

*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): Cessna -- World War II employment and expansion**

### **WICHITA BEACON**

**Monday, May 20, 1940**

**page**

1. Ground broken today for a new 25,000 square foot assembly building addition to the Cessna plant. Details.

**Sunday, July 28, 1940**

**page**

Special Anniversary Section

20. Aerial photos of Stearman and Cessna plants showing new additions.

**Wednesday, September 11, 1940**

**page**

1. Cessna Aircraft Company today announced the biggest order ever awarded to a Wichita company. It involves \$9,550,490 and covers an unspecified number of Cessna T-50 twin engine trainers for the Royal Canadian Air Force. With other orders Cessna now has a backlog of \$11,000,000 in airplane contracts. Cessna officials also announced that they would double the present floor space at the Wichita plant.

**Thursday, September 12, 1940**

**page**

1. The \$9,550,490 Cessna order for the Canadian government announced yesterday is for approximately 320 planes. At full capacity the company expects to build two of the planes daily with employment rising to 1500. Work on the new 400 by 200 foot assembly building is already under way. Details.

**Wednesday, September 18, 1940**

**page**

1. Beech Aircraft yesterday received another contract for \$13,115,138, the largest aircraft order ever placed with a Wichita manufacturer. This bought the total placed here during the past week to nearly \$30,000,000, including Cessna's \$9,500,000 order from the Canadian government on Wednesday and a \$7,000,000 order given to the Stearman Aircraft Division on Monday. Total orders placed with Wichita manufacturers since

the national defense program started now total \$53,000,000 including \$22,449,707 at Beech, \$18,000,000 at Stearman, and \$10,500,000 at Cessna.

**Thursday, November 7, 1940****page**

1. Cessna Aircraft Company announced today that it has leased for airport space approximately 90 acres just east of the company's present factory site and airport. This was made necessary because expansion of the factory to the south has spoiled the east-west runway on the original airport. The field to the East will be primarily for east-west landings and takeoffs.

**Sunday, November 24, 1940****page**

1. Employment in Wichita aircraft factories has reached 4700, more than three times as many as a year ago. A check yesterday showed that Beech now has 2000, Stearman 1800, and Cessna 750. The Culver Aircraft Company will have 145 employes at its Wichita factory early next week.
- C-6. Photo of Cessna plant and recently completed additions.

**Sunday, February 23, 1941****page**

1. Cessna Aircraft Company announced yesterday that it has received a new contract from the Canadian government for \$15,000,000 worth of twin-engined intermediate training planes. Details.

**Sunday, April 27, 1941****page**

- B-12. The Austin Company, of Cleveland, contractor on the huge Number 2 Stearman Aircraft Company plant, expects to complete the work on the big structure, 1000 feet long and 330 feet wide, late in the coming week. ¶ Employment at the four Wichita factories totaled 8633 men with Stearman leading with 3308 employes. Beech Aircraft Company has 3250, Cessna 1875, and Culver 180. The Culver Company expects to complete its first ship under a government contract early this week, with flights to begin immediately.

**Monday, July 21, 1941****page**

16. Employment at Wichita's aircraft plants passed 13,000 today. Stearman has 5760, Beech 4704, Cessna has more than 2250, and Culver has 250.

**Monday, August 18, 1941****page**

1. Announcement that Cessna Aircraft Company has received a new \$12,043,865 contract for twin-engined transitional trainers. Also reliable sources state Stearman Aircraft Company has received a \$200 million order for "flying fortresses." Details.

**Friday, October 24, 1941****page**

36. Report that the Cessna Aircraft Company has purchased an additional 320 acres of land located just east across the road from the company's plant. Was purchased from the Sisters of St. Joseph for \$88,000. Cessna has had the property under lease for the past year.

**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.

**Thursday, December 26, 1941****page**

24. Employment in Wichita aircraft factories has reached 16,020, including 6200 at Boeing, 6000 at Beech, and 3500 at Cessna.

**Sunday, February 1, 1942****page**

12. The 1941 Cessna employes' yearbook, the "Aircrafter," is now being distributed. Details.

**Sunday, May 17, 1942****page**

11. The Cessna Aircraft Company is now ready to embark on a large glider construction program, it was announced yesterday by Dwane Wallace, president. Equipment is already being moved into the company's new plant at Hutchinson, construction of which was started only 30 days ago. Details.

**SELECTIONS FROM DR. EDWARD N. TIHEN'S NOTES FROM WICHITA  
NEWSPAPERS****COPY PROVIDED BY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**Keywords:** Cessna -- World War II employment and expansion

**WICHITA EAGLE****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 21, 1940****page**

13. United States Army during past week placed an order for over \$900,000 worth of advanced training planes with the Cessna Aircraft company.

**Thursday, September 12, 1940****page**

3. Cessna yesterday announced a \$9,550,590 order from the Royal Canadian Air Force and will start immediate expansion to double the present plant size.

**Friday, September 20, 1940****page**

3. Photo of new \$40,000 office building nearing completion at the Cessna plant on East Franklin. Also shows foundations for a new factory unit.

**Sunday, September 29, 1940****page**

2. Photo of new plant construction at Cessna.

**Saturday, October 19, 1940****page**

5. Article about reports yesterday by aviation leaders on growth of the aircraft industry in

Wichita. Details. ¶ A year ago 1461 were employed in factories here having 355,000 square feet of floor space. ¶ Now there are 3782 employes and 685,000 square feet of floor space. ¶ By mid-January there are to be 8750 employed and 1,562,000 square feet of floor space.

<u>By Plant:</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>		<u>Now</u>		<u>Mid-January</u>		<u>By June</u>	
	Empl.	Floor space (sq. ft.)	Empl.	Floor space (sq. ft.)	Empl.	Floor space (sq. ft.)	Empl.	Floor space (sq. ft.)
Beech	675	125,000	1650	150,000	2400	500,000		
Cessna	100	55,000	550	230,000	1500	230,000		
Stearman	556	157,000	1522	205,000	4500	205,000	6500	732,000
Culver	60	100,000	350	100,000				

**Thursday, October 24, 1940**

page

- 9. Photo of Cessna's new assembly building, which is nearing completion.

**Sunday, November 17, 1940**

page

- 14. Article about Cessna expansion, with aerial photo.

**Sunday, April 20, 1941**

page

- 20. Aerial photo of Cessna plant, with article about the company.

**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, August 24, 1941****page**

5. Cessna Aircraft company last week was awarded a \$12,000,000 contract from the war department, bringing the total contracts awarded to the four Wichita aviation factories to about \$285,000,000.

**Sunday, September 28, 1941****page**

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

**Friday, October 24, 1941****page**

5. The Cessna Airplane Company yesterday bought 320 acres just east of the Cessna plant for \$88,000 from the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is the north half of what is known as the Bradley section -- Section 6, Township 28 South, Range 2 East.

**Sunday, November 30, 1941****page**

12. Annual report of Cessna Aircraft reported sales of \$13,646,041 for the year ended September 30, with a net income of \$1,796,594.

**Sunday, January 25, 1942****page**

3. The Cessna employes club has leased the fourth floor gymnasium and the third floor ballroom of the former Elks club building at 212 North Market for club activities. Photo of gym.

**Saturday, June 9, 1945****page**

5. The Cessna Aircraft Company discontinued its second shift at the end of the shift last night and will revert to a five day work week in line with the cut-back in aircraft production announced in Washington since V-E day. The company is building parts for B-29s, A-26s, and C-82s. 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, 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.

**Monday, December 9, 1946****page**

5. The Cessna Aircraft Company assembly line will be closed down for five days starting today to allow installation of new machinery. The company now is employing 1800 persons at the Wichita plant and 200 at Hutchinson and is producing 16 airplanes per day.

**Monday, December 16, 1946****page**

5. After retooling and rearranging the Cessna production line last week, the Cessna factory will be back in full swing today turning out 30 planes a day. Total employment in the Wichita and Hutchinson plants is approximately 2000. ¶ Cessna is capitalizing on the potential market for a light two place plane. They retooled their factory for the personal plane and since March of this year have built and sold approximately 4000.

**Sunday, December 22, 1947****page**

12. Annual report of Cessna Aircraft Company for fiscal year ended September 30, 1947, showed sales of \$10,708,918, up 69 percent from 1946. Net profit after taxes was \$371,965, up from 41,744 in 1946. A cash dividend of 20 cents per share was voted, payable December 5, 1947. Details.