



WHERE THEY WANT JETS—Sandy road runs through Lebanon State Forest, one of enormous areas of Pine Barrens suggested by Burlington officials for jetport site.



Newark News Photos

EDGE OF THE FOREST—Man-made dam retains water on edge of state forest forming one of Lebanon Lakes, near one of few homes developments near forest.

## Jetport Might Be Blocked If Swamp Became a Park

By ANDREW L. PINCUS

Lawyers for the state and Morris County are scrutinizing the law to see whether dedication of the Great Swamp as a public park would make it inviolable for an airport.

The research has grown out of a suggestion by Mayor Thomas T. Taber of Madison that the swamp-land be bought up by public subscription and dedicated as a park. This, he said, might prevent it from being put to any other use, even by an agency which, like the Port of New York Authority, has the power of condemnation.

Scarcely noticed last week amid

tention from Salvatore A. Bontempo, state commissioner of conservation and economic development; Elmer S. King, county counsel, and Eugene F. Hillery, County Park Commission counsel. Bontempo, who has taken no stand on the 220-million-dollar airport plan, said he is looking into the question as a matter of general pertinency to conservation work.

The county attorneys, however, have a more specific and urgent reason to be concerned. The airport would disrupt long-range plans devised for the swamp by

10-square-mile swamp a valuable conservation area and natural basin to control flooding along Passaic River. The Park Commission's 1957 master plan envisioned a strip park, up to a mile wide along the Loantaka and Blairstown brooks in the swamp from Greentown Village to the county line near Basking Ridge, a distance of about seven miles.

The park would be kept largely in its natural state because of its "unique areas with many varieties of wildlife found only in a very few sections of the east," according to the master plan.

lands immune from commercial development. This is also the opinion of Freeholder Norman J. Griffiths, a former assemblyman, who suggested the county legal study.

Two basic legal questions are involved, according to lawyers familiar with the situation. First, does such a law or precedent exist? And, if it does, is it applicable to the PA, a bistate quasi-governmental agency?

Even if there is no such law or precedent, it would be possible for the Legislature to pass the necessary legislation before receiving the PA's plans, probably in 1961, it is suggested. Whether the PA is a commercial enterprise will probably be determined, lawyers believe, by a current suit in which the Borough of Moonachie is trying to tax PA property there as a commercial use.

### Another Question

Another question that must be answered is precedence in con-

demnation rights. Without additional legislation, that is, would it be possible for the federal or state government to exercise prior rights over the PA? If so, the land could be given to one of them after being bought up locally.

Taber said he has already received several offers of contributions to the proposed fund. What must be decided before they may be accepted, however, is who is to administer it.

Taber suggested that the Park Commission assume the responsibility. The commission has not met since he made the suggestion, but Mrs. Robert L. Lloyd, its secretary, said she thought it would be glad to consider the possibility.

Meanwhile, George A. Reznicek, Planning Board chairman, said he would recommend to the board that it join the freeholders in formal opposition to the airport. The PA's proposal would pose serious problems of flood con-

trol and water supply that it would be up to the county, not the PA, to solve, probably at great expense Reznicek declared.

## Auto Hits Grave Stone, Rider Dies

CARBONDALE, Pa. (AP) — A car crashed through a cemetery gate on a dead-end street yesterday and landed on a tombstone. One occupant of the vehicle was killed and the other injured seriously.

Judy Hoyle, 21, was dead on arrival at a hospital after the accident in the Maplewood Cemetery just a short distance from her home.

The driver, William Gallagher, 23, was listed in critical condition, at a hospital.

Police said the car had careened through the gate, jumped a flight of stairs leading down into the cemetery, and halted on the tombstone.

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