

Opening of Municipal Airport to be Outstanding Event

Post to Provide Superior Landing Field For Salem

Four Long Runways Make Take-off Easy and Field Sure in Any Wind; Commission Works Hard on Project

The past two years have seen the most rapid strides in aviation development in Salem and in other cities of the northwest as well. The old landing field was the open space owned by the state, just outside the state fair grounds at the north end of 18th street. Planes began dropping in there in those days when a plane was a rare curiosity. The first planes to come here used that field as a landing place so they could do passenger service during the state fair. It was close to the grounds and the crowds could get over and see the planes and people could go up for flights over the city.

So just as boys started using an open block for a ball field, or as towns of old pastured their cows upon a common, the old landing field came into use.

As aviation developed and more planes were calling at Salem it came to be seen that the field at the other state fair grounds would not be adequate. The Lee Eyerly company activities were centered at the old field. A building was put up for office and hangar. Effort was made to use the old field until a new one could be laid out.

\$50,000 in Bonds Voted

The people of Salem voted on May 18, 1928 to spend \$50,000, the proceeds of a bond issue, for the improvement of a new airport. Twenty-five thousand dollars of these bonds were sold in 1929 to Ladd and Bush bank. The issue bears four and one-half per cent. Bids are now being called for the sale of the remaining block of bonds.

The site chosen was southeast of the city, a tract of land owned by the state. It was necessary to wait till the 1929 session of the legislature met so it could authorize the sale of this ground to the city of Salem. One hundred and twenty acres of land were bought from the state for \$7250. Later 60 acres adjoining were purchased from Tom Holman for \$10,000 and 35 acres from "Jim" Linn for \$5200. This gives a total area of 215 acres.

In designing the air field the plan from the first was to lay it out on lines which would make it qualify eventually as a Class A field according to government standards. While it is not yet ready for such approval, all that has been done measures up to standards of the department of commerce.

The land is well adapted for airport purposes. It is quite level. The soil is gravelly, easily worked and readily drained. It is surrounded by open country also. The field is large in itself and has the further advantage of not being hedged in by buildings, woods or other landing hazards. The present power and telephone lines along the county road will be moved over. It is stated, to remove that danger to planes using the field.

Field Now Tiled

The first task was to level the land. A caterpillar tractor was purchased and used with scrapers and drags to work the surface level. The field was tiled so it will be drained the year round.

Four long runways have been laid out, each 100 feet wide, and with 100 feet cleared on each side which is also usable. The department of commerce requirement for class A field is 2500 feet, but the minimum length of runway for the Salem field is 3300 feet. The north-south runway is 3300 feet; the east-west runway 3600 feet; the northeast-southwest runway 3400 feet; the southwest-northeast runway 4100 feet. Eventually the whole surface of the field will be a landing floor.

The runways all conform to government standards in having an angle of 42 degrees at the intersections.

A hangar 80 by 100 feet has been erected of corrugated iron. It will house about 12 fair-sized

planes. Space is provided for offices. The floor is of concrete.

Lee Eyerly Manager

The management of the new airport is in the hands of Lee Eyerly whose corporation has a five acre tract adjoining the city's field. The city council has entered into a two-year contract with Mr. Eyerly. He is to equip the machine shop, manage the field, handle the receipts and expenses. The contract is regarded as favorable to the city as it relieves the city of operating costs during the infancy of the port.

Oil companies are planning to establish service connections at the airport.

Revenues at the port will be derived from rentals for hangar space for private planes, fees of various kinds, concessions, rentals for transport companies using the field for landing purposes. It is not expected that any charge will be made on planes simply for lighting on the field. The whole development of airports is yet in the beginning, so it will take time to work out common schedules for charges and services, the same as came about at automobile tourist camps.

The location of the field is regarded as almost ideal. It is far enough away from the city to be away from power lines and buildings, yet close enough to be readily accessible.

The committee which has had charge of the improvement of the airport is: From the city council, Watson Townsend, Paul Johnson, W. W. Rosebraugh; from the American Legion, Carl Nelson, J. J. Elliott, Brasier C. Small; from the chamber of commerce, George Vick, Fred Erixon, Oliver Meyers.

37-ROOM HOTEL FOR AIRPORT AT OAKLAND

Oakland municipal airport's 37-room hotel recently was dedicated formally by the Oakland Advertising Club at a luncheon held in the restaurant adjoining the hotel. Club members in attendance at the luncheon numbered 150.

Short addresses were given by H. F. White of the Interstate company, lessees of the hotel and restaurant, and G. B. Hegardt, manager of the Port of Oakland. The Airport hotel has both accommodations in each room and a barber shop and manicure parlor adjoins the spacious lobby of the holsters. From the lounge room guests have full view of the flying field activities.

The British Air Ministry has agreed to pay Handley Page, Ltd., \$500,000 for the right to use Handley-Page slotted-wings in airplanes operated by the Royal Air Force.

They're Putting Salem on Air Map



CHAMBER TAKES HAND IN WORK

Not Only is Airport Backed But Eyerly Company Gains Support

The chamber of commerce has made one of its major activities during the past year the improvement of the Salem airport and the promotion of aviation locally through the Eyerly Aircraft Corporation. Early in the game the chamber joined hands with the American Legion in urging the approval of the bond issue by the voters. Members of the chamber, George Vick, Fred Erixon and Oliver Meyers have been members of the airport committee.

An exclusive undertaking of the chamber has been the securing of financial support to the Eyerly company. With inducements from other cities the Eyerly interests were considering leaving Salem. The chamber of commerce immediately got busy. President Brown Sisson and Secretary "Charlie" Wilson became active in saving to Salem what promises to become an important industrial activity.

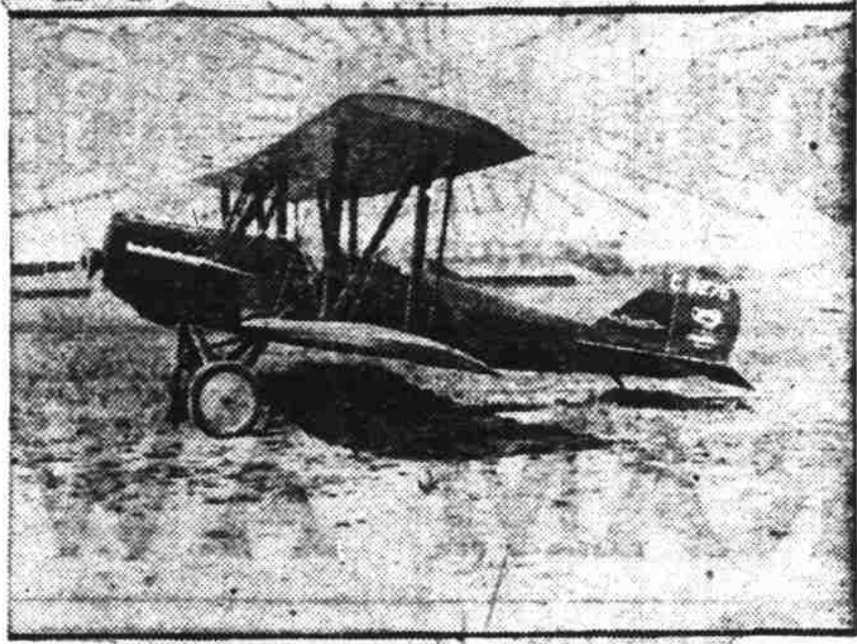
\$5000 in Stock Sold

To aid in the financing of the enterprise committees were named who held frequent meetings to work out a program for the company. Then members were appointed to contact local business men and sell sufficient stock to put the company on its feet. To date about \$5000 worth of stock has been sold. The effort has been to restrict the sale of stock to as small an amount as possible so as not to over-capitalize the company to start with. Additional stock will be sold as required.

Great Supply of Food Ready for Legion Barbecue

No one should go away hungry from the barbecue at the airport grounds this afternoon. Sheriff Cy Bingham of Grant county, head cook, has an abundance of material to work with to satisfy the appetites of the visitors. Five beehives have been provided, weighing about 2500 pounds. There are 350 loaves of sandwich bread, 250 pounds of army beans and 150 pounds of coffee.

Paper cups and plates will be furnished. The sandwiches will be made up and wrapped in glassine ready to hand out. Serving will start just after the exercises of dedication.



From left to right: Lee Eyerly, head of the Eyerly Aircraft Corporation; Bud Jensen, secretary-treasurer; W. A. (Scout) Hazelwood, pilot and instructor. At right: New Eagle Rock biplane.

Airport Dedication Will Be Simple and Brief When Field is Formally Opened

Governor Patterson to Conduct Ceremony; Nine Army Planes to Salute Flag; Stunts to Mark Airplanes' Participation

TO SALEM folks, the most significant feature of the American Legion program is the dedication of the Salem Municipal airport, scheduled for this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

While the crowds which undoubtedly will turn out for the event may be more interested at the moment in the display of aerial acrobatics to be staged by army pursuit planes from San Diego, the dedication itself marks a milestone in Salem's progress, the importance of which cannot be exaggerated.

The dedication ceremony will be simple and brief. It will be held at a platform near the convergence of the three principal runways.

Gabrielson Presides

Carl D. Gabrielson, general chairman of the convention commission, will open the program by introducing Watson Townsend, chairman of the airport committee, who will in turn introduce Mayor T. A. Livesley. The mayor will speak briefly on the meaning which the airport will have for Salem and the development of aviation here.

Mr. Townsend will then introduce Governor I. L. Patterson, who will conduct the formal dedication. As he concludes, the drum and bugle corps of Capital Post No. 9 will play "The Colors" as the national flag is raised on the pole which has been erected near the platform; and the nine army planes, which will be already

KANSAS CITY IS PUSHING PORT

Ground Courses for Boys in Mechanics of Flying Soon to Start

KANSAS CITY—The aviation industry is pushing forward so rapidly that the public schools of this city next fall will be giving ground courses to boys mechanically inclined. It was learned today.

George Melcher, superintendent of schools, has been conferring with educational directors of aviation companies with a view to laying the matter before the school board. It was said.

The courses will give students an opportunity to gain first hand experience in the building of airplanes and airplane motors. The study probably will be given along the same lines as the courses now in vogue in California schools.

Cooperation of airplane companies such as the Western Air Express, Inc., will be given the schools. Earl W. Hill, educational director for the company, who has been in the city several days, has conferred with Mr. Melcher on the subject.

"Mr. Melcher is enthusiastic about the proposition," said Mr. Hill, "and the Western Air Express will give all the aid possible in introducing this new course to the students."

"The course will not have anything to do with flying airplanes, as I understand it. The plan is to teach boys the fundamentals of airplane construction and mechanism. Then if they want to become pilots later, they will have some knowledge of the mechanism of a plane."

MANY CUPS NOW ON DISPLAY IN STORES

Clifford Brown Trophy for Drum Corps Competition Handsome Award

From the number of trophies and loving cups on display about the city, it would seem as though every post in the state ought to get at least one. The size and beauty and number of the prizes offered in various competitions would make one believe the inter-

national stock show was about to start.

The displays of the loving cups may be seen in windows of many of the downtown stores. The handsome Clifford W. Brown trophy is exhibited in the window of the Central Pharmacy on State street. This trophy was presented last year by the members of Salem Post No. 9 in memory of the late Clifford W. Brown, who was an active member of the post and who lost his life on a hunting expedition in Alaska. The trophy is the award for the drum corps competition. It has been held the past year by Portland Post No. 1 and will be competed for again this year at Olinger field. No post may obtain permanent possession of the great trophy.

The Ben S. Fisher award is shown in the window of Towler's jewelry store. It is of myrtle wood which grows in the Marshfield country where Commander Fisher lives. It goes to the post with the record of the greatest community service.

At Burnett's jewelry store are shown the Lydia E. Horsfall mu-

DRILL GROUNDS TO BE FLOOD LIGHTED

The drill grounds on Olinger field, 200x300 feet in size where the drum corps will "strut their stuff" Friday night, will be flood-lit with lights according to Dave Shade, member of the committee arranging for the competition.

Large flood lights secured at considerable expense, will be trained on the field so every maneuver of the drum corps will be plainly seen by the spectators.

No reservations are being made in the grandstand or bleachers, uniform admission charge of \$1 being made. The drum corps competition will follow a short band concert which will start at 7 o'clock.

Other trophies are on display at Nelson & Hunt, Pomeroy and Keene, Miller's and Ken Brown.

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