

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

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WPA IMPROVEMENTS TO NATION'S AIRWAYS TO BE SHOWN AT NATIONAL AVIATION  
FORUM NEXT WEEK

The part played by the Work Projects Administration in the rapid advancement of civil and military aviation during the last five years will be graphically demonstrated in a series of exhibits which will go on display Sunday as a feature of the National Aviation Forum, which will be held throughout the week at Bolling Field, Washington, D. C.

Purpose of the exhibit, according to Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, will be to portray the varied means by which WPA workers have added nearly 5,000 miles of new airways to the nation's flying facilities since 1935. This has been achieved, he said, through the largest airport construction and improvement program of any agency in the country and by the erection of thousands of airway markers and other aids to air navigation.

"The importance of extending our airway facilities can hardly be overestimated at this time," Colonel Harrington said. "From both a civil and a military standpoint there is the greatest necessity for an integrated system of airports and landing fields connecting our important centers of population. Our present facilities are still short of the minimum goal set by most authorities.

"However, there has been great improvement in recent years in which the WPA has had a leading part. The exhibition to be held in connection with the National Aviation Forum will provide the public an opportunity to assess the importance of this phase of our program."

The National Aviation Forum, it was pointed out by its sponsors, will be "one of the most comprehensive exhibitions the world of aviation has yet known." Directed by a staff representing the Army, Navy, Civil Aeronautics Authority, commercial air lines and manufacturers, the Forum will present "a striking demonstration of this country's aerial might and potentialities." Many newer types of military and commercial planes, motors, instruments and accessories will be placed on display in and about the hangars of Bolling Field throughout the week.

The WPA exhibit, which will be housed in Hangar No. 2, will be featured by a scale model of the Chicago Municipal Airport which was developed by WPA at a cost in Federal funds of over \$7,000,000. This is representative, Colonel Harrington said, of some 35 major airports built by WPA workers, other notable examples being Lowry Field (Army), Denver, Colo.; March Field (Army), Riverside, Calif.; North Beach Airport (municipal), New York City, and McKellar Field (municipal), Nashville, Tenn.

In a recent inventory of physical accomplishments covering the period from July 1935, through December, 1939, it was shown that WPA had built a total of 197 new airports and landing fields and made improvements and additions to 372. Currently, 135 airport projects are in process of construction, of which 27 are for naval or military use.

Among other accomplishments noted in the WPA airport and airway program are the construction of 1,750,000 lineal feet of runways; the erection of 387 new hangars, shops and miscellaneous airport buildings, and improvements to 555; 24 new seaplane ramps and landing platforms constructed; the erection of 1,633 floodlights and 7,373 boundary lights, and the placing of 9,588 airway markers. Approximately 85 percent of all work on airports throughout the country in the last five years, it was pointed out, has been done by WPA workers.

One of the most interesting items in the WPA exhibit, officials stated, will be one showing the evolution of the modern airport. This will consist of accurate scale models of typical airports of the periods 1910, 1925 and 1940. There will also be models of planes, hangars and other contemporary airport equipment.

Other displays in the WPA exhibit will consist of samples of the types of flood and boundary lights installed by WPA at many airports throughout the country, types of airway markers used, enlarged photographs of a number of outstanding airport projects and a map showing the distribution of all types of airport and airway projects.