

# The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Partly cloudy today and tomorrow. Little change in temperature. High today, 50-55.

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Everywhere

## Study \$2 Million Airport Expansion

### Aviation Board Considering 5-Year Plan

Weir Cook Now Ranks  
Fifth Nationally  
In Total Traffic

By IRVING LEIBOWITZ

An immediate \$2 million expansion program for Indianapolis' Weir Cook Municipal Airport was under consideration today by the City Board of Aviation Commissioners.

The field, fastest growing airport in the nation, already ranks fifth in total traffic behind only Cleveland, Detroit, Atlanta and Providence.

These statistics were released by Airport Supt. P. H. Roettger and are backed by Civil Aeronautics Administration figures.

Of major importance to Indianapolis taxpayers, however, is the fact that the local field is one of the few non-tax supported airports in the country. Last year it showed a net profit of more than \$44,000.

#### 'Post-War Growth'

On a comparative basis, Mr. Roettger said, Weir Cook is also in the nation's top bracket for handling freight.

The field's growth was "strictly a post-war expansion," Mr. Roettger added.

He cited CAA figures to prove that Weir Cook handles more aircraft operations than New York's LaGuardia Airport or Washington's National Field.

Safety hasn't been sacrificed for the increased traffic loads, Mr. Roettger observed. The field has won a national safety award for the past three years. It never has had a major traffic accident.

#### Reports Plan

A 5-year plan to keep the field's progress continually ahead, was released by Fred W. Sommer, newly-elected president of the city's bi-partisan Board of Aviation Commissioners.

Major alterations include: ONE: Extensive expansion of main terminal, thus eliminating old entrance and halting the use of it as a hangar.

TWO: Construction of a large steel, fabricated hangar, big enough to accommodate some of the nation's larger aircraft, including the new Douglas DC-6 and the Lockheed Constellation.

THREE: Construction of an East-West plane taxi strip to facilitate handling of aircraft.

FOUR: Purchase of approximately 100 acres of land at the southeast corner of the airport.

Mr. Sommer, a flying enthusiast since 1927, was elected president of the aviation board last week. He succeeds Joseph G. Wood, who resigned recently.

#### Rebuild Tower

As yet, Mayor Feeney hasn't appointed a commissioner to replace Mr. Wood on the city's four-man bi-partisan board.

Currently under construction is a half-million dollar project to rebuild and remodel the main traffic control tower. Field engineers also are installing three safety features, including a radar ground control approach.

The field, served by four major airlines—American, Chicago & Southern, Eastern and Trans-World—has climbed from tenth in the nation for total take-offs and landings to fifth in less than three years.

Approximately 56 chartered flights are scheduled daily. The field's high standing, however, was largely due to the great number of small planes at the field, which accounted for 219,494 flights, which accounted for 219,494 flights.

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### Headin' for the Hay



Railway Express employees Willa Spencer (left) and Rilla Jared comfort a sad-eyed traveler.

### Texas Donkey Wasn't the Right Color, Turned Down by Man Who Ordered Him

AN EXPRESS TRAIN was speeding toward Willoughby, O., last night with a sad-eyed passenger named "Jack" confined in the baggage car. No conductor collected his ticket and no fellow traveler passed the time of night with him.

They couldn't. He was just a little lost donkey, enmeshed in the coils of circumstance.

It all started about a week ago when the floppy-eared, shaggy brown creature was placed on a train by the Zoological Supply Co. in Laredo, Tex.

A consignment ticket on the donkey's crate read "To W. L. Wood, Indianapolis," so freight handlers at the Railway Express office here led him off the train according to instructions.

SHORTLY after his arrival Thursday, telephones jangled in the city as express workers attempted to locate the new owner. Friday night passed and still there was no call for the animal.

Employees at the terminal took a fancy to him and led him around the confines of the station. They fed him hay and gave him water.

He only stood waist high to a pretty express worker, but he tipped the scales at 320 pounds.

Then it happened. Mr. Wood, the prospective owner, walked into the station, looked over the donkey and turned his back. He didn't want it. He had ordered a white one, he said, and this creature was brown. He refused to take it.

TELEGRAMS flashed from Indianapolis to Laredo to ask for instructions and long distance calls from Laredo to Indianapolis were made to relocate Mr. Wood.

The near-owner wasn't found and the zoological company re-claimed its shipment. But the donkey will not see Laredo again.

Last night he was placed back in his crate and loaded into another baggage car.

Rails started to click under train wheels and he was on his way again, this time to a new buyer in Willoughby.

How's That Again?

BOONEVILLE, Miss., Apr. 2 (UP)—Mrs. W. B. Prather said today that she'd offer a Mother's Day present to any Mississippi mother with a name as long as hers.

She said her full name is Sephorie Sephorie Le-vonnie Obelia Emulia Eunicy Arcey Ann Clementine Lominick Prather.

By driving in a direction which would increase the volume on the meter they traced the interference to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Presher, 5515 N. Roslyn.

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## Police to Open Safety Drive On 'Junkers'

Old Cars to Get  
3-Minute Checks  
By Roving Squads

A police safety campaign to check the condition of automobiles on city streets and force removal of vehicles which are a menace to motorists will begin tomorrow.

The police traffic division will detail five accident cars to making spot checks of car condition over the city.

Four officers will set up a check station on the south side of North St. between Meridian and Pennsylvania Sts.

Officers in the five cars will patrol the city looking for defective cars. These will be checked and if found unsafe will be ordered repaired. Drivers of unsafe vehicles will be ordered to return the cars for another check after repairs have been made. If the cars are not repaired police will order them removed from the streets.

#### 3-Minute Check

Capt. Audrey Jacobs, head of the traffic department, said the officers would check brakes, steering, tires, lights, horn and windshield wipers on each car. The check will take about three minutes.

Motorists will not be compelled to stop at the check station on North St. However those who do, voluntarily, will be given the three-minute check. If their cars pass the test they will be given a small windshield sticker designating a safe car. Cars which do not pass the test will be ordered repaired.

The safety campaign is being conducted in conjunction with the Indiana Traffic Safety Commission and State Police. The check will be made during April and May.

#### Holds 'Hundreds' Unsafe

Capt. Jacobs said hundreds of cars are being operated on the streets today with unsafe brakes, windshield wipers and horns which do not operate and lights which do not burn or are focused improperly.

He called these vehicles a "menace" to safe driving.

London Lights Up  
After Dark Decade

Piccadilly Cheers  
As Blackout Ends

LONDON, Apr. 2 (UP)—The lights went up in London tonight for the first time since the war and thousands of happy, cheering people gathered in Piccadilly Circus.

In the brilliant blaze of neon and mounds, it was a tumultuous celebration that outdid New Year's eve.

The huge crowd in London's Times Square shouted itself hoarse as the famous signs were turned on one by one. When the famed Bovril sign cast its bright, red glow against the overcast sky, a mighty roar saluted the almost forgotten sight of London's "great white way" in all its pre-war splendor.

Zoe Gail, a saucy show girl who popularized the song "I'm Going to Get Lit Up With the Lights Go Up in London" during the war, stood on a restaurant balcony and sang it again. Thousands were already well on their way toward that goal.

As she sang, electric signs, theater marquees, and lighted shop windows in cities and towns all over Britain flashed on to end the ban on illuminated advertising which had been in force for almost 10 years.

The milling, noisy crowd acted like children. Many of the actual children in the square were seeing an illuminated electric sign for the first time.

A Cockney nudged an American Army sergeant and said "stone me, if little old London ain't herself again. Just like bloomin' old New York."

Predicts OK on Bills

CHICAGO, Apr. 2 (UP)—The American Legion expects old age veterans' pensions and universal military training bills to be passed at the present session of Congress, William C. Burris, state commander of the Legion, said today.

North Side Television Fans Track Down 'Bug'

"Blob" on-Screens Proves to Be Tiny  
Germ-Killing Light in Neighbor's Kitchen

By JOHN SPICKLENIRE

North Side television fans last night took a big "blob" off their video screen which had been plaguing reception for days.

Like bloodhounds on the trail, a group of the television watchers, armed with strange directional devices, sought out the bug which had been causing the trouble.

At the end of the search was a small germ-killing light which Ave. The germ killer was in the Presher kitchen.

The video fans offered to buy the light but Mr. and Mrs. Presher said they would take it back to the place where they bought it. They were not aware it was causing all the trouble.

## Hoosier's Own Story of Army Arrest—

# Bird to Ask Release By Supreme Court

### 'Hello Girl' Says Goodby



Dial replaces dialog. . . . Elnora Shorten, 2003 S. Pershing St., is one of dozens of manual telephone operators who will be transferred to other assignments. "Number, please" is a thing of the past in Indianapolis.

### 15,000 Manual Type Telephones Converted To Dial Service in \$4 Million Switchover

This morning some 15,000 Indianapolis citizens had something new in the house. It was dial telephone service.

With the cutting in of two new automatic exchanges at 130 a.m. the new green telephone books went into use with some 25,000 changed numbers.

The cutover highlighted the local telephone industry. Visitors gathered at the new Belmont Exchange, 740 S. Fuller Dr. and at the new Cherry office at 509 E. 38th St.

What they saw was the pulling down of the wooden frames which in a few seconds converted the 15,000 remaining manual type telephones to dial service. At the same moment cables were cut to the old exchanges.

Cost \$4 Million

There are only six other cities as large or larger than Indianapolis, with complete automatic service. This morning's conversion cost \$4 million and a year's work.

Regular operators at the old Belmont exchange will be transferred to toll service and other traffic jobs.

L. V. Green, division plant superintendent, co-ordinating the cutover. The chief switchman in charge of the Cherry exchange is J. S. Baker, and at the Belmont office, Robert A. Gerber is in charge.

J. C. Gillam, and C. K. Watter, district plant superintendent supervised the cutover.

Mr. Ingles last night declared: "The securing of signatures to the removal petition is nothing but a publicity move to conceal the Bradford-Brown alliance from public scrutiny. The State Committee alone can remove county chairmen and any acts by other bodies such as precinct committees are wholly unauthorized and without force."

Ingles Scorns  
Ouster Attempt

Holds Removal Plea  
Is 'Without Force'

James W. Ingles last night called the present move to oust him as Marion County Republican chairman "wholly unauthorized and without force or effect."

He issued this statement as his political foes chortled over what they termed their success in obtaining control of more than 50 per cent of the precinct committeemen and vice committeemen.

The anti-Ingles faction and the precinct officials who have joined it have asked for Mr. Ingles' resignation and that a county convention be called to select his successor by secret voting machine ballot.

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## Lawyers Weigh Filing Of Kidnaping Charges Against Army Officers

Indianian Says He Was Denied Lawyer  
Before He Was Flown to Germany

By WILLIAM H. NEWTON, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer  
Copyright, 1949, by The Indianapolis Times

FRANKFURT, Germany, Apr. 2 (By Press Wireless)—Attorneys for Russell G. Bird of Mishawaka, Ind., said today they will ask the U. S. Supreme Court for a writ of habeas corpus compelling the Army to return Mr. Bird to the United States.

At the same time, they said they may press kidnaping charges against Army officials responsible for whisking Mr. Bird overseas under armed guard to stand trial on charges of black market activity.

Action of Army authorities in arresting an American citizen in his home and transporting him overseas was vigorously condemned today by attorneys for the 28-year-old former Army post exchange employee.

Mr. Bird told me he was arrested three weeks ago by Army Criminal Investigation Division agents in his home in Mishawaka. He said he was denied counsel or right of appeal to civil authorities.

At the same time, they said they may press kidnaping charges against Army officials responsible for whisking Mr. Bird overseas under armed guard to stand trial on charges of black market activity.

He is charged with having misappropriated large quantities of cigarettes when he was a civilian manager of a branch post exchange at Bad Homburg near here.

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Mrs. Fred Presher holds germ killing lamp causing television "blobs." Others in the hunt were (left to right) Robert Evans, Dr. Lester Hoyt, Elmer Taffinger, Dr. Russell Henry, Mr. Presher, John Henry and Robert Loomis.