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Ludington Announces Acquisition of Crescent Field and Adjoining Ground in Pensauken Township

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Announcement that a new airport to be known as the Central Airport, Inc., would be established on the Crescent Boulevard, Camden, has been made by C. Townsend Ludington, chairman of the board of directors of the new project and president of the Ludington Philadelphia Flying Service, at present operating the Philadelphia Airport.

The acquisition of the final ground to complete the 200 acre track in Pensauken township was completed yesterday at a cost announced as $1,450,000. Part of the site is now occupied by the Crescent Air Service, Inc., which operates on sixty-seven acres but whose lease expires soon.

Work on the new field will be started soon after January 1, according to the statement, and equipment costing approximately $150,000 will be erected.

Although many of the men who are connected with the new company also hold offices in the company operating the Philadelphia Airport the new project is in no way connected with the city flying field, which will continue to be operated by the Ludington Flying Service.

Mr. Ludington added that it was impossible to find a centrally located site for an airport of sufficient size and safe enough surroundings on this side of the Delaware river without a large expenditure. He said that Philadelphia will eventually need not one but three of four airports.

"In selecting a site," said Mr. Ludington, "our group paid particular attention to the following features: Accessibility, freedom from ground and river fogs and smoke, safe unobstructed approaches unlikely to be spoiled by the erection of high tension wires, tall buildings, etc.; area great enough to permit of 2,500 feet or longer runways in all directions; ease of drainage and nearness to routes traveled by the public."

"I believe it is important to emphasize the fact that our purchase of the Crescent Airport site, to be rechristened the Central Airport, bears no relation to the rather unfortunate conditions which have called so much attention to the Philadelphia Airport this last spring and summer. The first purchases of this new site were made early in 1926, before any perfectly curable defects in the Philadelphia Airport had shown up.

"The Ludington Philadelphia Fying Service is not concerned in this new airport and will continue the operation of the Philadelphia Airport under its agreement with the city.

"Prejudices in favor of any one city, state or county were set aside and the question of comparative cost was considered important. It was felt that the cities of Philadelphia and Camden deserve the benefit of a first class airport, owned and managed by people whose knowledge and experience of aviation cannot be questioned, whose outside aeronautical connections will assure Philadelphia and Camden consideration by those who have already shown their ability as successful pioneers in air transport."

N. S. Ludington, brother of C. Townsend Ludington, is president of Central Airport, Inc., R. S. Saltus, Jr., who is vice president of Ludington Philadelphia Flying Service, is first vice president of the new corporation; R. P. Hewitt, general manager of the Philadelphia Airport, is second vice president; W. C. Roberts is treasurer and C. C. Savage, Jr., is secretary.

The board of directors in addition to the officers include C. M. Keys, president of the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Co., Charles L. Lawrance, president of the Wright Aeronautical Corp.; Edgar N. Gott, president of the Keystone Aircraft Corp.; Henry B. DuPont, of the Bellanca Aircraft, Inc.; Wright S. Ludington, John J. Mitchell, treasurer of the National Air Transport; Harold F. Pitcairn, president of the Pitcairn Aviation, Inc.; J. Brooks B. Parker, J. A. Sisto, Stevens Heckscher and Eric de Stoelberch.