

Washington County Commissioners, CAA In Dispute Over Road, Ditches at Airport



Picture illustrates complaint of pilots and operator of Beaverton airport that vehicle traffic on Jenkins road at north

end of runway will create dangerous situation, make field unusable for aircraft. The county is constructing a road

BEAVERTON (Special)—Beaverton's airport, long the center of lively and sometimes bitter controversy between fliers and airport operators on one side and local residents on the other, is in a new light which threatens to put it out of business.

County construction of a road and ditches at the north end of the two 2800-foot runways, will create cross traffic hazards which will close the property for use as a flying field, says Charles Bernard, operator of the airport, and pilots who use it.

The civil aeronautics administration says the county is in violation of federal statutes by failure to ask the CAA for per-

mission to improve long-life Jenkins road as an access to the newly developed Tektronix, Inc. industrial site.

Tektronix and Bernard asked the county to vacate Jenkins road and offered to provide an alternate right-of-way to provide a route which would not interfere with airport traffic and which would serve the needs of the some 400 Tektronix workers who will eventually be employed in the industrial tract.

Judge Rejects Plan

The alternate route would run from Walker road on the north parallel to the east side of the airport through the Tektronix site and on south to the Tualatin

Valley Highway. County Judge Joe Jaross said the alternate route was rejected because it would create hazardous traffic conditions at Walker road.

Jaross has indicated construction on the 2½-mile Jenkins road access to the industrial site despite the fact planes take off and come in for landings at necessarily low levels over traffic on the road.

"It's the fliers' worry—not ours. They are not supposed to fly over highways," said Jaross.

John Gebbia, CAA supervisor at Portland, said the county officials are technically "open to \$1000 to \$2000 fine, or one to three years in jail" for failure to notify the CAA they planned to construct the road and move equipment into the airport area. "The situation sounds pretty dangerous," he said.

Dorral Pennington, Tektronix official, said his company re-

gards the airport as an asset and a pre-existing facility, and that it did not want to create something which would destroy the airport. Pennington said he believed that opening of Jenkins road to traffic and possible four-laning of Cedar street on the east side of the airport would close use of the field for aircraft.

Bernard and spokesman for 125 pilots who use the Beaverton airport also said traffic on the Jenkins road would put the field out of business, and Bernard said the planes based there would be forced to move to the Hillsboro airport.

Bernard this summer won a fight in circuit court when a group of local residents sought to have the field closed on grounds that low-flying planes endangered their property. Bernard said there had been only one accident in 20 years.