Improvements Worth $222,000 Planned For Municipal Airport

Seek Federal Funds; Medford's Share Is Listed As $79,266

Passenger traffic at Medford Municipal airport — Oregon's second busiest airport — last year totaled 80,920, an increase of more than 20 per cent over 1954, according to figures released last week.

Because of increased passenger, freight and air mail traffic at the airport in recent years, improvements have continued to enlarge facilities and provide additional safety features for the airport which serves southern Oregon and northern California.

Although far-sighted Medford citizens provided all the funds for the purchase of the present airport site and construction of buildings, in more recent years the federal government has borne a large share of the cost of improvements.

In November 1955, a request was submitted to the CAA by the city for permission to undertake $222,000 worth of airport improvements. Of this amount the city would pay $79,266 and the remainder would be provided by the federal government.

High Intensity Lighting System

The single biggest item in the proposed development is installation of a $100,000 high intensity lighting system.

Other projects to be completed over a three-year period include complete resurfacing of the main runway; resurfacing the east end of the cross runway; acquiring land for a clear zone; resurfacing and sealing taxiways, construction of an approach road, landscaping, and paving parking areas.

Another proposed project includes zoning land extending for some distance from both ends of the main runway to eliminate landing hazards. The clear zone would regulate the height of buildings or other structures permitting further from the end of the runway. A joint county-city airport zoning board was appointed last year to study the zoning problem.

Approve Bond Issue

Voters in 1929 approved a $120,000 bond issue for the purchase of land and construction of new airport facilities. A runway 100 feet wide and 3,300 feet long was built. A combination hangar building, officers and pilots' quarters was constructed at a cost of $33,918.

In 1930-31, the main runway was lengthened 700 feet. In 1931 to 34 the original cross runway 100 feet wide by 2,700 feet long was constructed as a public works authority project. This was the first instance of government aid in financing. The U. S. paid $22,689 of the cost and the city paid $899.

From 1940 to 1942 the city in conjunction with the National Defense Airport program, purchased additional land, widened and lengthened the main runway to 5,400 feet, installed a radio station and a new lighting system.

Army Maintains Facilities

The airport was taken over by the army in 1942 and maintained by them until April, 1947. During that time it is estimated that the army spent $2,000,000 to construct a control tower, barracks, shops, fire station, and other buildings. The air force maintained a refueling station at the airport until 1954.

In 1947 West Coast and Southwest Airlines began a regular schedule of flights from the airport.

Land to satisfy requirements for an instrument landing system was purchased in 1951 at a cost of $62,427.75. Of this amount the federal government paid $34,933.82. The system, constructed by CAA was put into operation last year and has materially increased the number of planes stopping at the airport during the winter months.

On June 7, 1953, an air show commemorated the dedication of the new airport terminal building A bond issue for $250,000 was voted in October 1951 to provide the city's share of the new terminal cost.

Terminal Building

The building includes a large waiting room, ticket offices, restaurant, and operations offices on the first floor; airport manager and CAA offices, second floor; CAA equipment room, third floor; and, fourth floor, CAA control tower. Cost of construction, including the purchase of the old United Airlines building was $174,405.14. The federal government paid $97,096.

The airport has shown a substantial profit for the past three years although before that it operated at a small loss during some years.

An indication of its recent growth may be seen in the number of passengers on and off planes. In 1953 there were 62,450; in 1954, 67,136 and in 1955, 80,920, an increase of slightly more than 20 per cent in the past year.

Air Freight, Air Mail

In addition to passengers, 615,522 pounds of air freight was handled at the airport and 276,426 pounds of airmail. Air traffic totaled 53,937 landings and take-offs.

The airport with its modern terminal building and a main runway 300 feet wide and more than a mile long presents a sharp contrast to the municipal airport 30 years ago. The airport was then located at the fairgrounds and was known as Barber field. It had one small hangar, a gravel runway 50 feet wide and 1,800 feet long, and an office building used by Pacific Air Transport, now United Airlines.

Today, passengers can choose between 12 flights daily—six north and six south—scheduled by three commercial air lines, or the services of two local flight companies. An instrument landing service, installed in 1954 permits landing of planes when the cloud ceiling is as low as 400 feet.

Other Facilities

Passengers alighting at the airport may obtain rental cars from two different companies or, by taxi service, arrive in the heart of Medford within six minutes.

Revenue from the airport during the calendar year 1955 was $36,804, an increase of $3,464.35 over 1954. Projected revenue for the fiscal year 1955-56, however ,is $46,870, an in-56, however, is $46,870, an in-

Airport revenue is derived from building and land rentals, landing fees, concessions and plane tie-downs.

Airport Operations

About 85 personnel are employed at the airport by a total of 19 operations. Located at the airport are the offices of the Electronic district supervisor of southern Oregon and northern California; Air Safety district; U. S. Weather Bureau; Civil Aeronautics association; Civil Air Patrol; Mercy Flights, Inc.; Medford Air Service; Rogue Flying Service; Talk of the Town restaurant; the Fruit Grower's League labor barracks; Hertz U-Drive service, and Avis U-Drive.

Two agricultural leases are given by the airport and six hangar leases. A storage warehouse is rented.

Ticket offices of the three commercial flight companies, United Airlines, Southwest Airways and West Coast Airways, are located on the main floor of the terminal building. About 900 landings and take-offs are made each month by the commercial planes.

Mercy Flights

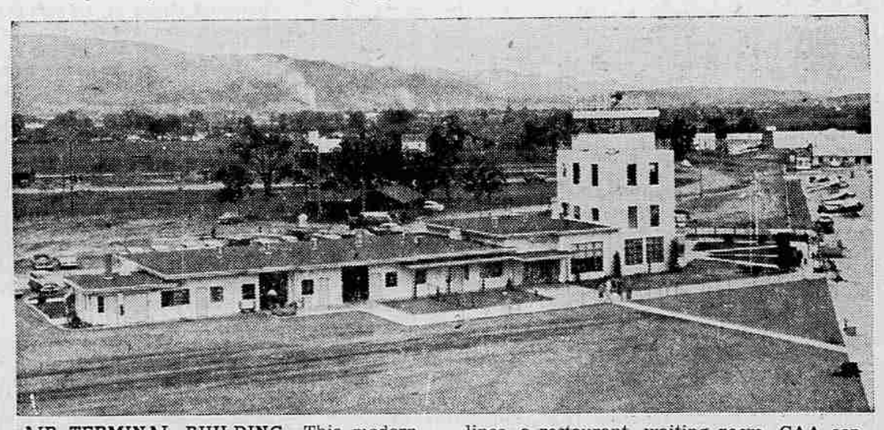
Mercy Flights, Inc., under the direction of George Milligan, maintains two twin-engined ambulance planes at the airport. The non-profit corporation provides air-ambulance service for southern Oregon and northern California.

The U. S. Weather bureau office is located adjacent to the terminal building and provides detailed weather information to pilots as well as for the general public. The weather bureau advises pilots about air currents and cloud heights as well as expected and existing weather conditions.

Ralph E. Pierce has been manager of the airport since July 1, 1952. Pierce receives a voluntary salary of $1 per year for his services. He is also vice-president of the Rogue Valley State bank.

BARBER FIELD — From 1925 to 1929 Medford Municipal airport was located at the fairgrounds and was known as Barber Field. It had a gravel runway 50 feet wide and 1,800 feet long, a small hanger and an office building, shown above, occupied by Pacific Air Transport, now known as United Air Lines. In 1929 the airport was moved to its present site.

AIRPORT HANGAR BUILDING — A combination hangar and administration building was constructed at the present airport site in 1929. The building, above, was 100 to 150 feet and contained, in addition to the hangars and office, pilots quarters where men flying between Portland and California points could spend the night. Total cost of the then "new" airport was $124,212.08, including purchase of land and construction of the building shown above.



AIR TERMINAL BUILDING—This modern, multiple purpose air terminal building was constructed at Medford Airport in 1953. Of wood, stucco and concrete, the building contains ticket offices for three commercial airlines, a restaurant, waiting room, CAA control tower and offices. The U. S. Weather Bureau office is directly behind the control tower. Private hangars and workshops may be seen at the extreme right.

Plans For Annual Hereford Sale Made

Plans for the Cal-Ore Hereford Breeders sale March 14 were made Friday at a meeting of the sale advertising committee. Attending were E. N. Lippert, Williams; R. H. Field, Central Point; Chloe Small, Phoenix; John Bohnert, sale committee chairman; and J. W. Bigham, president of the Cal-Ore Hereford Breeders association.

Some 50 purebred bulls and heifers from Jackson and Josephine counties are expected to be sold. For the third year, the association will award a hereford to a 4-H club member.

Judging of animals will be March 14 at 1 p.m. at the fairgrounds. The sale will begin at 12 p.m. the following day with Ellis White, Ontario, as auctioneer.

Sheriff's Posse Contracts For Annual Rodeo Manager

Jackson County Mounted Sheriff's possemen signed a contract Friday afternoon with Max Barbour, well-known rodeo producer, to furnish the stock and manage the show for the 14th annual Rogue River roundup, tentatively set for August 10, 11 and 12.

Barbour, who previously has staged annual professional rodeos for the possemen, is nationally and internationally known. This year his circuit will include in addition to Medford, shows at Petaluma, Salinas, and Sonora, Calif., Pendleton, Myrtle Point and Redmond, Ore., Lewiston and Nampa, Ida., and numerous other cities.

Representatives of the Ladies Mounted troop, posse auxiliary, also were at the Friday meeting. Amateur events with purses furnished by the posse were planned. The posse will again sponsor the kid's calf roping event and Junior posse members will participate in events.

Ward Will Direct

Leonard Ward, as captain of the posse, will direct the show plans; general chairman in charge of the grounds will be Frank Christian; Tony Boitano will be parade chairman; Jim Henry, past captain, will be in charge of headquarters and Glenn Martin will conduct activities for the queen and attendants.

Homer Chamberlain will be in charge of posse stock and barns; and Harold Hulse, secretary, will head the finance and publicity committees.

Homer Marx, Mrs. Clarence Dodge and Mrs. O. D. Martin will direct Junior posse activities.

The recent meeting was held in the banquet room at Valentine's cafe and Ward, as captain, presided.

Eisenhower Petitions In Circulation Here

Petitions to place President Eisenhower in the Oregon primary are being circulated in Jackson county, according to an announcement by Paul Kerrigan, chairman of the Eisenhower for President committee.

Fred E. Robinson, Medford, is directing the circulation, assisted by A. A. Lausmann, Raymond R. Reter, Reese M. Alexander, Robert R. Dickey, Frank J. Van Dyke, and Dick House. P. H. Stransbury is in charge of circulation in Ashland.

Kerrigan said, "We recognize that the final decision on a second term must be the president's alone, but we feel that the petition is the best way for Oregonians to show their faith in him."

He added that the petition is in active circulation in 13 counties. Interested persons may obtain copies from Robinson or from the committee's headquarters at Reed college, Portland.

4-H Club

Butte Falls 4-H Club

Nineteen Butte Falls boys met Wednesday, Jan. 25, to organize a 4-H woodworking and leathercraft club.

Officers elected were: president, Warren Ellis; vice-president, David Jenkins; secretary, roger Ellefson; news reporter, Herman Bryant; and song leader, Raymond Abbott.

The club leader is Bob Cupples, with Mrs. W. B. Edmondson as assistant leader.

The club will meet every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. at the high school shop.

Tax Clinic at UO Slated Tomorrow

A state-wide tax clinic to study the Oregon tax situation will be held tomorrow in Eugene at the University of Oregon Erb Memorial building.

Among persons attending from this area will be Alf Mekvold, county school superintendent, who will represent the county rural school board, of which he is secretary; John Niedermeyer, president of the Jackson county rural school boards association; and Mrs. M. O. Grove of the rural school board.

Speakers will be university faculty members, the state tax commission, interim tax study committee, bureau of municipal research, school board association, state department of education, and the Oregon education association.

CP Merchants Group Appoints Committees

Central Point — Central Point Merchants association have voted yearly dues of $5. A membership committee, with Steve Bartlett and Dick Stratton as co-chairmen, was named to contact all local merchants.

Two other committees appointed were for city-wide promotion and for investigation of possibility of erecting signs on Pine street to off-street parking areas.

Woman Injured In Crash Near Hornbrook

Hornbrook—Viola Brown, National City, Calif., was taken to Siskiyou general hospital, Yreka, Friday for treatment of injuries suffered in a two-car accident near the California state quarantine station on Highway 99.

She was a passenger in a car operated by Bert John Simonson, Stanwood, Wash., which collided with a pickup driven by Russell Thomas Blower, 32, Grants Pass. Blower was cited for driving on the wrong side. Both vehicles were reported bady damaged.

About 800,000 American's eacr year die from some form of heart disease.

Jan. 31 Election Scheduled by 'Y' For New Officers

Elections to fill vacancies on the board of directors of the Medford YMCA will be conducted at the annual meeting of the association to be held Jan. 31 in the YMCA social hall.

A potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will precede the meeting. Sophomore Tri-Hi-Y girls will act as serving hostesses during the dinner, and background music will be furnished by John Lusk.

Members will also hear reports on the year's activities, and discuss proposed program for the coming year. Volunteer leaders will be recognized for their service to the association. Bob Dames will act as master of ceremonies.

A special program for the children will be held following the dinner.

Names submitted by the nominating committee for board positions include Roy Gilbertson, Ron Gandee, Dr. William Roberts, D. F. Huson, Robert Boyer, Mrs. Roy Wilkes, Alan Pierce, Carl Brophy, Bob Dames, D. Ford McCormick, S. V. (Duke) McQueen, Alex McDonald, and Mrs. John Mansfield. Gandee, Roberts, Huson, Brophy, Dames, McCormick and McQueen are incumbents.

Sitters Will Donate Part of Income to MOD

Members of the Baby Sitters club here have offered to contribute a portion of their earnings to the March of Dimes during the next few days, according to MOD headquarters here.

The evenings of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, sitters of the club will donate the proceeds of their first four hours of work to the anti-polio fund drive. Arrangements may be made by telephoning 2-8904.

WEATHER
By United Press

Northern California: Mostly fair Sunday but increasing cloudiness north portion Sunday; little change in temperature; coastal wind variable 7-15 MPH.

High School News Notes

By NELLIE RAWLINS

The end of the first semester was marked by a well-earned day of rest. No classes were held Friday, but students reported at one o'clock for their report cards.

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The winner of the portable phonograph from Swem's Record Shop was Jared Black. He came within one bean of guessing the exact number of beans in the Sophomore Bean Jar. Proceeds went to the March of Dimes.

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National Schools Assemblies presented an outstanding program in the auditorium Thursday, Jan. 26.

The "Harmonairs," Barbara Pearson and Lawrence Smith of radio, stage, concert and television played and sang a series of songs, varying from novelty selections to Negro spirituals.

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A beauticians' scholarship is being offered to any senior girl interested in that line of work. This offers a great opportunity for someone planning on beauty as a career.

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Bob Stedman's room has temporarily been evacuated, while it is undergoing a change. This room is being repainted and completely redecorated.

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Polio Tags were sold all this week, in connection with the March of Dimes.

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The advanced typing and stenography classes held a "Typing Track Meet" last week. The different events were represented by some difficult typing, and then the papers were scored on the basis of the correct number of words typed. The results will be tallied and the winners will be announced next week.

The idea of this contest was to give girls speed and accuracy in their typing.

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Talent scouts are on the prowl again, as talent for the Kiwanis Kapers show is being brought in. A talent party will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 3 in the high school band room.

The "Big Holiday" will be presented later on, and will feature small groups, solos, and various types of entertainment.

Water from melting glaciers irrigates rice paddies in Nepal. Farmers stir the mud with wooden plows but leave the sowing and reaping to their wives.

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