



*Bell
Aircraft*



FROM TWO ROOMS IN '35 TO . .

Try to imagine Bell Aircraft in 1935. It's difficult to do in the midst of today's activity.

In 1935 the Bell Aircraft Corporation was merely the ambition of three men who had learned the aircraft industry the hard way, from the bottom up. They had sufficient confidence in their advanced ideas on design and production to know that with a lot of hard work and headaches, they must be successful.

On June 10th, 1935, Larry Bell and Ray Whitman moved their second hand desks into one office at 1807 Elmwood Avenue and Bob Woods, who had picked up two used drawing boards, occupied the other with his assistant, Herbert Bowers.

Larry Bell and Ray Whitman busied themselves with ringing doorbells in Buffalo and points east, attempting the difficult job of raising the necessary capital to purchase used machine tools for the future shop. Bob Woods burned the midnight oil at the drafting board getting on paper his advanced ideas of aeronautical design to put equipment and capital to work. It was a close working team then as today, always working, planning and keeping a jump ahead by thinking soundly of the future.

To tide them over the development period, they secured an order to install Allison motors in A-11 attack planes.

In January '36, less than a year after incorporation, Larry Bell had another opportunity to develop the plant and personnel and keep the books balanced when he clinched an important contract to build wings for the Navy P. B. Y. patrol boats. The company's success in completing

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First Vice-President
R. P. WHITMAN



Vice-Pres. and Asst. Gen. Mgr.
O. L. WOODSON



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C. L. BEARD
Secretary-Treasurer



VAUGHN BELL
Director of Industrial Relations