

By the Kansas Historical Society

## Growing Too Fast

Travel Air was a successful company, but it did experience growing pains. Lloyd Stearman and Clyde Cessna left to start their own airplane manufacturing businesses. Walter Beech stayed at Travel Air and continued to expand its influence. The city of Wichita was becoming a major center for the airline industry nationwide.

### THE WICHITA BEACON

February 15, 1928

#### **Travel Air has need of added facilities now Beech Insists New Factory Necessary, Other Shops Crowded**

An eloquent testimonial to the growth of the airplane industry in Wichita is contained in the statement made Tuesday by Walter Beech, president of Travel Air, Inc., that altho [sic] he has just completed a new unit doubling the capacity of the factory, he already is in need of another unit to take care of the demand for his planes.

"Even with our doubled capacity," Mr. Beech said, "we find the orders piling up on us. If the demand keeps up as at present, we will soon be as badly snowed under as before."

The Travel Air situation is echoed in every other established factory in Wichita...



Walter Beech and pilot Art Goebel with a Travel Air plane.

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February 15, 1928

## Other Plants Crowded

Stearman Airplane Company, which recently leased ground at the municipal airport for a storage hangar, is finding its factory running at full capacity to keep in sight of the demand. The Swallow Airplane Company, with its adequate supply of Rhone engines, is meeting equal success and is complaining of cramped facilities in view of the demand, altho [sic] it, too, only recently enlarged with an additional unit. Cessna, working on his new monoplane, seems to have developed a ship which will win national recognition. The designer and test pilot are still working on it and adding improvements here and there, but the air fraternity says already that the ship is a success and it will not be long until the Cessna monoplane will be under manufacture on a quantity basis.

The growth of the industry is being urged upon the city commission as the grounds for prompt action in the acquiring by the city of the municipal airport.

## Travel Air's Golden Trail

The phenomenal growth of Travel Air since its formation by Walter Beech in 1925, is told in the wealth that has come to Wichitans who invested in the original company.

Every \$100 invested in the pioneer company now represents a market value of \$4,000.

In other words, an investment of \$10,000 in the original Travel Air stock now would be worth \$400,000, or nearly a half million dollars ...

In 1925 Travel Air manufactured 19 planes; in 1926, 46; in 1927, 154; and in 1928 the number was 532.



Walter Beech

Wichita Beacon, August 7, 1929

