

STEVENSON  
CASCADE LOCKS EMERGENCY AIRPORT

This airport constructed jointly with the State of Washington with federal funds available under the Federal Airport Aid Act of 1946 lies on the south side of the Columbia River just east of the City of Cascade Locks in Hood River County. Built in the summer of 1949, and improved in 1950 this emergency strip of 1915 feet length serves the community of Cascade Locks in Oregon, and the community of Stevenson on the Washington side of the Columbia just opposite the airport.

Weather through the Columbia River gorge from the Troutdale airport to Hood River is notorious for its capricious habits. The presence of an airstrip at Cascade Locks prior to the construction of the Bonneville Dam had long been a safeguard for the flyers up and down the river. When this strip was flooded by the backwaters of the Dam, flyers who had looked upon this strip as a safety factor in their trips across the mountains urged the construction of some such airport in the vicinity of the old one. During the spring of 1949, the Aviation agencies of both Oregon and Washington with the federal civil aeronautics administration made a thorough survey of the gorge from Troutdale to Hood River. The result of this survey was the construction of the Cascade Locks-Stevenson Emergency Airport in 1949.

This airport is an example of the close cooperation of the two States in the development of aviation in the Pacific Northwest, which is a great factor in the phenomenal growth of the area. Under the Federal Airport Act, the State of Oregon enjoys the advantage of approximately 56% federal aid in the construction costs of an airport. The land costs are deminished by 25% with federal funds under this same act. The State of Washington assisted the State of Oregon by assuming half of the approximately 44% of the construction costs, while the State of Oregon bore all of the land acquisition costs.

Already the presence of the airport has prevented several accidents to flyers caught in the uncertain weather conditions of the area, and has induced a flight school operator to approach the Board for permission to set up a flight training operation on the strip. What the presence of the airport has meant to business men of the area in saving time on trips to Portland or Seattle is not known, but there is much evidence in the opinions of the business men of the area that Cascade Locks has benefited by the existance of the airport.

Cost of the Airport is, of this date, \$14,120 which includes a turfing of the landing area, taxiway and apron and plane storage. A contract will be let for the maintenance of the strip to a local man who will benefit from the grass available from his cutting of the field.

A picnic area between the landing area and the river can be developed with little cost and a project of this nature has been discussed with the community and the flying fraternity on the Portland area who have evidenced a great deal of interest in the Airport as a recreational spot on the Columbia River.