

# Stinson Aircraft



Edward A. (Eddie) Stinson came from a family of pioneering aviators. After fixing planes and giving lessons for years, Stinson designed his own plane and started production in 1926 in Detroit. This was the beginning of the Stinson Aircraft Company.



The plant moved to Northville when production outgrew the Detroit space.



In 1929 Stinson moved the factory to the new Detroit-Wayne Industrial Airport south of Wayne. The 85,000 square foot space could produce seven planes per day.



This model, the Reliant, was one of Stinson's bestsellers. Business at the factory boomed, even during the depression of the early 30's.



The company also made some of the first passenger planes. This SM-6000 Tri-Motor could hold 11 passengers and was bought by new airlines like Delta and American Airways.



In 1932 Eddie Stinson was attempting to make an emergency landing in Chicago when his plane struck a flagpole and crashed. The passengers survived, but Eddie did not survive his injuries. The company continued on however, and was eventually purchased by Vultee Aircraft in 1940.



The Stinson division continued to develop new designs for airplanes through the 30s and 40s, including government contracts for small surveillance and ambulance planes during WWII.



After the war Stinson began to produce civilian aircraft again, but despite strong sales the company was sold to Piper Aircraft in 1948. Piper closed the factory, which later became the Detroit Diesel plant. In total Stinson produced over 13,000 airplanes during their lifetime.

Donated by the grandchildren and family of Eddie Stinson