October 11, 1940**page**

5. Article reports developments on plans for a huge new Boeing factory at Wichita. Details.

Wednesday, October 16, 1940**page**

1. Boeing Airplane Company yesterday announced plans to double the floor space of its plants in Seattle and Wichita. Includes construction of a new 330 by 1000 foot plant in Wichita employing 4000-4500 men. Details and drawing. The company has an option on 120 acres south of the Stearman plant. Entire expansion is due for completion in 140 days.

Thursday, October 17, 1940**page**

5. Contract for construction of new Boeing plant Number 2 at Wichita was signed yesterday with Austin Company, Cleveland, Ohio.

Sunday, April 13, 1941**page**

5. Employment has reached the 8000 mark in Wichita's aircraft plants and allied industries. Employment passed 3000 for the first time this past week at the Stearman division of Boeing. The big new Stearman plant Number 2 is almost done, and contractors expect to turn the factory over to Boeing about May 1.

Tuesday, June 3, 1941**page**

1. Boeing company yesterday announced plans for immediate construction of a large addition to its plant Number 2 in Wichita, quadrupling the present 384,000 square feet completed this spring by the addition of 1,320,000 square feet. Details. To include a new administration and personnel building, two stories, 400 by 160 feet.

Sunday, January 4, 1942**page**

5. The personnel building at Boeing plant Number 2, a separate unit from the main factory standing at the edge of the field was completed yesterday, and the department will move in today. ¶ The hiring program for the new plant has been started and there were about 6800 on the payroll last week, an increase of about 1000 for the month and of 400 for the week just past. ¶ Construction on the main plant is making good progress and the warehouse is now roofed over.

Sunday, January 11, 1942**page**

5. The Boeing Wichita division is now hiring employes at the rate of about 150 a day. The number at work yesterday was 7588.

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, August 4, 1942**page**

5. Records filed yesterday with the register of deeds showed that the Boeing Aircraft Company has purchased an additional 45 acres directly across MacArthur Road south of Boeing's Number 2 plant from Mike Kennedy and his son, Charles W. Kennedy. The buyer of the land was the Defense Plant Corporation. It is to be used to add to the warehouse facilities of the Boeing Aircraft Company. Grading equipment is now on site and the Austin Company will build the new warehouse. A spur of the Santa Fe Railroad will be extended from the Connell station to the new warehouse at a cost of about \$50,000. The Santa Fe now has a spur extending from Connell station to Boeing plant Number 2.

Sunday, October 25, 1942**page**

8. Article with biography of J. E. Schaefer, general manager of the Wichita Boeing plant. Born here June 11, 1893 to Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schaefer. His father was proprietor of the Old English Inn, which stood for any years at 115 North Topeka, where the Shrine club is now situated. The Old English Inn was destroyed by fire in 1913, and Earl Schaefer then moved with his parents to Houston. However he returned to Wichita to graduate with his high school class in 1914. Married Miss Catherine Rockwell four years later. Photo.

Special Section honoring Boeing Airplane Company for its Army-Navy "E" award. Details. Photo.

Monday, October 26, 1942

page

6. Completion of the new Boeing plant is being celebrated today. Details.

Sunday, March 21, 1943

page

6. The Boeing Airplane Company has added 500,000 square feet of floor space to its plant with the completion on schedule a few days ago of two new warehouses directly south of Plant 2 across MacArthur Road. Details.

Sunday, April 25, 1943

page

10. The 7000th Boeing Kaydet trainer plane was delivered to the armed forces the past week. History of Stearman plane development. Photo.

Thursday, April 27, 1944

page

5. Article gives details of Boeing financial report for 1943.

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.

Friday, August 17, 1945

page

5. Production of B-29s at Boeing-Wichita plant is to be cut back. The company will go ahead and complete its full quota of 100 B-29s for the month of August, but the schedule for September calls for a reduction to 60 deliveries; which may wind up scheduled deliveries of B-29s at Wichita under existing contracts. However some spare parts and assemblies may be produced here in connection with a continuing B-29 program at the Boeing-Seattle plant.

Saturday, August 18, 1945

page

5. The state board of agriculture has reported Wichita's 1945 population at 155,968 and that of Sedgwick County as 203,398. Planeview has a population of 17,549.

Sunday, August 19, 1945**page**

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

Saturday, December 29, 1945**page**

5. Boeing is installing one million dollars worth of new equipment in Plant Number 1 and in February will employ about 2000 employes for production of parts for the Stratocruiser and revised B-29 parts.

Thursday, April 25, 1946**page**

5. Article summarizing Boeing Airplane Company's annual report for 1945 and plans for the future. Details.

Friday, July 26, 1946**page**

5. At midnight last night Boeing formally terminated its lease with the government on Plant II. The plant now becomes the responsibility of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Details. ¶ Boeing retains its own Plant I, which is now fully converted to peacetime work.

Tuesday, March 18, 1947**page**

1. The war assets administration yesterday announced that Boeing plant Number 2 will be offered for sale as war surplus "in a matter of weeks." Details.

Wednesday, August 20, 1947**page**

1. Wichita's Boeing Plant Number 2 was offered for sale or lease yesterday by the war assets administration, officials announced here. Sealed bids are to be submitted by October 1. Government cost of the 185 acres of land plus building is estimated at \$17,811,000. Details.

Thursday, February 26, 1948**page**

1. Title to the Boeing Plant 2 was transferred yesterday from the war assets administration to the United States army air force. The property, including 14 buildings, and 185

acres of land, originally cost the government \$17,811,000. Details.

Monday, March 29, 1948

page

8. Full page Boeing ad for 1000 skilled employees with aerial photo of Boeing plants during B-29 production.

Wednesday, April 21, 1948

page

5. The United States air force formally accepted accountability for Boeing plant 2 yesterday, taking the plant from the United States army engineers, who previously had accepted it from the war assets administration. Details.

Friday, May 7, 1948

page

1. Boeing's Wichita plant is now employing 3000 workers, 1300 of whom have been hired since the work of opening Plant 2 started a month ago. Present plans call for a steady expansion of this number to 6 to 7000 workers by August 1. Thirty five B-29s and five B-50s have already flown to Wichita to be worked on. Details. Photo.