

## Letters to the Editor

### NIGHT FLYING

Editor,  
Torrance Press  
At its regular meeting on December 10, I requested the Torrance city council to stop practice flying at the airport on Christmas and New Year's. The council agreed to ask that my request be posted on the field but did not take any other action.

It does seem to me that we should be entitled to a two-day respite from the airplane noise. After all, we've had this nuisance all day and every day for the past year and in about two months they expect to put on a night shift.

After the meeting, two city officials told me that the council could not stop the planes because the land belongs to the federal government and because they have no control over a plane once it is in the air.

So, it looks like business as usual on these two days unless the pilots themselves decide to give us a break. From past experience, I do not expect much cooperation.

The important thing, however, was the admission that the city has no control over the airport. This is certainly a potent argument for voting the city out of the airport business. Does it make any sense to you that the city should spend money on land that it does not own, to attract planes over which it has no control? I read in the paper just last week that there was a

need for more psychiatrists out here. We can understand that people will do anything for money but the thing becomes puzzling when we know that this operation just about makes expenses.

Of interest at the meeting was a preview of the taxi strip lights that are planned for the makeshift night landing arrangement. They are these little blinkers that are so hard to see on the street barricades. Heard a rumor that they had considered using candles for the job—probably a gross exaggeration.

The airport manager would not permit night operation because of the unsafe lighting. I believe that is why he is being forced out. Now pilots who cannot even find the field in daylight are to be permitted to attempt night landings under conditions that an experienced man considers to be dangerous inadequate landing lights and temporary blinkers that belong on a street barricade!

You may ask your favorite lawyer, but I think that this puts the city in an indefensible position. Operation under these conditions means and accident; an accident under these conditions means a lawsuit. Ask how much it has cost the Van Nuys-Pacoima airport to fight the suits that have been brought against it. And that airport could not be charged with unsafe operation.

No one can understand this sudden rush to have night landings at the field when the vote on the Bond issue showed that the voters had no desire to increase the activity at the airport. One man was so uncharitable as to suggest that this is being rushed through at the urging and for the benefit of the city officials who operate planes. I don't believe this, but it's possible that the election of men who have no personal interest in the issue would result in more sympathetic handling of our problem. We in Lomita have no vote on this issue but please prevent night landings until safe, permanent lights have been installed.

Vincent Lechner  
2441 W. 254th St.

**AIRPORT NOISE**  
Editor,  
Torrance Press

It is my wish and privilege to both thank and compliment Vincent Lechner for his very practical, truthful and on the scene editorial concerning the dangerous low flying and unnecessary deafening roaring noise caused by the ring around the rosy planes operating out of the Torrance Airfield.

My wife and I are two of many in west Lomita who have had to forfeit the use of our homes and yards and take to the open road over week-ends in order to regain our right to speak, and being heard in an average modulated voice.

And, we are also two of many returning, pray and hope that we will find our homes as we

left it, not smashed and burned to ashes by some reckless, low-flying (not insured) pilot, such as was the unfortunate case of Mrs. Nelson, who suffered the entire loss of her life's earnings in her home and valuable antique furniture.

At this point I would like to cite four of many instances where this unnecessary low flying and terrible roaring noise is not only a dangerous hazard to the average person residing and owning property here in Lomita, but is also a continued yearly expense.

I am forced to have an extension on my phone. This is an added expense of a dollar a month. Perhaps a dollar a month to the average pilot who can afford to joy ride around in a dizzy circle means little or nothing, but to the working person who is confronted with the general higher cost of living and taxes, a dollar a month added over a period of several years means a great deal.

Second, I would like to cite the case of a man who is forced to pay an added expense for a louder bell connected with his phone, all because of the loud roar of planes as they pass overhead in their daily constant ring in the circle.

Third, I would like to bring attention to the case of Mrs. Wells residing on 251 street who is unable, a great part of the time, to hang her wash out on her own clothes line, on her own property without having it totally, or in part ruined by dripping oil and grease from low flying planes. This to our play boy pilots may seem inconsequential, or even funny, but to a poor elderly lady who has owned and lived on her property long before the plane field ever came into being, it is a tragic, uncalled for, disheartening hardship and costly expense.

I can go on and cite the case of a well known chicken raiser here who loses dozens of young

chickens every few months, all because low flying, noisy planes scare them into a huddle, thereby causing their suffocation.

It indeed seems a dirty shame and most unreasonable that a great majority of our people are forced to jeopardize their lives and homes, and be subjected to the dictates of a small minority of careless, unprincipled pilots who are not insured, and for some inexplicable reason dislike the idea of taking out insurance on their planes.

It seems further peculiar considering the fact that life and liability insurance rates connected with the operation of planes is much more reasonable than on motor cars that plane owners and pilots object to take it out. It is still more difficult to understand why our State Legislature fails to enact a law making such insurance mandatory in view of the increasing number of plane tragedies occurring.

Appearing in the Torrance

Press a week or so ago was a greater source of revenue, it certainly seems that such sources would prove much more lucrative and far less dangerous, annoying and expensive to the people on the ground and their homes in the surrounding area.

is considering methods of raising money to increase the size of the airport, increase the number of runways and equip these runways for night landings and take off, that Torrance could also find monetary means to consider these other ideas mentioned above.

Malcolm Cameron

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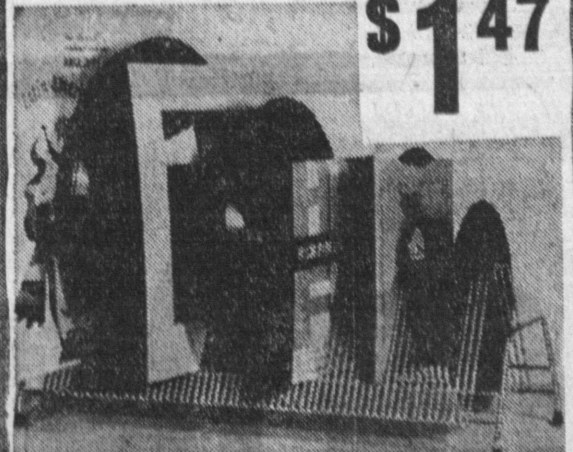
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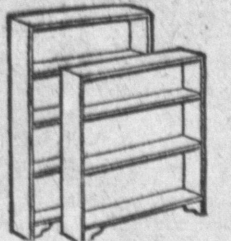
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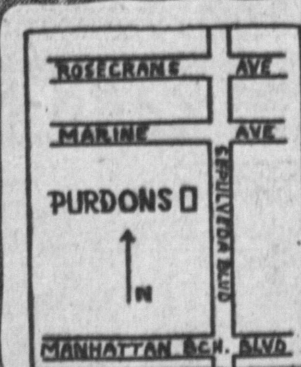
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