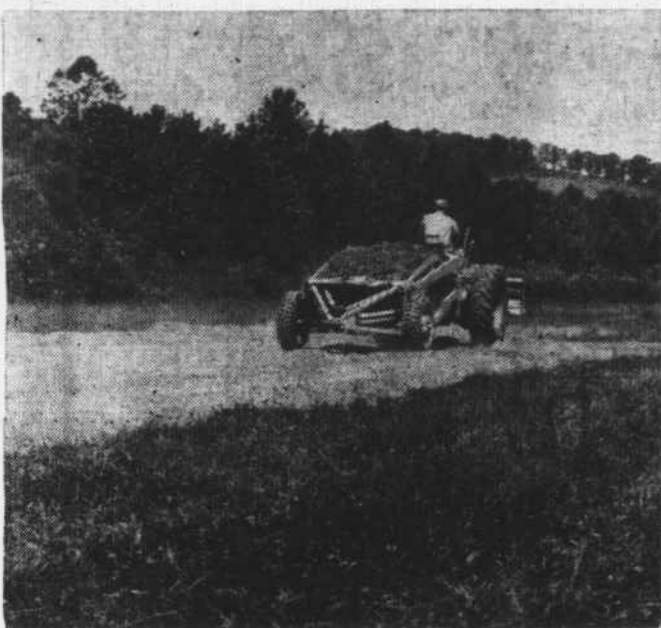


# MEET YOUR MERCHANTS

# Macon County Airport, Inc.



'PAN' WORKING AT AIRPORT

For several weeks, this earth-moving "pan" has been hauling dirt on the main runway at the Macon County Airport. In addition to filling low spots in the runway with dirt, airport officials have cleared the north approach to the field's auxiliary strip. Other work is programmed later in the year. Also planned in the near future is a sale of airport stock to private individuals and firms in a move to raise additional funds for improving the facility, which is considered an important asset in terms of industrial expansion in the county. (Staff Photo)

## Construction Of Airport An Ambitious Undertaking

### Corporation Leased With Option In 1956

A tract of 57.2 acres between the Little Tennessee River and U.S. 64 was purchased in December, 1944, from Harry Thomas. The next April instead of turnpits growing up near the road there was under construction a hanger and a service shop, and instead of corn and wheat on the south end of the tract there was grading started for a runway 2,800 feet in length, and 200 feet wide. Diagonally, southeast to northwest another 2,000 foot runway was taking shape.

Three tee hangers were added. The main hanger, 60'x60', was built to accommodate 12 planes. A tremendous earth-moving job involving some \$20,000 was undertaken to build the three foot crown up on the runways.

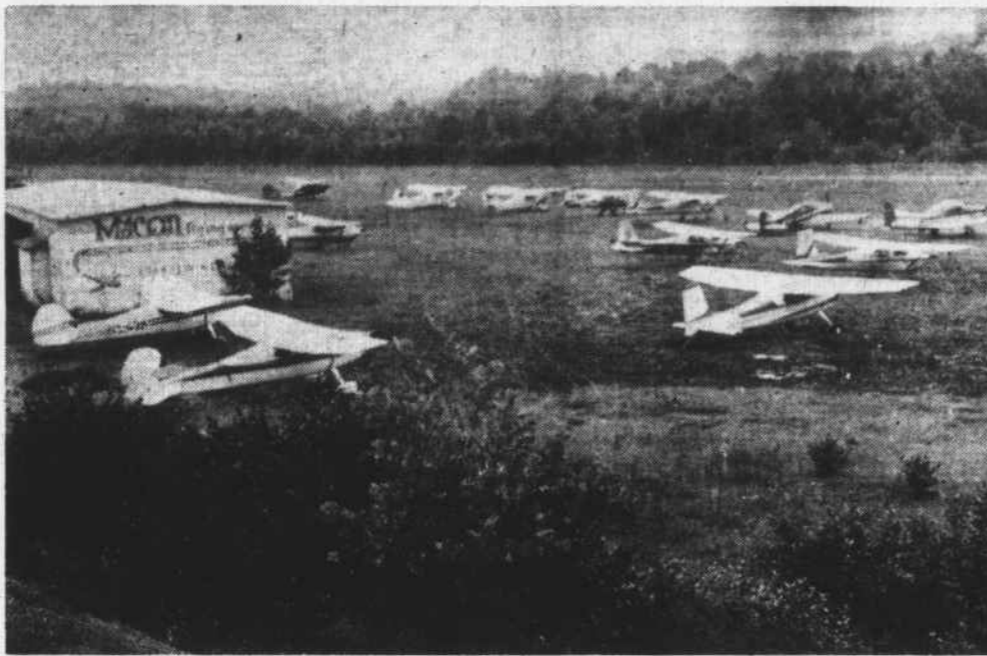
The airport was built and operated by Oscar Meyer of Hendersonville and Grant Zickgraf of Franklin. It was called Meyer Flying Service until Mr. Zickgraf bought out his partner in 1947

renaming the airport Macon Flying Service. In 1949 "Red" Nichols of Nichols Flying Service in Black Mountain purchased the entire installation, and in 1950 he sold out to E. V. Bonham of Asheville. Mr. Bonham currently leases (with an option to buy) the airport to Macon County Airport, Inc.

This corporation was founded in 1956. Present officers are Steve Bundy, president; Grant Zickgraf, vice-president; Frank Plyler, secretary-treasurer; Bill Phillips, airport manager. Other members of the board of directors are Manson Stiles and John Archer, Jr. Eventually the corporation hopes to turn the airport over to the county as a municipal facility.

### Hold No-Injury Record On Field

Macon County Airport holds a no-injury, no-death safety record for its thirteen years of operation.



Shown above are some of the planes that came to Franklin for the "Ruby Fly-In" snugly tied down on the line.

## Stage Is Set For Progress; Airport's Future Assured

### Great Traffic Increase Noted

By Norman B. Smith

A curtain was lifted last week from around a valuable asset possessed by Macon County. It's an asset that lay dormant in reality for several years, and when it did begin to come back to life two years ago it was without publicity or fanfare leaving the people still oblivious of its value.

The curtain was lifted last week from around the Macon County Airport when nearly 50 Florida pilots with friends and families landed here to dig for Cowee Valley rubies.

It was a curtain that fell when a two dollar plane ride was no longer a novelty. When one side of the hanger almost collapsed for lack of repair, when annual air shows were curtailed by federal regulations, when the Airport Grille closed, when the G.I. bill ended and flight students came no longer to train.

It was a curtain that remained closed when a corporation called Macon County Airport, Inc., took a lease and an option to buy from the airport's Asheville owner, when an earthen dike was erected to keep the river from washing out the runway, when permanent electric field lights were installed.

Now the curtain is lifted for good. And this time the Macon Airport will not have to depend on the novelty of a two dollar flight or ex-G. I.'s taking advantage of flight training. Now the future of the airport rests on a solid foundation.

For businessmen have found it convenient and economic to use planes. Executives of Rabun Mills, Mead Corporation, Burlington Industries, and other industries of the area fly regularly into the Macon Airport. Several own their own property. Vacationers and sportsmen fly in to Franklin during the summer months, some just for a few rounds of golf in Highlands. Chartered planes are beginning to do business here; just a call to the Macon Airport will arrange a flight anywhere anytime. Possibilities of carrying truck garden produce and poultry from our county to market cities are being investigated. Traffic at the airport has picked up 90% per year in the last two years.

What this solid foundation will bring in the future of the airport has almost no limit. People with sharp vision are seeing the days of regularly scheduled shuttle flights to Asheville's planned multi-million dollar airport, more and more "fly-ins" like the one last week for the area's famed "rubies, rest, and recreation", a booming enterprise with longer, hard-surfaced runways, excellent repair facilities, more hanger space, a complete radio installation. And they see these days coming not in the indefinite far-off but within the next ten years.

### Airport Offers Stock For Sale

Additional stock in Macon County Airport, Inc. is now offered for sale. The original value of the stock has gained

at least 25% in the corporation's two year life.

As yet no dividends have been paid because profits have been re-invested in airport improvements. For further information call Secretary-treasurer Frank Plyler.

## SEARCH, RESCUE GROUP ACTIVE IN MACON NOW

The Macon County Search and Rescue Squadron bases its operations at the Macon County Airport. This Civil Defense unit is made up of local men, half of them licensed pilots, who donate both time and money for the equipping and training of their unit.

Organized only last June the aim of this Squadron is to begin a county fire system of two or three trucks, to keep an ambulance ready, and be able to effect search and rescue operations by air, land, or water on a moment's notice.

The squadron got its first trial last August when two youths drowned in Nantahala Lake. Efforts of members of this organization resulted in both bodies being found on the day of the drowning.

Officers include Sid Carter, county director of Civil Defense; Frank Plyler, squadron commander; Carl Tysinger, director of air operations; Jimmy Conley, director of ground operations; Earl Slagle director of water operations.

Interested Maconians are requested to attend one of the meetings at 7:30 every Tuesday evening.

The Search and Rescue Squadron supercedes the local unit of Civil Air Patrol, which was disbanded because adequate materials for operations couldn't be acquired through the CAP program.



## Flyers Find The Facilities Here Suitable, Convenient

### Has Landing Lights, Phone, Fuel, Hangers

The Macon County Airport has many facilities to offer both the local and transient flyer.

(1) Hanger space for approximately 19 planes is provided in the main hanger shop and tee hangers. Additional unlimited space is provided by outside tie-downs.

(2) Eighty and 91 octane aviation fuel and aviation oil is available 24 hours a day from the resident attendant.

(3) Field lights are turned on for night flying.

(4) Temporary radio facilities are provided. Soon a permanent radio service may be installed.

(5) Emergency repairs and servicing are done at any time by the well-equipped Franklin Machine Shop.

(6) Telephone is provided 24 hours a day.

(7) Convenient location — only one mile from the center of Franklin. Easy drive to nearby Highlands, Sylva, Clayton (Ga.), Bryson City, and other points.

(8) Two well-kept runways, one 2,800 feet, the other 2,000 feet.

## Charter Plane Makes Travel Easy, Quick

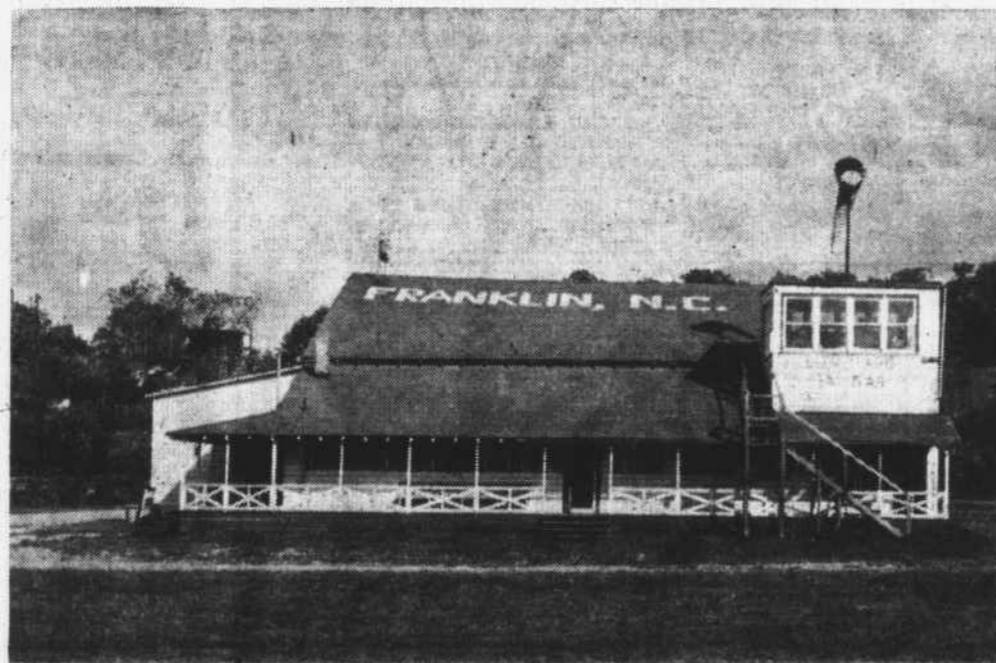
### 50 Pilots Have Gotten Licenses Flying Here

By just calling 655 you can arrange to fly anywhere in the world at any time. The number is Macon County Airport. In minutes a charter plane can be here from one of the three flying

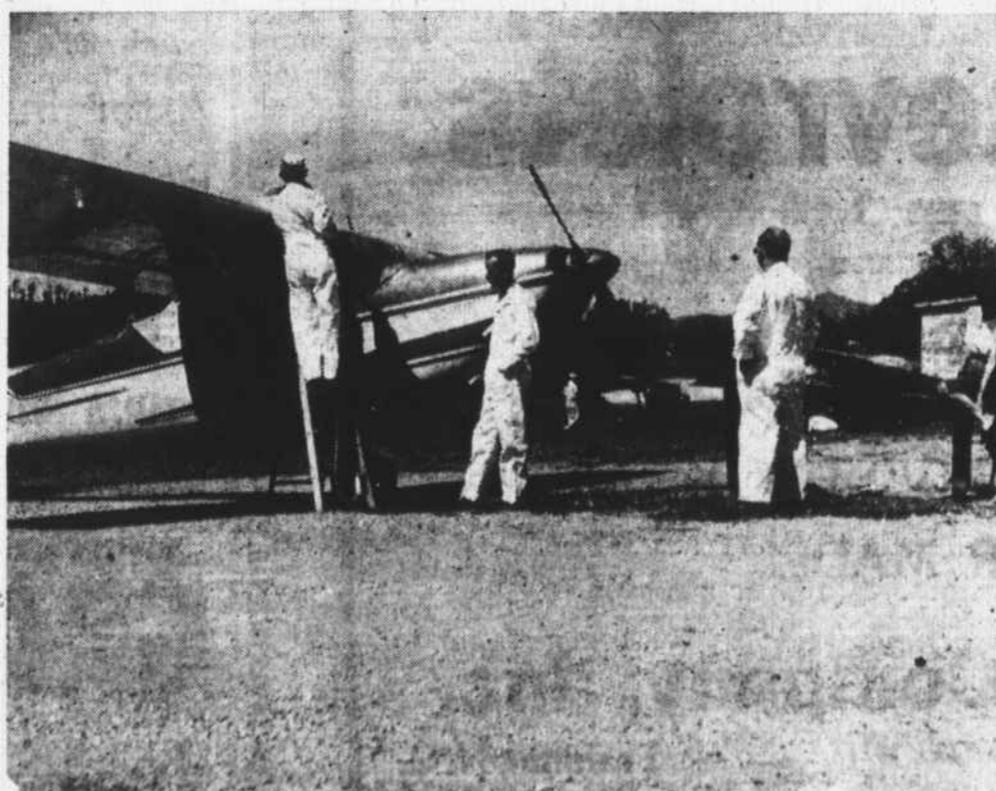
services connected with the local airport — Oscar Meyer Flying Service of Hendersonville, Woods Flying Service of Andrews-Murphy Air Park, and Roger Thompson of Toccoa, Georgia.

Charter flight is often the most convenient and sometimes the most economic means of making a trip. Ambulance flights may be arranged also.

At the Macon County Airport pilot instruction is offered. Since the airport was established, at least 65 local people have learned to fly, through the training program.



Main Administration Building And Lounge



"Gas Up" operations are handled as a routine matter at the Franklin airport by trained service personnel. Shown above gassing up a plane is Frank Jones, airport supervisor.

### In This Series . . .

## YOU WILL MEET

- Franklin Hosiery Company
- Zickgraf Hardwood Company
- Nantahala Lumber Company
- Franklin Machine Shop
- Burrell Motor Company
- The Carolina Pharmacy
- People's Department Store
- Conley Motor Company
- Reeves Hardware Company
- Macon County Supply Company
- Macon Theatre
- Franklin Indoor-Outdoor Theatre
- The Fashion Shop
- Franklin Gem Shop
- The Twin's Shop

## YOU HAVE MET

- Belk's Department Store
- Franklin Hardware Company
- Franklin 5 & 10c Store
- Our Mountain Home Gift Shop



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**MACON COUNTY'S FUTURE**

Buy Stock In . . .

**FRANKLIN AIRPORT, INC.**

**\$10 Per Share**