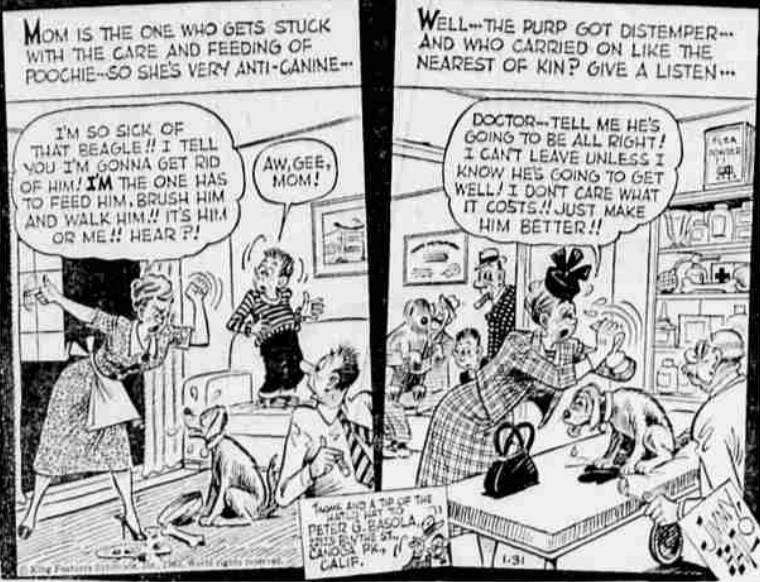


They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo



Sierra Sky Park Answer To Flying Enthusiast's Dream

By CLYDE F. JABIN
United Press International
Fresno, Calif. — Over a landscaped turf about 10 football fields long just north of this central California city, light planes make turns downwind and come in for graceful landings.
The planes then roll to an exit ramp and turn onto streets appropriately named Doolittle drive, Chennault ave., Spaatz ave., and Vandegrift ave. Finally, the sleek craft come to a stop on planeports connected to ranch-style homes.
This is Sierra Sky Park, a subdivision which answers a flying enthusiast's dream. He can park his plane at his front door as he does his automobile.
Near Downtown
This airplane-oriented community is about a 10-minute drive from downtown Fresno and sits on a 130-acre site on a bluff overlooking the San Joaquin river and the distant Sierra mountains.
The only development in the nation incorporating a landing field for planes, Sierra Sky Park is the brainchild of William V. Smilie.
The graying, soft-spoken former civilian flight instructor for the Army Air Corps is founder and president of Sierra Sky Park. He, his wife and two teen-age daughters are charter residents.
Smilie bought the land in 1945 when it was a fig orchard. Since then it has undergone dramatic change but it's been only a prelude to his ultimate plans.
County Approves
Approved by Fresno county in 1946, the tract has extra wide paved streets leading off the landing area to permit taxiing. With 105 residential lots, it also is zoned for a shopping center, Air-O-Tel with swimming pool, restaurant and cocktail bar, commercial offices and maintenance hangars.
Thirty-five lots already have been sold to persons who will construct homes with plane-ports. Five homes are built and occupied, with plane-ports in use.
Costing \$3,750 to \$10,500 a lot, the prices include complete pilot instruction from

Smilie, plus permanent use of the airstrip. Lot frontages range from 80 ft. to 220 ft.

"Several Air Force officers have bought lots and plan to retire here in a few years," Smilie says. "My flying students also have been among my best customers. They sometimes refer others to me."

Park Planned

Two hangars in a corner of the subdivision where other commercial development is planned contain an aviation sales and service center and Smilie's flight school, including classrooms and a Link trainer. A small park is planned near the end of the runway.
Sky Park is surrounded by farm land and three golf courses.
Flights take off over the edge of the bluff, 100 feet up from the river basin. Because winds blow consistently northeast or southwest, the runway with its 320-140 degree headings has no cross-wind problems.
In addition to approval by state and county agencies concerned, the project has the California Division of Aeronautics endorsement as a forerunner of similar developments yet to come.
Provides The Best
Clyde P. Barnett, state director of aeronautics, said Sky Park was "well planned from its inception," and provides "the ultimate in utility and convenience for users of private aircraft."
"As to safety," he said, "the design of the airstrip and its combination taxiway-streets is such that hazards from use of aircraft will be no greater, and perhaps less, than the hazards we have come to accept as routine in many other living areas, particularly when high speed ground traffic is involved."
However, the dual use roads, where aircraft taxi on the outside and other vehicles use the center, has raised a legal question which Smilie hopes the state legislation will resolve.
He wants the streets taken into the public road system for maintenance purposes. But state law forbids aircraft using roads.

The county board of supervisors has requested the needed change in the State Highway code and State Sen. Hugh Burns of Fresno, said he will introduce the necessary measure.

Washed Airplanes

As a youth, Smilie lived in San Diego, Calif., where at Lindbergh Field he first washed airplanes and later became a mechanic's helper to be around aircraft. He obtained his private pilot's license in 1939 and during World War II trained Air Corps pilots.
During this period he thought of operating a private air field — giving flying lessons and doing aerial photography. It was then he decided on the sky park concept, providing built-in customers.
After the war, Smilie went into the real estate business, conducting a thorough survey of the best possible location in Nevada or California.
Finally, he chose Fresno because of its near perfect flying weather.
The federal government plans to dam up the river below Smilie's property, creating a reservoir. He envisions use of the reservoir as a landing runway for seaplanes.
"The people could park their seaplanes at a dock," he says, "and with a short walk be home."

Vessels Collide Near Tongue Point

Astoria — The Norwegian freighter Silja, loaded with 18,500 tons of barley, collided with an empty, anchored Liberty ship near Tongue Point here early Wednesday while a strong east wind was blowing.
The freighter suffered a 30-foot gash above the water line and headed back for Portland for a damage survey.
The Liberty ship, the Carlos Carillo, recently was purchased by Zidell Exploration for scrapping. It had been towed from Siusum Bay, Calif., and anchored near Tongue Point Tuesday night.
The Silja was built last year at Bergen, Norway, and registered at 14,820 gross tons.

Hatfield Signs Bill To Increase Legislative Pay

Salem — Pay scales for members of the Oregon Legislature were materially improved today after Gov. Mark Hatfield late Wednesday signed the first bill of the session into law.
It provides for legislators to receive salaries of \$3,000 per year, plus expenses of \$20 per day up to 120 days during a legislative session.
It replaces the previous \$600 a year salary that ranked Oregon among the states with the lowest legislative pay. Oregon legislators during the past two years also were reimbursed for certain expenses under a temporary measure passed in 1961.

Middle of Bracket
The new salary levels rank Oregon in the middle bracket of states.
Members of both parties cast votes for the pay bill in the Oregon House and Senate, but most of the opposing votes came from Republicans.

Supporters said in addition to providing fair compensation, it will make it possible for a wider selection of competent persons to serve in the legislature.

Opponents called the pay levels too high, particularly in one step, and particularly when the legislature is expected to raise taxes this year. Legislative pay, however, makes up only a fraction of state government costs.

The voters authorized legislators to set their own pay by passing a constitutional amendment at the primary election in May, 1962.

Baby Brown Bear Adopts Mongrel Dog

Little Rock, Ark. — There is peaceful co-existence at the Little Rock Zoo between a baby Russian brown bear and a 15-pound American mongrel dog.
The bear, neglected by its mother, has adopted the mongrel dog and cries when she leaves.
"The two seem quite fond of each other," zoo Director Raymond Squires said Wednesday night. "But we aren't sure the situation will work out because we've never heard of it being done before."
Squires said the dog's milk may not be rich enough for the female cub or the supply may be insufficient.
The mother bear also abandoned her other cubs and they died before they could be rescued. Squires said this is not unusual behavior for wild animals in captivity.

Dr. Semler Asks Decision Reversal

Portland — Dr. Harry Semler filed a petition in Circuit Court Wednesday asking a stay and reversal of a decision by the Oregon Board of Dental Examiners to revoke his license.
Judge Paul R. Harris ordered the petition assigned out Feb. 13 for trial the following day.
Dr. Semler, who operates dental clinics in Portland, Salem and Eugene, said in the petition that the board's decision was not supported by evidence and was "dictated by bias and prejudice" on the part of some board members.
The board said basis of the action was alleged employment of unauthorized and unlicensed personnel "who, in certain instances, practiced dentistry in his Eugene office."
A spokesman for Dr. Semler said his clinics would remain open.
In 1769 a French refugee from the Island of Saint Domingo introduced the tomato into Philadelphia, but few people would taste it. It was considered poisonous.

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CHILD NEGLECTED—Two San Francisco women have been arrested on child neglect charges following discovery of a 4½-year-old child weighing only 21 pounds and suffering from severe malnutrition. The child, Jeanie Marie Moss, is shown in San Francisco General Hospital where a nurse said the only words the child spoke are "I want to eat." The child's condition came to light when Mrs. Martha Senter, a friend of the mother, took the girl to a doctor. The doctor notified police. (UPI)

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