

Large-Scale Development Planned for Local Airport

In the light of recent action taken by the Torrance Airport Commission and City Council, as well as in view of a master plan prepared by Quinton Engineers, the Torrance Municipal Airport is fast achieving a position of industrial and transportation center for the entire South Bay area.

Approval was given recently for the installation of a control tower, runway lights and beacon, a touch-and-go strip, and measures to alleviate traffic on the taxi-way.

The master plan calls for 1) the acquisition of an additional 125 acres of land to the north and west of the present airport property; 2) construction of a new landing strip; 3) extension of the existing strip; and 4) a major revamping of the Pacific Coast hwy. frontage.

With the addition each year of new airport facilities and an increase in the number of manufacturing firms leasing ground for plant operations, the city-owned airport is taking on new importance.

There are 250 privately-owned light planes based at the airport.

Flying School
Right now, the airport is the home of several flying schools, charter services, and is the base of operations for a huge fleet of privately owned business planes which are used to fly executives throughout the area in the course of their business.

Operator of the airport is Ed Dietrich Jr., president and general manager of Collins and Dietrich, Inc.

He is assisted in managing

the booming airport by Robert W. Tod.

The airport, built in 1941 and 1942 by the government as a P-38 base, has a 5000-ft. runway, serving general aviation.

During the war it was used as a jumping off spot for aircraft headed overseas.

City Takes Over
Following World War II, the War Assets Administration turned the field over to the City of Torrance with the understanding that it would be used only for that purpose.

A recapture clause in the agreement which says that the government can take the field back if the city doesn't live up to these conditions assures its use as an airport.

The field now has the huge nose hanger left over from the war years, 40 individual hangars, and 12 large hangars.

Dietrich has built three large hangars on the field. Last year he added an airport parts store and maintenance shop.

Dietrich stated that the city received \$60,000 from the airport last year which money is to be spent for airport improvement and maintenances.

A moratorium has presently

been placed on airport construction until a comprehensive master plan is fully adopted for the most efficient use of airport property.

A number of major projects were approved prior to the moratorium. Some have already been completed, others are scheduled for completion.

Major Developments
A lease with the city for Hody's restaurant on the northwest corner of Crenshaw and Pacific Coast hwy. has been entered into with the city.

So has a lease for a multi-million dollar shopping center to be located on the 35-acre airport triangle at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast hwy.

Construction of H.I. Shear Rivet Tool co. and an auxiliary plant for Longren aircraft have been completed.

Mayflower Trailer and Sheridan-Gray engineering firm are now located on the airport.

Also under construction and expected to be completed soon is a U.S. Nike site installation (guided missile).

Mixes, Wood Preserving Featured

Warren Southwest, Inc., makers of asphalt and manufacturers of mixes that comply with city and State specifications, as well as with those of private industry, has operated in the Harbor area since 1927.

The present asphalt plant, located at 20934 Normandie, came here in 1945. The firm expanded from 7½ acres to 21 acres, the number of employees increasing from 15 in 1927 to 275 in 1957.

The firm's wood preserving division, located at Berth 140, Neptune ave., Wilmington, features a well equipped laboratory combined with a complete small-scale experimental treating cylinder.

The facilities are used in maintaining extremely high standards of quality controlled production and afford the opportunity for an appreciable amount of research directed toward increasing the serviceability of wood through wood preservation and the resultant economy in its utilization.

Warren Blue treated material offers complete protection against decay and termites; a permanent treatment under the most severe conditions; a prod-

Jay's Automatic Transmissions Shop Expands

Specializing in automatic transmissions, Jay's Automatic Transmissions, 3907 Torrance blvd., has been located in Torrance for the last three years, owned and operated by Jay Dement.

The shop features exchanges, overhauls, adjustments of all types and oil change while you wait.

Five special mechanics are employed who do nothing but automatic transmission work. Dement stated.

Latest addition is a new shop which will feature auto, electric and brake service. It will have a dynamometer which road-tests a car right in the shop. This is the first machine of its type in Torrance.

Dement, who lives locally, has been in the transmissions field over five years.

Aviation Firm Here Five Years



"Slim" Kidwell Aviation co. located on Torrance Municipal Airport, is a large aircraft and engine repair station, dealing strictly in sales and service.

The firm is the distributor for Bellanca Aircraft for all of California. It also offers private hanger storage for 55 planes.

Kidwell Aviation does business all over the country, dealing especially with airplane parts.

E. G. (Slim) Kidwell has been in the airplane business 32 years, moving here from Central Airport five years ago. Charles A. (Chuck) Froman, is in charge of repair.

SALES AND SERVICE

"Slim" Kidwell Aviation co. on Torrance Municipal airport specializes in sales and service. It is a distributor for Bellanca Aircraft.—Press Photo.

Moon Receives Appointment

Daniel E. Moon, formerly of Connecticut General Life Insurance Co., has been appointed a staff assistant at the Los Angeles branch office of Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer S. Moon, of 1024½ Amapola ave.



Ed Dietrich, Jr., manager of the Torrance Municipal airport, views map showing the airport and surrounding area.

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