

WALTER BEECH

JAKE
1923

L. STEARMAN



Jacob Moellendick (center) poses with Walter Beech (left) and Lloyd Stearman. Late in 1924 Stearman and Beech proposed upgrading the New Swallow's fuselage to welded steel tubing, but Moellendick rejected the idea. As a result of that disagreement, Lloyd and Walter decided to break with Moellendick and strike out on their own. They soon joined forces with pioneer aviator Clyde V. Cessna and in December 1924, along with businessman and aviation enthusiast Walter P. Innes, Jr., and a few other Swallow employees, founded the Travel Air Manufacturing Company. (Edward H. Phillips Collection, Wichita State University Libraries, Department of Special Collections)