

Downtown Miami Flying Strip

Urged by Detroit Air Leader

By NED AITCHISON
Herald Aviation Writer

Detroit's current airport headaches should be a warning to Miami to acquire a conveniently located downtown landing strip for executive and private aircraft while land still is available at reasonable prices, the president of the Detroit aviation commission said Wednesday.

In an address before the Greater Miami Aviation Assn. at the Seven Seas, William Packer — owner of Pontiac dealerships in Flint, Detroit and Miami — said:

"My suggestion to you would be to get it quick. Or you will end up, as Detroit has, with landing facilities so far out in the woods as to be nearly useless."

Packer is a former vice president of the Packard Motor Car Co., and one of the nation's senior business and military fliers with more than 10,000 hours logged. He told of Detroit's ef-

forts to get a more centrally located major air terminal.

"Willow Run is 45 miles out — a \$10 taxi ride to town — and Wayne Airport, in the same general southwestern area, is only 8 miles closer," he said.

"We have battled long and hard for new facilities, and we did acquire land in the northeast section where an airport could serve 2,000,000 people instead of the relatively limited number now accessible to Wil-

low Run. But we lost out by a single vote in the City Council.

"I hope Miami succeeds in getting a downtown landing strip before it is too late. You have one fine, large airport here, but it is so loaded it is difficult to get into it and out again."

Packer, whose Florida home is at Hillsboro Beach, was introduced by an old Air Force friend, Col. Varley Young, now a Miami merchandising counsel.

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