

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914)

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPT. 9, 1954



AIRPORT PANORAMA . . . Some of the 200 airplanes based at Torrance Airport can be seen in this shot from the control tower. More than 40 persons residing in the Torrance-Palos Verdes area have planes based at the field

which has a 5000-foot paved runway with numerous taxi strips. At least 20 per cent are war surplus aircraft. Others include some of the latest and finest executive planes. In the background are shown the rolling hills of Palos Verdes while just beyond the hills is the harbor.



FIELD HEADQUARTERS . . . Flight office and main hangar of the Collins-Dietrich Air Services, operators of the municipally-owned airport, are shown here. A pilot's lounge and airport store combine to make this one of the most popular

gathering places for the flying fraternity. Here, it is said, some of the most interesting "hangar flying" is carried on. A large chart of the flight pattern adorns the wall of the lounge—a reminder to pilots to avoid disturbing nearby residents as much as possible.



HOUSEWIFE LEARNS TO FLY . . . Mrs. Patricia Rogers of Lomita, shown with Flight Instructor O. E. Ware after completing another hour of dual instruction in her quest for a license. Mrs. Ware, mother of three children who have been visiting with their grandmother, took advantage of a temporary release from some of her household duties to spend time at the Torrance airport. She is shown with an Aeronca plane in which she is learning to fly. Some 15 women fly regularly from the local field.

Torrance Airport Given Top Rating

Torrance Municipal Airport, located on the Pacific Coast Hwy. and bounded on the east and west by boulevard intersections destined to become extensive shopping centers, is regarded as one of this city's least costly and best assets.

With vast potentialities for industrial and commercial development, the airport is doing well in its own right as an airport. Private and commercial flying has increased 25 per cent during the past year, according to Manager Ed Dietrich, and only the lack of hangar space prevents an even greater increase.

With a flight strip second only to the major municipal airports in the Los Angeles area, Torrance offers ideal conditions for the private and executive type plane. Complete major aircraft maintenance and service facilities are provided at the field, known for its freedom from obstructed approaches and most weather conditions afflicting other coastal ports.

Given to City
Located on a valuable strip of flat ground encompassing 540 acres, the airport was deeded to the city after serving as a Navy fighter strip during the war. Then it was known as Lomita because of its close proximity to that community.

The airport's future took on glittering prospects for early development last spring when Assemblyman Vincent Thomas succeeded in passing a bill permitting Torrance to make 50-year industrial and commercial leases of property, not used for flight purposes. Already three industries, among them Sheridan-Gray Corp. and Hi-Shear Rivet and Tool Co., have completed plans for construction of plants that will eventually employ 500.

Topped by the recent option given to Coldwell-Banker for the development of a \$5,000,000 shopping center, Pacific Coast Highway frontage has been the least target for numerous commercial projects including a new motel and drive-in restaurant.

Build-up Seen
Numerous other industrial and commercial firms have expressed interest in the property and complete development of available acreage on the airport property is anticipated in the next several years. Thus far the government's "recapture" clause in its deed to the city has failed to dampen interest in the property. Under terms given the city, the government could take back the field in the event of a critical national emergency.

While the Collins-Dietrich Co. has management of the field under a recently renewed five-year lease, general supervision of all leasing and regulation is in the hands of Torrance's newly appointed airport commission. R. C. Herick is chairman of the commission with Robert Rillborn, Robert Jahn, Jack E. White, and Jack Crain as members. They were appointed by the Torrance City Council.

Commissioners Inspect
In a recent inspection of the airport the commissioners expressed satisfaction over the prospects for its future. Needs for improvement, including adequate runway and approach markings were discussed and consideration given to eventual

installation of tower operation when the need develops.

Presently the field has a small flight office with a reception room. Nearby, at the Coast highway entrance to the field, are a restaurant, cocktail lounge, and motel which visiting pilots find convenient for overnight stops.

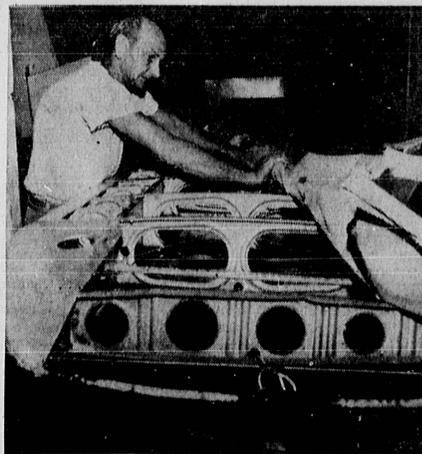
More than 200 small aircraft now are based at the field. Many are under cover in several large structures and numerous T-hangers. The majority, however, due to lack of hangars, are tied down along the numerous taxi strips and wide expanse of paved areas installed for the wartime operations.

Follow Patterns
Inevitably there are objectors to all airports and Torrance has had its share. Chief among objectors have been residents of nearby Lomita. Every effort is being made to keep objections at a minimum, according to Manager Dietrich, who points out the careful adherence to flight patterns demanded of all flyers using the airport. On approaches to the west, into usually prevailing winds, aircraft enter over open terrain to make a close-in base leg for a right hand approach to the field. When winds are southeasterly the approaching planes enter downwind to the north of the field, thus avoiding in all instances any low fly-Scout Round-up, hopes to accomplish the task of registering, recruiting new leaders and a general get-acquainted when 150 during the current season. People who own aircraft, he at 11 a.m., Sept. 15. The meeting will open with a flag ceremony and singing, followed by a nosebag lunch and clean-up. Neighborhood chairman of the area will all of the worthwhile recreation help round up and register all spots in Southern California Scouts, especially Brownies, as well as recruit new leaders.

Many Services
Among the firms operating from the field in addition to Collins-Dietrich who offer charter, aircraft rental and flight instruction are:

Bellanca West Coast Sales and Service, operated by "Slim" Kidwell, veteran pilot and former owner of Central Airport; Air Ads, who offer banner towing and aerial photography; Aircraft Antenna Research; Transland Co., crop dusters and sprayers; Acme Aircraft Co., engine and airframe repairs; Vegas Air, air ambulance and charter services; and Eagle Aviation, air taxi and charter service.

Visitors Welcome
Visitors to the airport are welcome, according to Manager Dietrich, who feels knowledge of the airport activities will give the average citizen a better understanding of the problems. "Most important of all to the general public," he says, "is the fact that all of us here at Torrance airport are doing everything to promote safe and sane flying. We feel the airplane long ago ceased being a toy and today offers a swift, practical means of transportation."



WING REPAIR . . . Art Schiller rolls the fabric back from a wing section preparatory to checking the structure and re-covering with a new fabric. Planes can receive complete overhauls at the local field.



READY TO FLY . . . E. G. "Slim" Kidwell, known widely among Southland aviation circles, gets ready to depart on a flight in a Bellanca. Kidwell is "Mr. Bellanca" himself on the West Coast. He resides in nearby Rolling Hills.

All Photos by Staff Photographer Milton Svensk

Girl Scout Round-up Set

Mrs. Don Meinger, neighborhood chairman of the WALTERIA Girl Scout Round-up, hopes to accomplish the task of registering, recruiting new leaders and a general get-acquainted when 150 during the current season. People who own aircraft, he at 11 a.m., Sept. 15. The meeting will open with a flag ceremony and singing, followed by a nosebag lunch and clean-up. Neighborhood chairman of the area will all of the worthwhile recreation help round up and register all spots in Southern California Scouts, especially Brownies, as well as recruit new leaders.

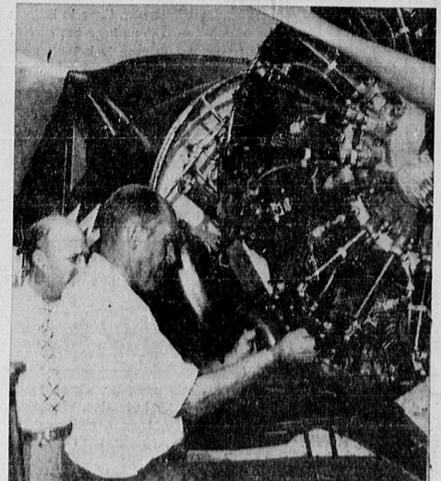
Among the adults helping to make this big event a success will be Mmes. Lillian Doage, J. W. Bebbeling, Jack Brown, Frank T. Howe and William Nannery.

So Someone Said 'Get a Horse' . . .

A simple flat tire almost turned into a set of permanently flat feet for Mrs. Henry Hensill, 38, of 815 Tiger-Trail Rd. in Los Angeles, she told Torrance police recently.

She had a flat tire on her car on Hawthorne Blvd. south of Torrance Blvd. and when she climbed out to look at it an eight-foot ladder fell from a passing truck—right onto her feet.

Her injuries were described as painful but not serious by Torrance Ambulance Service attendants who picked her up for a trip to Harbor General Hospital. She was later transferred to Cedars of Lebanon in Los Angeles. Driver of the truck was Vernon Henry Minke, 38, of Lynwood.



ENGINE OVERHAUL . . . Manager Ed Dietrich of the Torrance Municipal Airport watches Harry Ayres of B & E Manufacturing Co. make some adjustments on a Stinson monoplane. The Torrance field offers all types of engine... and aircraft service, repairs, and maintenance.

Local Girl Scout Takes Part in Show

Kiyoko Takeuchi, who was recently selected as "Red Feather Kid" of the Los Angeles Girl Scout Council, Harbor area, was in attendance and participated in the "Back to School" show held today at 1:30 p.m. in the Philharmonic Auditorium by the Los Angeles Downtown Business Men's Assn.

The local Scout attends Howard Wood Elementary School and is in the eighth grade. She is a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 1006, which is sponsored by the Torrance Elementary PTA.

Woman Strikes Porch After Hit-Run Crash

Another car hit her car, causing her to lose control of her vehicle and crash into the front porch of a house at 1670 Western Ave., Mrs. Hannah May Armagost, 1617 W. 224th St., told Torrance police.

After striking her, the other automobile drove off, she said. Both the car and the porch were damaged somewhat, and Mrs. Armagost received slight injuries.

Bag of Clothes Taken

A brown canvas bag, containing \$15 worth of clothes, was stolen from the Bus Depot, Christopher Sale, of San Diego, reported to Torrance police.



FLYERS' HEADQUARTERS . . . Pilots' lounge and flight office at Torrance Municipal Airport is maintained for the convenience of the many who make the airport their headquarters on week-ends or whenever the "wild blue yonder" beckons.