

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): Laird

WICHITA BEACON

Saturday, January 31, 1920

page

1. Manufacture of airplanes is to be started in Wichita within the next two weeks by the E. M. **Laird** Company, which several days ago bought the wood working machinery and leased floor space from the Watkins Manufacturing Company, 2385 South Wichita Street. ¶ Purchase by the E. M. **Laird** Company of all the property and airplane equipment of the Wichita Aircraft Company, including three planes, hangers, and a 20 acre (sic) tract of land north of Fairmount College, was made this week. ¶ E. M. **Laird**, of Chicago, an aviation engineer, and William A. Burke, of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, who has been in the aviation and motor car business, organized the E. M. **Laird** Company. They expect to turn out two planes by April 1 and eight more by fall. ¶ The Wichita planes will be three seaters, weighting about 1100 pounds, which is 600 pounds lighter than the American Curtiss machines owned by the Wichita Aircraft Company. The price will be about \$6500 to \$7000. ¶ Ten 90 h.p. Curtiss OX motors have already been purchased. ¶ Further details. Mr. **Laird** is 25 years old.

Saturday, February 7, 1920

page

14. The E. M. **Laird** Company of Wichita has announced the purchased of 40 airplane motors of the Curtiss OX-5, 90 h.p. type, for use in airplanes to be built in the **Laird** factory this year. This gives the company a total of 50 motors, since it purchased ten two weeks ago. Mr. **Laird** went to Chicago a week ago to ship all his airplane manufacturing equipment to Wichita. All of the woodworking machinery is now in the **Laird** factory on South Wichita Street.

Tuesday, February 10, 1920

page

9. Actual manufacture of airplanes is under way at the new factory of the E. M. **Laird** Company, 238 South Wichita Street. Several workmen from Chicago, experienced in the construction of air craft, arrived last Saturday and began work Monday. Several of the **Laird** three seaters will be completed by early spring. The first plane will be ready for market by March 1.

Thursday, February 26, 1920**page**

3. A two passenger stunting airplane, the first product of the E. M. *Laird* Company's factory, on South Wichita Street. (? -- or was it brought from Chicago), is one of the most interesting attractions of the Wichita Automobile Show. It is equipped with a rotary seven cylinder motor. Details.

Wednesday, April 7, 1920**page**

3. The first Made-In-Wichita airplane of the *Laird* Company will be taken on its test flight this afternoon by E. M. *Laird* at the *Laird* field on North Hillside Avenue. Details. ¶ E. M. *Laird* and W. H. Burke opened the Lard factory here less than two months ago, when they purchased the woodworking machinery of the Watkins Manufacturing Company and immediately began work with a force of fifteen expert mechanics. They have already completed the parts for ten more machines in the factory at South Wichita and English Streets.

Friday, April 9, 1920**page**

8. Report of successful first flight of E. M. *Laird*'s new airplane at 5:43 p.m. yesterday. Mr. *Laird* landed after about fifteen minutes, and then the plane was flown by his associate, William H. Burke to a height of 2500 feet. A total of four flights were made last night. Details.

Saturday, April 10, 1920**page**

1. Photographs of E. M. *Laird*'s airplane made, in Wichita. Article with details. Says Mr. *Laird* is 25 years old and has been building planes since he as 14.

Saturday, June 26, 1920**page**

2. The E. M. *Laird* airplane factory here is now turning out one machine a week and this will be increased to two sometime soon. Orders are coming in from all over the U.S. When freight cars cannot be obtained, the planes are delivered by air, as was one delivered this week to the Hedden Aviation Company of Dowagiac, Michigan. Details.

Saturday, October 2, 1920**page**

Real Estate and Building Construction Section

8. Article about the type of wood used in building the E. M. *Laird* "*Laird* Swallow" airplanes, with details. Says a Swallow flown by W. A. Burke powered with an OX-5 engine recently climbed to an altitude of 17,000 feet above the field here in an hour and

a half after takeoff.

Manufacturing and Milling Section

6. Long article describing the *Laird* "Swallow" airplane, with details. ("Airplanes Are Wichita Built")

Saturday, November 6, 1920

page

5. Article about air show to be given tomorrow afternoon at *Laird* Field, 29th and Hillside. Details. Report November 8, page eight.

Sunday, December 5, 1920

page

First Sunday edition of the *Beacon*.

- C-6. Article about the *Laird* Limousine airplane now being constructed at the E. M. *Laird* factory here, which will be able to carry two pilots and five passengers. Details.

Sunday, December 12, 1920

page

- C-5. Photograph of Mattie *Laird* failure testing a *Laird* plane.

Wednesday, February 9, 1921

page

5. The price of the *Laird* Airplane Company's new seven passenger air limousine, now nearing completion in the factory on South Wichita Street, will be approximately \$15,000. The rough work on the fuselage has been completed. The prow and cab of the ship is being covered with three ply veneer composed of two layers of birch and an inner sheet of poplar. The ship will be ready for test flights about April 1. Details.

Sunday, February 27, 1921

page

5. Long article reports the *Laird* Swallow has passed government tests held in Dayton, Ohio the past four weeks. Details. ("*Laird* Swallow Pass U.S. Tests")

Sunday, March 20, 1921

page

- C-4. Article about E. M. *Laird* Airplane Company. From 25 to 50 men are employed in the company's factory at 228-234 South Wichita Street. Payroll during the past twelve months was over \$60,000. Factory contains 18,000 square feet of floor space. Two planes are turned out each week. Thirty of the *Laird* Swallow planes have been completed. A new seven passenger ship is now nearing completion. The company also maintains a staff of mechanics at its 40 acre landing field. E. M. *Laird* and J. M. Moellindick operate the company. Photographs.

Sunday, April 17, 1921**page**

5. E. M. *Laird*, president, and Buck Weaver, pilot, of the *Laird* Airplane Company, left Wichita April 4 and arrived at Long Beach, California Friday for a three week visit to Pacific coast flying fields.

Wednesday, May 4, 1921**page**

7. The seven passenger air limousine under construction by the *Laird* Airplane factory has the frame work of the fuselage and wings completed, but it will not be ready for its maiden flight before June 1.

Sunday, May 29, 1921**page**

11. E. M. *Laird*, of the *Laird* Airplane Corporation, and George Weaver, pilot, returned Friday afternoon from California, where they have been for the past eight weeks demonstrating planes.

Sunday, July 3, 1921**page**

- C-1. The recently completed seven passenger *Laird* Limousine airplane has successfully passed through several of its preliminary tests and a deal is now pending for its sale. It has developed a speed of 106 m.p.h.

Monday, July 11, 1921**page**

5. Walter H. Beech, formerly with the Williams-Hills Airplane Company of Arkansas City, has been employed as a pilot by the *Laird* Airplane Corporation.

Saturday, October 29, 1921**page**

7. An airplane with a wingspan of only 20 feet has been built in the E. M. *Laird* airplane factory here especially for entry in the air derby at Kansas City beginning next Monday. E. M. *Laird* himself will pilot the ship and plans to fly it to Kansas City today. ¶ A new airplane factory is being built at the aviation field at 27th and Hillside and will be finished during the winter or early spring.

Sunday, October 30, 1921**page**

- B-7. Photograph of the *Laird* Speedster plane built for the air derby at Kansas City.

Saturday, December 3, 1921**page**

5. The E. M. *Laird* airplane factory at 27th and Hillside is nearing completion and will be

ready for the manufacture of *Laird* Swallows before the first of the year. The necessity of re-assembling the planes after they are moved to the field from the present factory at Wichita and English will be done away with.

Monday, February 20, 1922

page

6. Note about Mr. *Laird* of E. M. *Laird* Airplane Company says he plans to establish an airplane passenger route between Wichita and Kansas City this spring. Two closed planes will be used and the trip will be made once each day. The *Laird* Limousine plane, now at the company factory on North Hillside, will be used. A second Limousine plane will be completed in about 60 days. Each carries six persons including pilot.

Thursday, March 23, 1922

page

3. The state charter board in Topeka today granted permission to the *Laird* Airplane Company of Wichita to increase its capitalization from \$35,000 to \$100,000.

Sunday, April 23, 1922

page

5. Photograph of E. M. *Laird* of the *Laird* Aeroplane Company, getting out of his new Willys-Knight Car and ready to get into his aeroplane, with plane factory in background.

Monday, May 29, 1922

page

5. Three *Laird* Swallow planes left Wichita last Thursday for the Durbar Aviation Meeting at Dallas, where they entered race events on Friday and won over Curtiss planes with the same power motors, covering the 30 mile courses in 16½ seconds compares to the Curtiss' 19 4/10 seconds. Those making the trip included E. M. *Laird*, W. H. Beach (sic) and others (named).

Wednesday, June 14, 1922

page

2. W. H. Beech (sic), aviator at the *Laird* airplane field, left this morning for Kansas City, Missouri where he joined E. M. *Laird*, who flew there yesterday. They will proceed today to Monmouth, Illinois to attend the International Airplane Meet, June 15-16. Four Wichita *Laird* airplanes will enter the meet.
5. Report of visit of industrial commission of the board of commerce to the *Laird* Airplane Company today. Details.

Thursday, June 29, 1922

page

14. Walter H. Beech (sic), pilot at the *Laird* Airplane Company, left his morning for Detroit, Michigan, where he will enter the first Air Carnival and Flying Meet at Selfridge Field, July

1-4. Mr. Beech has won nearly a dozen cups in several meets recently.

Saturday, October 21, 1922

page

8. The initial trip of the *Laird* seven passenger airplane coach, the first of its kind, to Kansas City, will take place November 11. Details.

Sunday, February 11, 1923

page

8. The seven passenger air limousine recently completed by the E. M. *Laird* Company for the Wichita-Kansas City air transportation service is being equipped with a Crosley radio receiving set.

Saturday, June 16, 1923

page

3. An army plane transported mail from Wichita to Lawton, Oklahoma in an experimental air mail flight. The De Havilland plane, with pilot Lieutenant Arthur H. Rich, left *Laird's* field at 11:30 a.m. today with 70 pounds of first class mail. It was the first attempt at airplane mail service out of Wichita.

Wednesday, August 22, 1923

page

3. Walter Beach (sic), *Laird* Airplane Company pilot, has received contract to carry mail by air for one week from St. Joseph, Missouri to Omaha, Nebraska, as part of the government's extended experiments in airplane mail service. He will make a round trip daily during the week. He will leave Monday in a *Laird* Swallow to start work.

Friday, October 26, 1923

page

10. E. M. *Laird*, aeronautical engineer and manufacturer of the *Laird* Swallow plane, is planning to leave Wichita and return to Chicago to engage in the manufacture of airplanes for the U.S. Air Mail Service. He will leave within a few days. He disposed of his interests in the *Laird* Airplane Company here three weeks ago. *Laird* grew up in Chicago.

Sunday, December 9, 1923

page

9. The fastest airplane ever built by the Swallow Airplane Company will be given a public trial this afternoon at the *Laird* airplane field, J. M. Moellendick, president of the company announced. The plane, completed Friday, has a Curtiss OX5 engine and has been driven at a high speed of 115 m.p.h.

Sunday, June 26, 1927

page

5. Photograph of a plane built in a barn at 2411 East Douglas by Earl Beach (no relation to Walter Beech). Mr. Beach made a trial flight in the machine last Tuesday and reached Arkansas City in 33 minutes. He expects to start construction immediately on another plane. This plane is equipped with a Hispano-Suiza motor, and makes the fifth firm building planes in Wichita -- Travel Air, Swallow, Cessna, C. S. *Laird*, and Beach.

Thursday, August 11, 1927**page**

2. Charles *Laird* plans to incorporate a new airplane manufacturing company in Wichita within 30 days. He has already built one plane in Wichita. Details. He is a brother of E. M. *Laird*, formerly of Wichita and now in Chicago.

Monday, October 17, 1927**page**

1. Article reports that the *Laird* Aircraft Corporation will build the *Laird* Whippoorwill airplane in Wichita. Charles *Laird*, a brother of E. M. *Laird*, of Chicago, formerly of Wichita, will be associated with the company as an engineer and superintendent of production. He formerly was superintendent of the Swallow Airplane Manufacturing Company. The first place is expected to be ready for test flights December 1. The building of the Kansas Planing Mill Company at 417 West 1st Street has been purchased and will be used by the *Laird* Company as a factory. Further details.

Friday, November 11, 1927**page**

4. Report of organizational meeting of the new *Laird* Aircraft Corporation, chartered with capital of \$250,000. H. D. Cottman is president. Other officers and directors listed. C. L. *Laird* will be production manager and factory superintendent. Company has purchased building at 417 West 1st.

Thursday, January 26, 1928**page**

14. Article about progress on the first *Laird* Whippoorwill plane, under construction in the factory at 471 West 1st street. Expected to be ready for initial flight latter part of next week. Details.

Saturday, February 18, 1928**page**

5. The *Laird* Whippoorwill made its first flight early this afternoon, piloted by Ewing (Cactus) Brierley.

Sunday, April 1, 1928**page**

2. Photographs of five well known aviation people in Wichita: Joe Miller of the Wichita Flying School; O. G. Harned, sales manager of Travel Air; Ewing (Cactus) Brierley, pilot

of the *Laird* Whippoorwill; H. E. Weihmiller, designer of Travel Air's deluxe monoplane; and Wilbur Neely, an originator of the All Kansas Air Tour.

Special Section

Special tabloid section about the All Kansas Air Tour April 2-7. Details. Photograph on page 10 of several aviators including Charles *Laird*.

Friday, April 6, 1928

page

19. Article estimates current Wichita airplane production as:
- Travel Air -- fifteen per week
 - Swallow ---- six per week
 - Stearman ---- two and a half per week
 - Cessna ----- one and a half per week
- The other three Wichita factories--*Laird*, Lark, and Swift -- are just now starting production, and number is less than 1 per week at these.

Friday, April 20, 1928

page

20. The second *Laird* Whippoorwill plane was tested this morning by Ewing (Cactus) Brierly, veteran *Laird* pilot. The plane will be flown to Detroit for the air show there.

Thursday, May 3, 1928

page

3. The third *Laird* Whippoorwill plane will be ready for its first flight in a week.

Friday, November 9, 1928

page

17. Report announcing investigation next Thursday of scheduled regular passenger air service between Wichita and Tulsa by Air Transportation Corporation, of Wichita. A Travel Air monoplane will be used, a sister ship to Art Goeckel's "Woolaroc." The company also has a remodeled *Laird* Whippoorwill air sedan and has placed an order for a smaller Travel Air monoplane, the Type 6000, for delivery in a few weeks. The pilot will be Ira (Big Mack) McConnaughey. Details.

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

Keywords: **Laird**

WICHITA EAGLE

Sunday, March 14, 1920

page

Section B

8. Made-in-Wichita airplane will go on market soon. Jack Moellendick persuaded E. M. *Laird* and company to come here from Chicago, where they already have a plant in operation. They have opened a plant here at corner of Water and English streets, with eleven men working in the shop. The first "*Laird*'s Wichita Tractor" will be completed and tested within the next ten days. Description of the plane. They will be able to build two planes weekly.

Wednesday, April 7, 1920

page

6. The first Made-In-Wichita airplane has been completed and will be tried on the North Hillside flying field this afternoon. E. M. *Laird*, head of the company, will pilot the machine.

Friday, April 9, 1920

page

6. The test of Wichita's first made airplane was made yesterday evening on North Hillside road and exceeded expectations, reports E. M. *Laird*, the pilot. Four flights were made with two passengers each time.

Sunday, May 16, 1920

page

- C1. Article about the E. M. *Laird* Airplane company here, with factory at Wichita and English and an assembling plant in the second story of the Forum annex, employing 30 men and turning out two planes per week. Plane is known as the "*Laird* Swallow." Flying is done from the 40 acre *Laird* field about one mile north of Fairmount college. Photographs.

Sunday, July 25, 1920

page

12. Article gives detailed specifications of the *Laird* Swallow airplane.

Wednesday, October 6, 1920

page

5. E. M. *Laird* Airplane company announces it will build a large factory building at *Laird* field within the next year.

Sunday, December 26, 1920**page**

- C8. Article on events of 1920. ¶ First National Bank of Wichita organized by consolidation of Kansas National and the National Bank of Commerce. ¶ Kansas State Bank organized and will be put in operation soon on West Douglas. ¶ New buildings: Red Star Mill and Elevator Company -- \$750,000 addition; Contract for First National Bank building of which first two floors are already poured; Arkansas Valley Interurban station; Innes Wholesale Furniture company's warehouse, Smyth building, housing J. C. Penney and Innes Tea Room; addition to Orient shops; Wesley Hospital; *Laird* Airplane factory; Grant Miller Corn company building on North Mosley; Wheeler, Kelly and Hagny seven story office building; fifteen miles of paving; Emerson and Woodland school buildings; start of Roosevelt school.

Tuesday, June 21, 1921**page**

7. The new seven passenger *Laird* Limousine airplane made its maiden flight Sunday piloted by George "Buck" Weaver of the *Laird* factory. It has wing span of 47 feet and two 180 h.p. Curtiss 0X5 engines. Details.

Saturday, August 6, 1921**page**

5. The E. M. *Laird* Airplane company is constructing a factory building on the *Laird* landing field at 29th and Hillside. It will replace the present one at 238-40 South Wichita and will cost more than \$50,000. The concrete foundations are near completion. The building will be 66 by 120 by fifteen feet.

Thursday, December 1, 1921**page**

5. The factory building on *Laird* Airplane company's flying field will be completed within a month, allowing the factory to move from the present factory at Wichita and English streets.

Thursday, December 22, 1921**page**

11. Article describes the new factory building of the *Laird* Airplane Company at 27th and Hillside, 66 by 120 feet, assembled in three units each 66 by 40 feet. Photograph.

Friday, February 17, 1922**page**

5. Article reports plans for a Wichita to Kansas City air service by E. M. *Laird* Airplane Company this spring using *Laird* Limousine planes carrying five passengers in addition to

the pilot. Details.

Wednesday, June 14, 1922

page

5. Directors of the Board of Commerce yesterday inspected the plant and planes under construction at the E. M. *Laird* Airplane company on North Hillside and most went up in planes piloted by Walter Beech, chief pilot, and Perry Hutton.

Sunday, July 9, 1922

page

5. Plans for the establishing of an airplane passenger service between Kansas City and Wichita by the *Laird* Airplane company have been delayed through the inability of the government to locate the two Liberty motors which recently were bought by the *Laird* company for installation on the two machines intended for the service.
27. Article about E. M. (Mattie) *Laird*, with photograph -- tells of his early interest in airplane building.

Friday, February 9, 1923

page

5. Test flight of new seven passenger *Laird* air limousine yesterday was successful. Piloted by Walter Beech.

Tuesday, February 13, 1923

page

8. Photograph of new seven passenger *Laird* air limousine.

Sunday, February 18, 1923

page

- 1-A. Another article about air service between Wichita and Kansas City planned this summer by the *Laird* Airplane company using the *Laird* Limousine airplane (photograph). Details.

Thursday, September 27, 1923

page

5. The stock holding of E. M. *Laird* in the *Laird* Airplane company, 29th and Hillside, was recently sold to J. M. Moellendick and wife, along with *Laird*'s claim to patents on plans designed by him. Mr. *Laird* will enter business in Chicago. ¶ A 66 by 80 foot addition to the plant is to be built in the spring. The plant will be under the management of Walter Beech.

Sunday, December 30, 1923

page

8. Article about the new Swallow airplane, designed by Lloyd H. Stearman, designing engineer for the Swallow Airplane Company. It is in many ways superior to the old *Laird*

Swallow planes.

Wednesday, October 6, 1926

page

5. The Swallow Airplane Manufacturing Company has been reorganized and in about a month will have practically a tripled capacity. The factory manager will be Kirk Kirkpatrick, who succeeds C. L. *Laird*.

Sunday, June 26, 1927

page

1. Article announces establishment of a fourth airplane factory in Wichita by Charles *Laird*, who will immediately begin the commercial production of *Laird* biplanes here. The first model has been completed and made its first flight at the airport yesterday. Charles *Laird* is a brother of E. M. *Laird*, formerly of Wichita, who recently established an airplane factory in Chicago. Details.

Monday, June 27, 1927

page

5. Photograph of the new biplane of the *Laird* Airplane Company, Charles *Laird*, designer (photograph). The plane was built in a small shop at 933 North Main, but he is now looking for larger quarters for his plant.

Tuesday, October 18, 1927

page

5. The promoters of *Laird* Whippoorwill airplanes have purchased a factory building at 471 West 1st street and will be in production by December 1st as Wichita's fifth aircraft factory. Charles *Laird* will be on the engineering staff and superintendent of production. Others involved are listed. Storage hangers for testing purposes will be built on the ground of the Cessna-Roos plant on West 1st.

Saturday, October 22, 1927

page

3. Article says the *Laird* Airplane Company yesterday took possession of the Kansas Planing Mill building at 471 West 1st street, where its new factory is to be established. Details.
¶ Article also discusses progress on the new Cessna-Roos plant and the new unit of Travel Air plant.

Friday, November 11, 1927

page

10. Article reports officers elected for the new *Laird* Aircraft Corporation. Details.

Tuesday, November 15, 1927

page

5. Charter issued in Topeka yesterday for the *Laird* Aircraft Corporation.

Sunday, January 15, 1928**page**

5. The Whippoorwill cabin biplane, designed by Charles *Laird* of the *Laird* Aircraft Company, is rapidly nearing completion at the factory on West 1st street.

Sunday, February 5, 1928**page**

3. Photograph of newly completed *Laird* Whippoorwill plane. Article with details.

Sunday, February 19, 1928**page**

7. The new *Laird* Whippoorwill plane made its first flight at the airport yesterday. Photograph.

Saturday, April 21, 1928**page**

6. The second *Laird* Whippoorwill plane is expected to make its test flight today.

Thursday, July 5, 1928**page**

5. The fifth *Laird* Whippoorwill will take to the air some time this week.

Thursday, October 18, 1928**page**

13. Work on the first Knoll airplane will begin today at the former *Laird* plant, 471 West 1st street. The Knoll company has taken a short term lease on the building.

Tuesday, August 6, 1929**page**

7. The Yunker biplane, under construction by the Yunker Aircraft Corporation, 115 North Osage, will be ready for its first flight within three weeks according to W. E. *Laird*, production manager. Details.

Sunday, April 13, 1930**page**

5. C. V. Snyder was yesterday appointed receiver of the Yunker Aircraft company on petition by W. E. *Laird* alleging the company to be indebted to him for \$230 for labor.

Sunday, March 24, 1935**page**

13. Photograph of E. M. "Matty" *Laird*, of Chicago, who will return to Wichita for dedication of next Sunday. Says he left Wichita in 1925 to form his own company in Chicago.

Saturday, July 25, 1942**page**

8. A. J. Cleary, vice-president and general manager of the new Emergency Transportation Company, announced yesterday that this company's huge new buses will be named in honor of aviation pioneers of Wichita. A partial list of the aviation pioneers whose names will be honored includes: Jake Moellendick, Walter Beech, Lloyd Stearman, Buck Weaver, Clyde Cessna, Matty *Laird*, Mac Short, Fred Hoyt, A. O. Payne, and Bill Burke. Other names will be chosen later. ¶ The names will appear on the buses in a few days.

Sunday, December 27, 1953

page.

Magazine 10.

Articles about early aviation history in Wichita. Says it started in 1919 when E. M. (Matty) *Laird* and Buck Weaver, World War I pilots, arrived in the city.

Sunday, January 12, 1958

page

Magazine 2.

Feature article on early aviation in Wichita, based largely on interview with Max Walton, who made his first flight here in 1925 in a *Laird* Swallow. Details. Photos.

Thursday, January 24, 1963

page

- 1, 10A. Continuation of series on Wichita aviation history. More on Travel Air and Clyde Cessna. Photo of original Laird Swallow.

Friday, May 1, 1970

page

1. Article commemorating the start of Wichita's golden air age 50 years ago this spring with the flight of the *Laird* "Swallow," manufactured by the E. M. *Laird* Airplane Company. The first flight on April 8, 1920 was at a field near 29th and North Hillside, with E. M. (Matty) *Laird*, now of Boca Raton, Florida, at the controls. ¶ The plane was built in the Watkins Grain Building near William and Water, on what was then called "Tractor Row." A total of 45 *Laird* Swallows were built in Wichita, 43 of them while *Laird* was with the company. *Laird* sold his interest to Jacob M. (Jake) Moellendick in 1923. On January 22, 1924, the company became the Swallow Airplane Manufacturing Company, owned by Moellendick, Stearman, and Beech. Their company built the "New Swallow." The company later went into receivership August 12, 1927. ¶ Since then at least 138,661 planes have been built in Wichita by companies which survived or built more than one or two airplanes. List includes:

Travel Air -- 1396	Beech -- 27,828
Culver -- 2363	Boeing -- 14,250
Mooney -- 251	Lear -- 261
Swallow -- 450	Rawdon -- 36
Cessna -- 91,826	