

Albatross Airport May Turn to Gold

Fort Worth's first attempt at building a regional airport to serve both Dallas and Fort Worth air travelers "an attempt that ended in failure" may turn out to be quite valuable to the city.

It was 20 years ago, on April 26, 1953, that the city opened its new airport on the midway site that the two cities had been discussing for more than a dozen years. But a joint venture had never been agreed upon.

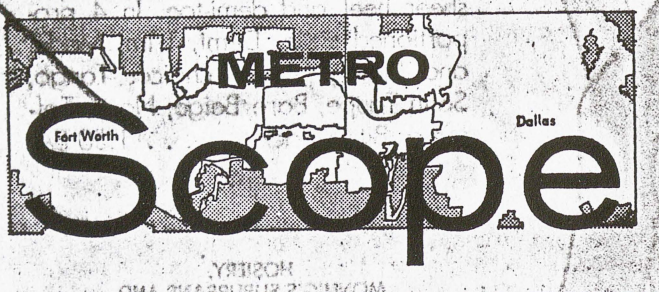
The new airport was a real showcase highlighted by a \$4 million terminal building. Repeated attempts were made to get Dallas to join Fort Worth in financing the new airport.

BUT DALLAS Mayor Woodall Rogers objected to the fact

that the terminal building faced Fort Worth, while newspapers referred to the site as "the 19-mile airport" to emphasize its distance from downtown Dallas.

Fort Worth made its share of mistakes that would assure that Dallas would never join the project. For one, Fort Worth annexed the airport land sending the city limits way out along a narrow strip through the Hurst-Euless-Bedford area. Secondly, Fort Worth named the airport after Amon Carter, publisher of the Star-Telegram and an active civic worker.

And Fort Worth was confident that expansion at Love Field would be an expense Dallas would not undertake.



NOW AND NOTABLE

Elks Might Call Vote in 2 Months

By HARTLEY HAMPTON

Instructions from national Elks headquarters to call an election to ratify a recent vote to delete the word "white" from the Elks' constitutional statutes may be two months away.

And Jim Edwards, exalted ruler of Elks Lodge 124, at 3401 White Settlement Road, said the outcome of the vote will have little effect on Elks' policies.

Edwards, who represented the Fort Worth lodge in the vote, said the action was taken to prevent lodges in some states from losing their liquor licenses.

He said some liquor licenses have been revoked because the "white" limitations made the lodges segregated. A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirmed the right of states to deny liquor licenses to segregated establishments.

Edwards said each Elks lodge will vote on the measure, and if it passes by a two-thirds margin, it will become applicable to all lodges.

"But," he said, "we have the prerogative of turning down anyone for membership if we do not think they have the moral and physical character."

MODEL A RESTORERS Club of Fort Worth will be featured at Mansfield's Kow Bell Indoor Rodeo at 8:15 Wednesday night. About 15 Model A's will be displayed, reports David Barton of the club.

ONE RIOT—One Ranger, slogan of the world's oldest body of peace officers, has been captured on canvas by Robert Summers. "One Riot—One Ranger," a 16-by-20-inch print, is available to collectors for \$40. The print is being offered by Texas House, Inc., of Austin in conjunction with the Texas Ranger Commemorative Commission. Interested persons should write Texas House, P.O. Box 9812, Austin 78766 for details.

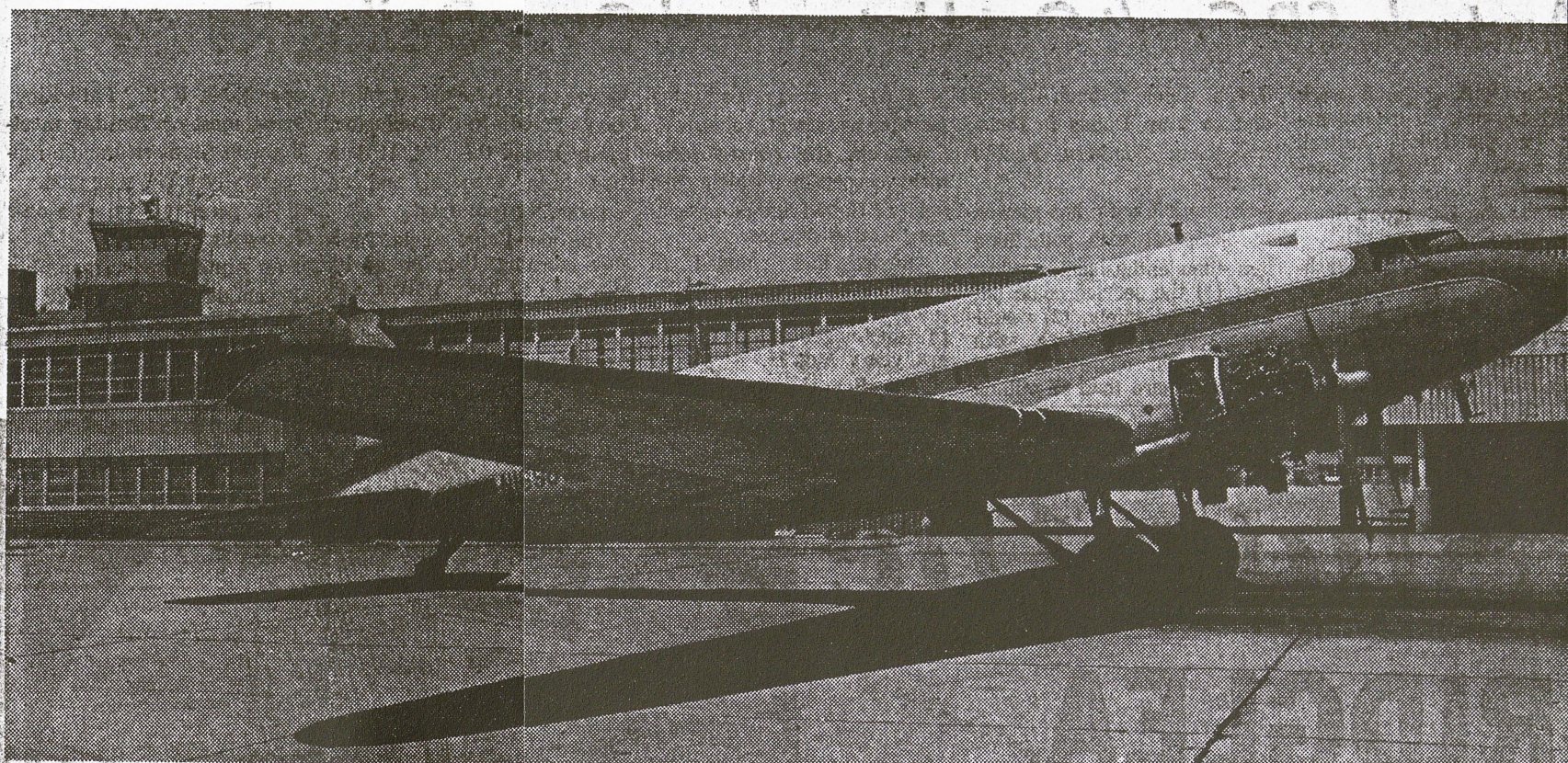
A TEXAS SAFETY Association meeting will be conducted at the Inn of the Six Flags Aug. 16 and 17.

ABOUT \$150,000 worth of Grand Prairie's \$250,000 street-repair job, funded by federal revenue-sharing money, has been completed, reports Asst. City Manager Doug Driggers.

ARLINGTON'S TWO new elementary schools, Foster and Dunn, are expected to be completed by Aug. 27, when school opens. A third project, James Bowie High School, is scheduled for completion next summer, in time for the 1974-75 school year.

CANNED GOODS LOW

Push on Cheap Eggs



PASSENGERS GONE—Back in the 1950s, when Southwest Airport was a going concern, piston-driven aircraft like the one shown hurried in and out of the terminal area. Now, mechanics take their time on maintenance chores and the planes are in the way of no one.

NO ONE I Dallas was about to drive to Fort Worth to get on an airplane at Amon Carter Field when there was an airport in Dallas, so the city of Dallas expanded Love Field and the competition for air service was on.

Actually, the full name of the Fort Worth airport was Greater Fort Worth International Airport — Amon Carter Field, but the Federal Aviation Agency (now Administration) used the three-letter assignment ACF on the airport, and it became known simply as Amon Carter Field.

During its brief 15 years as an air transport airport, Carter Field, now known as Southwest Airport, slowly watched traffic loads decrease as more and more airlines chose Dallas as the terminal for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. By 1968 there were no more scheduled commercial flights at Southwest.

NOW, THE airport sits almost like a ghost town. Airlines still use it for training flights, and there is some general aviation based there, but the glamorous terminal building sits nearly idle and badly in need of maintenance.

When the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport opens in October just to the north on almost 10 times the area of the original 1,780-acre Amon Carter Field, the older airport will have to close. It is just too close to the new airport for both to remain operational.

But it is the closing of the old airport that makes it so valuable to Fort Worth.

"No where is there that many acres of land under one ownership and right next to a major traffic generator like the new airport," said Fort Worth City Councilman Ted C. Peters. "That is the greatest land in America today."

PETERS predicted that the land will bring as much as \$50,000 per acre or more if sold to the proper developers.

He said the old airport property has "an unlimited amount of potential."

The new airport is destined to become a major air hub, and former FAA administrator John H. Shaffer said the new facility would make Dallas-Fort Worth the first "air city," doing for development here what the harbor did for London and New York and the railroads did for Chicago.

"Chicago's O'Hare airport is currently at the 14 million passenger level (per year), and they are near 100 per cent capacity," Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce President J. C. Pace told a meeting of congressmen in Washington recently.

"If a NEW airport is not built there, we feel we can overtake Chicago as the leading passenger hub in the early 1980s."

Peters said he expects the FAA, which owns Southwest Airport, jointly with Fort Worth, to permit the city to dispose of the land.

"If we don't get a bid that the council feels is worthy of the product, then we can negotiate (a price) and then advertise our attempt to sell it," he said.

PETERS WOULD like to see the terminal building saved, but he said the city should not be in the position of putting any attachments on the land before it is sold.

He said it would take about three times the original \$4 million cost to replace the terminal, which he called "a beautiful building."

Presumably, whoever acquires the airport land would also acquire the B36 parked on the airport site. The Peacemaker Foundation was formed for the purpose of restoring the old bomber to flying condition, but the drive has run out of steam. There is little chance of the plane being restored before it is acquired by the new owner.

There have been suggestions the old plane could serve as the nucleus of an aviation museum that could be built in the terminal and on the concrete aprons.

There also have been suggestions that a restaurant could be built around the old bomber on top of the runway tunnel over Texas 183.

But Peters said all this would be up to the new owner.

'Wet' Votes Seen For Haltom, Hurst

County Clerk Ed Loftin predicted Tuesday that elections to make Haltom City rest of Hurst wet within a year.

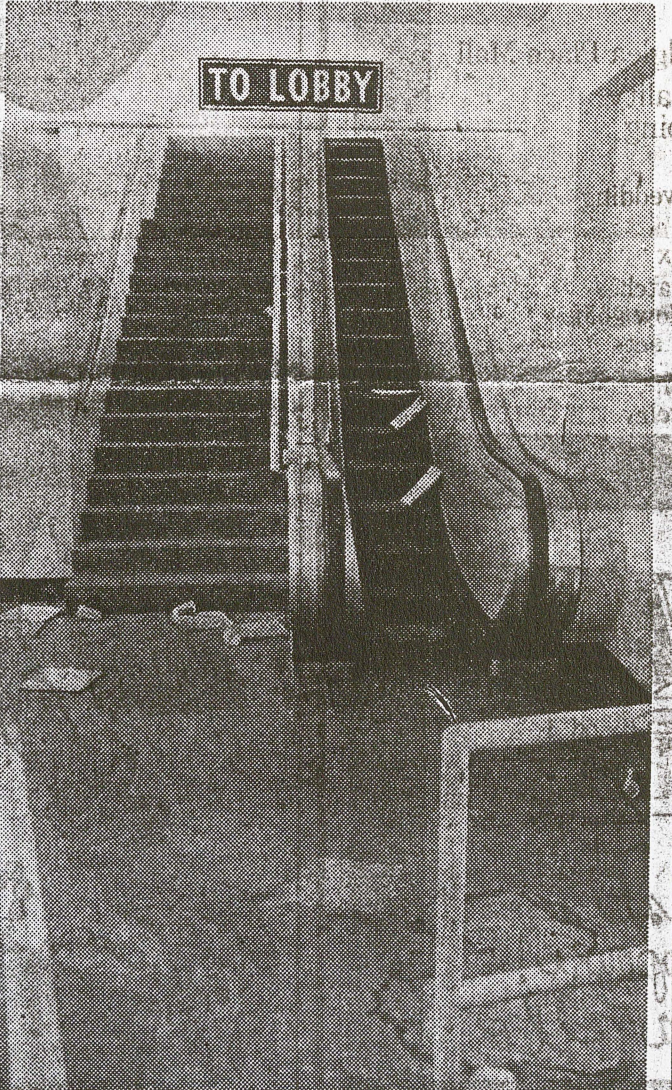
Referring to the recent Peace Justice Protests, Loftin said he felt between then and a year probably have an effect on Haltom and probably City of Hurst, also.

The Precinct 3 vote proved the sale of off-premises consumption of mixed beverages. Only the northern part of Hurst is included in Precinct 3. None of Haltom is included.

Interest in conducting a new election in Hurst is centered in Precinct 32, Loftin said.

He said his office received many calls from Precinct 32 residents who realize they live out of Precinct 3 and who wonder why they weren't able to vote.

LOFTIN SAID they pressed interest in the rest of Hurst wet, in a new, citywide election. He said state laws two elections on an single voting area to be conducted at county level within a year of the first.



NO ONE TO LIFT — Idle escalators are part of the scenery at Southwest Airport, which until 1968 was a passenger airport.

What's Going On Here

8 a.m.—Fort Worth Nature Center at Lake Worth open until 5 p.m.

9 a.m.—Fort Worth Museum of Science and History open until 5 p.m., free; Fort Worth Zoological Park grounds, aquarium, aviary and herpetarium open until 6 p.m., \$1 for persons over \$12; Pate Museum of Transportation open until 5 p.m., U.S. 377 at Cresson, free; Gray Line sightseeing tours leave

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