

582

STORIES of New Jersey

U.S. Route 1, provided the best facilities in the metropolitan area for a central air terminal. Many railway connections were available, and weather conditions were favorable.

WORK BEGINS

Construction of an aviation field on 420 acres of meadowland began in February 1928. The city was engaged in a program of expansion and was enjoying a building boom which not only furnished material for the field but also stimulated public support for its construction. The mud and silt pumped from the channel being deepened at Port Newark soon buried the marshes. The fill, 12 feet deep, after draining for months, finally hardened to clay. Dry earth for a top layer was obtained from excavations throughout the city and later from the city subway in the bed of the old Morris Canal. By the middle of September the field was being used for daily air service, the first commercial flight having taken place on August 1, 1928. It was not until October 1, however, that Newark Airport was officially opened.



A corner of the huge hangar being built for the City by the WPA