

Airports Made of Headaches As Well As Runways

Washington—Among the things that Lucius W. Burton doesn't exactly like are blizzards, a radio code called "Charlie 14" and carelessness. Burton, known as Lou to hundreds of aviation people, happens to be director of Washington National airport and is rated one of the top airport chiefs in the world.

Burton runs an airport that is one of the nation's biggest and busiest (as many as 1,264 flights daily). His domain includes 264 employees ranging from janitors to highly trained safety specialists. It also includes 760 acres of cement real estate that can add up to about 20 major headaches a day.

The biggest is weather, particularly heavy snow. A blizzard to Lou Burton means working 24 hours around the clock, trying desperately to keep runways open and planes flying. During recent winter storms that clobbered the Eastern Seaboard, Burton's snow-removal crews worked 109 consecutive hours—mostly a losing battle, but a winning fight in one respect—Washington National always had at least one runway open for any lost plane that had to land somewhere.

His main creed is safety. National airport has one of the best emergency setups in the country and it is due mainly to Burton's fetish for preparedness. When "Charlie 13" blares forth over the airport's loud speaker system (the code for any emergency situation), every man on duty knows exactly where to go and what to do.

The airport's 14 firemen can wake from a sound sleep and hit a runway in exactly 13 seconds. The airport police are specially trained in handling crowds and traffic. And Burton, a bug on training, makes sure everyone knows the other guy's job as well as his own. During the snow emergency, for example, an upholsterer found himself operating a snow plow.

Burton holds regular meetings with airline representatives, mostly to refresh them on emergency procedures. His advance planning even goes so far as to order the batteries on the airport fire trucks checked twice daily, so there can never be a stalled emergency vehicle. The engines on all fire and rescue trucks are pre-heated so they'll start fast in any weather.

Burton gets to work as early as 7 a.m. His first task is to take a radio-equipped police cruiser and tour every nook and corner of the airport grounds, taxiways and runways. He always stops by the Airport Operations and Safety Office and gets a briefing on any unusual events. He gets dictation done by 10 a.m. and holds the rest of the morning open for staff conferences and meetings with airline officials, concessionaires and others.

Afternoons generally consist of further conferences on future airport construction and facilities planning. Right now, Burton is up to his ears with plans for a new baggage center ("It'll be the most modern setup possible," he enthuses) and other modernization projects.

Among his problems is constant liaison with the Secret Service. When the President decides to fly out of Washington National, Burton orders pre-arranged security plans into effect.

It isn't generally known, but when the President greets an arriving foreign dignitary, the airlines are notified their flights may be subject to slight delays so the welcoming and responsive speeches won't be drowned out by engine noise.

"We had a beautiful setup with President Eisenhower," Burton recalled. "He'd welcome an incoming foreign official on a little platform. I'd stand right near the platform with a walkie-talkie and just before Ike would start his little speech, I'd flash the word to the tower."

The tower, Burton explained, in turn would notify all

planes parked in the ramp area not to start engines until the tower advised the ceremony was over.

"We even distributed a lit-

Thefts Investigated By County Deputies

Jackson county sheriff's deputies are investigating three burglaries reported to them this week.

The theft of a binder chain and cable binder from a Butte Falls area home was reported yesterday.

A pump, irrigation pipe and a butane heater were taken from the Lee Dean Mead ranch on the Ginko rd. near Prospect last September, Helen Rosenberger, 119 North Central ave., reported to deputies yesterday.

Sheriff's deputies Tuesday learned that clothes and a month's supply of canned goods were taken from a Gold Hill area residence. The theft was reported by Gordon Folkestead, route 1, box 353, Gold Hill.

speech for pilots to make over their cabin PA's," Burton said. "Something to the effect, 'Ladies and gentlemen, there will be a slight delay in take-off because the President of the United States is greeting a foreign dignitary and it would be discourteous to disrupt the ceremony by starting our engines.'"

Burton once came a cropper with Eisenhower, however. Like, it seems, never minded if an airplane drowned out his own remarks, but he got obviously angry if anything disturbed his visitor's answering remarks.

"I don't remember who the visitor was on this occasion," Burton said, "but everything was quiet while Eisenhower was speaking and just as the visitor started talking, somebody started up his engines. All I could see was the red on the back of Ike's neck, mounting slowly until it covered his whole face and head. He just looked at me and glared."

Burton's spacious office also is a complaint department—and the grippers range from irate passengers who can't

find parking places to concessionaires who storm in and say, "So-and-so is selling items which we're supposed to have exclusively."

"People also complain to us about late flights," Burton added somewhat wistfully. "I have to tell them this is an airline problem and there's nothing we can do about it."

Surveyors Attend Corvallis Meeting

A group of local surveyors attended a technical conference at Corvallis recently which was presented by the Oregon section of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

Making the trip were Leiland P. Lovejoy, Edward A. McGinty, Charles H. Hurst and Harry L. Lake, party chief.

Subjects at the conference included aerial and geological mapping in Oregon, legal aspects of determining rights in property abutting a body of water, and the St. Johns Renewal plan.

Burton also acts as something of a police commissioner. His 39-man police force is assigned the duties of enforcing airport traffic laws generally written by the director himself. Burton has authority to post automobile speed limits on roads in the airport area as well as airplane speed limits in the ramp area. He also distributes seven different types of driving licenses for the various airport vehicles, ranging from giant fuel trucks to baggage cars.

"The tests are rough," Burton remarked, "and now and then we throw a refresher test at a driver just to make sure he isn't getting careless. Fuel truck drivers in particular get a lot of watching because they're hauling around potential disaster."

Burton's hobbies are golf and fishing, neither of which he enjoys very frequently. "I guess my job's my hobby now," he mused. "Even when I'm driving home I've got a shortwave set in my car tuned to the airport frequency."

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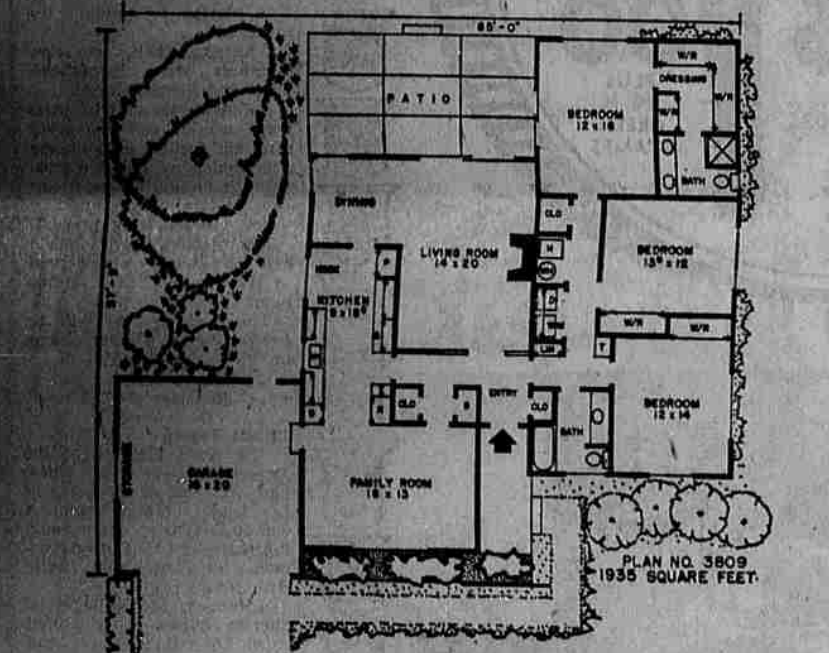


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HAT FOR WHALE—His Excellency Tage Erlander, Prime Minister of Sweden, puts a hat on Bubbles the whale as his wife looks on during their visit to Marineland at Palos Verdes, Calif. The couple is on a good will tour of the United States.

(UPI Telephoto)



Today's Ranch and Modern Home Plan

Home buyers today are moving up to homes designed with taste and built with quality. This large home has an outstanding floor plan plus an imposing exterior. It offers many of today's popular preferred features.

The gable roof over the garage continues uninterrupted past the family room to cover and protect the porch. The roof at the porch is supported by two posts to which has been attached a framed screen which gives some privacy to the porch and adds to the exterior beauty of the home. Some texture screen has been used in the design of the garage door.

Stone has been used for both the planter and the chimney. This material goes well with the board on board siding, the aluminum windows and the cedar shake roof. The unusual roof treatment resulting in the wide gable at the front of the house marks this design as a truly modern ranch home.

A "must" when planning a new home today is good circulation. Note the ease

with which you can move to all areas in this home from the entry without having to pass through any room.

Although there is access from the garage to the rear of the lot, there is also a door leading directly to the family room.

Even though there is a

4-H News

Fashionettes
The Eagle Point Fashionettes 4-H club sponsored a recent skating party held in the new rink near Medford. Eagle Point Ranchers club also attended.

All-day work meetings were held at the home of Mrs. John Huffman during March. The next meeting will include a discussion of a project concerning the International Farm Youth Exchange program.

Tanya Beddingfield, Reporter
Pioneer Sitchers 4-H Sewing club held its first and second meetings at the home of Mrs. Gary Boshears. Officers elected were Carole Tinsley, president; Susan Tinsley, vice president; Cynthia Charley, secretary; Marta Heffner, reporter; Pam McCay, game leader; and Karen Charley, song leader.

Members are practicing on the sewing machine, with and without thread, learning to make straight lines. Mrs. Clayton Charley and daughter, Kathy, were guests at the first meeting. Mrs. Boshears showed the different parts of the machine at the second meeting.

Marta Heffner, Reporter

Grange Presents Trees To Local Kindergartens

The Eagle Point Grange tree planting committee headed by C. C. Hoover, Gregory rd., continued its tree distribution program yesterday by giving a thousand trees to two Medford kindergartens.

Last week end the Grange committee distributed 6,000 trees purchased by the Big Y Super Market. More trees will be distributed there this week end, Hoover said.

Five varieties of spruce are being given away, Hoover added.

EP Students Will Attend Music Event

Eagle Point — Five Eagle Point High school students, will participate in the 14th annual Music in May festival at Pacific university May 4, 5 and 6. They are Judith Murphy, Phyllis Perry, Mary Meyer, Rodney Snyder and Pat Meyer.

A total of 650 high school musicians from Oregon and Washington high schools will participate in the event.

Divided into a 220-piece band, a 90-piece orchestra and a 230-voice chorus, the musicians will be trained by guest conductors to appear in grand concert May 6 at Forest Grove Union high school gymnasium.

Dr. Stanley Chapple, dean of the University of Washington school of music, will direct the orchestra, and Lynn E. Sjolund, director of vocal music, Medford High school, will direct the chorus.

Richard Greenfield, professor of music at Pacific and founder of the festival, will direct the band.

Riverboat Available In Massachusetts

Sharon, Mass. — Want to buy a good-as-new Mississippi riverboat? Mrs. Sumner Borr, wife of an auto parts salesman, has been trying in vain to sell one ever since she won it on TV.

The riverboat, with a 40 horsepower motor, is not built for salt water and there is no lake around here big enough to accommodate it.

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