

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): McConnell Air Force Base, McConnell Brothers

Wichita Eagle

Sunday, July 4, 1943

page

5. Article about Wichita's McConnell brothers, Fred J., Edwin M., and Thomas L., who have all been serving in the Army's 13th Air Force in the South Pacific. They are all co-pilots on bombers in the same squadron. Fred J., the oldest, is 25, and is married to the former Miss Mary Louise Klein, 841 Carter, whom he married in California July 12, 1942. Edwin M. is 22 and Thomas L. is 20. ¶ Their father, Fred N. McConnell, died last January three weeks after the boys received their aviation cadet wings in Phoenix, Arizona. The mother resides in Wichita on North Martinson. Further biography. Photos.

Monday, February 21, 1944

page

5. Report of death yesterday of Mrs. Anna Mary McConnell, 58, of 246 North Martinson, mother of the three McConnell brothers who enlisted in the army air corps at the same time. The sons are Lieutenant Fred J. McConnell, Lieutenant Edwin M. McConnell and Lieutenant Thomas McConnell, who was killed in action last July. ¶ Born in Jonesbury, Tennessee December 16, 1885. Two other sons survive, Wyman L. and Dwight, both of Los Angeles, as well as four daughters (named). Photo.

Monday, October 22, 1945

page

1. Report of death yesterday afternoon of noted Wichita pilot, Captain Fred McConnell, 26, when his low flying plane struck a high-tension power line one-half mile west of Garden Plain and crashed in a field. He was the second of the three flying McConnell brothers to die, and had survived 61 missions as a B-24 pilot in the South Pacific. Details. Photo.

Saturday, April 10, 1954

page

1. The Wichita Air Force Base will be renamed in honor of three Wichita brothers, two of whom died in Air Force service, it was announced by the Air Force yesterday. The three McConnell brothers, Thomas, Fred, and Edwin entered the service the same day and went into combat in the South Pacific on the same day. Thomas, 20, died on their third

mission on a B-24 bomber flying from Guadalcanal on July 10, 1943. Fred, 28, died in a plane crash at Garden Plain, Kansas October 25, 1945. The survivor of the three, Edwin, resigned from the Air Force in August 1945 and is now a sophomore at the University of Colorado. There are two other brothers and four sisters, one of whom, Mrs. Pauline Peckover, 236 South Florence, lives in Wichita. Further biography and details. Photos.

Wednesday, May 12, 1954**page**

1. McConnell Air Force Base is to be dedicated Saturday on Armed Forces Day. Details.

Sunday, May 16, 1954**page****Magazine**

1. Report of dedication of McConnell Air Force Base yesterday. Details.

Sunday, May 15, 1955**page****Magazine**

8. Feature article on McConnell Air Force Base. Aerial photos.

Friday, May 16, 1958**page**

- 2C. Aerial photo of McConnell Air Force Base with Boeing plant in background.

Monday, October 27, 1958**page**

- 3A. The maiden flight of the Boeing B52 G model was made successfully yesterday from McConnell Air Force Base. Details. Crew members named. Flight lasted more than four hours and included an aerial refueling. Photo.

Friday, May 15, 1959**page****Special section**

- 1-8D. Special Section on Strategic Air Command and McConnell Air Force Base. Aerial photo of McConnell on page 1D.

Sunday, July 26, 1959**page**

Special "Progress Edition" of the Eagle with articles and photos about local economy and business.

- 1G. Aerial photo of Boeing plant and McConnell Air Force Base.

Friday, April 27, 1962**page**

- 5A. Air Force announced yesterday that the number of B-47 Stratojets assigned to Strategic Air Command at McConnell Air Force Base would be reduced by half, from 90 to 45, and at the same time the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing will be activated at the base in October and will be equipped with North American F-100 Super-Sabre fighters. The base will be under the joint operation of Strategic Air Command and Tactical Air Command.

Friday, March 22, 1963**page**

- 5A. Effective July 1, 1963 the Strategic Air Command will transfer control of McConnell Air Force Base to the 8th Air Force, at March Air Force Base, California. Since July 1, 1958 it has been under control of the 2nd Air Force at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. Details.

Wednesday, November 6, 1963**page**

1. The first Republic F105 D Thunderchief to be assigned permanently to the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing at McConnell Air Force Base arrived here yesterday. Photo.

Saturday, June 6, 1964**page**

- 5A. McConnell Air Force Base celebrated its 13th birthday yesterday. The installation was opened June 5, 1951 as a training base for B-47 pilots. It was first known as Wichita Air Base. On April 12, 1954 it was renamed McConnell Air Force Base in honor of two Wichita brothers, Thomas L. and Fred, who were killed in action during World War II.

Sunday, September 20, 1964**page****Special section**

- 1F-30F. Special section commemorating tenth anniversary of McConnell Air Force Base. Many articles, photos, etc., with aerial photo on page 16F.

Sunday, June 6, 1965**page**

- 5A. Discussion of possible opening of 47th Street South around south end of McConnell Air Force Base. The one mile stretch east of Oliver was closed by the air base runway in 1952. Details. Map showing McConnell runways and area around the base.
- 14B. Federal Aviation Administration will move its present radar surveillance system from McConnell Air Force Base to Municipal Airport by October. A 24 by 64 foot one story radar building is to be constructed at 6115 West Pawnee.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon

Friday, August 29, 1969**page**

- 9A. The first of 100 new housing units at McConnell Air Force Base are nearing completion. Construction began in January 1969. Occupancy will begin in January 1970.

Sunday, January 2, 1972**page**

- 1B, 4B. Chronology of major events in Wichita in 1971:
January 20: Kansas Air National Guard became the first such unit in the nation to get F-105 jets. Two landed at McConnell.

Wednesday, July 4, 1973**page**

- 5A. The last six F-105 "Thunderchief" fighter-bombers left McConnell Air Force Base yesterday, along with the 561st Tactical Fighter Squadron, bound for George Air Force Base, California. This will leave McConnell as an all Strategic Air Command base, with missile and aerial tanker wings located there. The 561st came to McConnell May 1, 1962, flying F-100 fighters. In 1963 it transitioned to F-105s. Details.

Thursday, January 30, 1975**page**

- 6A. Report of visit to McConnell Air Force Base Tuesday of an SR-71 spy plane. Details.

Thursday, June 3, 1976**page**

- 4C. McConnell Air Force Base will be 25 years old on Saturday. First called Wichita Air Force Base it was renamed McConnell Air Force Base on April 12, 1954. Long review of history of the base. Aerial photo in 1967.

Wednesday, March 30, 1977**page**

- 6D. Article about proposal to convert Wichita's old airport terminal building at McConnell Air Force Base to an aviation museum. Details.

Thursday, August 31, 1978**page**

- 1D. Article about hopes to establish an aviation building in the old municipal airport terminal building at McConnell Air Force Base. Details.