

# The Northwest News

Glen Rock  
Midland Park

Ridgewood  
Ho-Ho-Kus

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1982

Franklin Lakes  
Wyckoff  
Waldwick  
Saddle River

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Forty years go this was the toughest plane in the sky and these guys took her on some of her toughest missions. See the story on Pages 8 and 9.

## Midland Park house hit by four bullets

By John Koster

MIDLAND PARK—The home of the Robert Van Gents at 260 Vreeland Avenue was hit by four small-caliber bullets last Sunday morning. One bullet penetrated the screen door and entered the living quarters of the house, hitting a picture on the wall.

Police are investigating the shooting at Vreeland Avenue, which took place about a half hour after a similar incident against a house in Pompton Lakes, which was hit by five small-caliber bullets about 1 a.m. Sunday morning, half an hour before the Van Gent house was riddled in Midland Park. Since both Robert Van Gent and the owner of the house in Pompton Lakes are supervisors at a strife-torn factory in Haledon, police suspect that the shooting forays are linked to a labor dispute in Passaic County.

Midland Park Police received a call from the Van Gents about 9 a.m. on Sunday morning, reporting what the couple thought were bullet holes in their home on Vreeland Avenue. Investigation disclosed that four bullets had in fact struck the house the night before. The Van Gents said they heard noises they thought were fireworks about 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

Two of the bullets struck house shingles. One hit a planter and passed through to strike the metal plate on the far side of the planter. This slug

(Continued on Page 14)

## Pre-trial talks on Gan case

RIDGEWOOD—All sides in the taxpayer's suit against Tax Assessor Philomena Gan met in the Newark chambers of Administrative Law Judge Steven Lefelt Tuesday and will meet there again Friday to ponder a possible resolution of the taxpayer's demand for her ouster.

Mrs. Gan, whose ouster has been the target of the taxpayer lawsuit because she presided over the highly controversial 1980 re-assessment of Ridgewood, expressed surprise last week when the

Village Council quietly voted by resolution to seek a replacement for the tax assessor -- tacitly indicating, without mentioning her by name, that they didn't expect her to be around much longer. Officials, however, expressed surprise at her expressions of surprise when they learned of them.

Village Manager Larry Worth would not details of the hearing.

"Nobody has waived any rights," Worth said on Tuesday.

## \$8,000 in loot recovered

GLEN ROCK—Police report a wave of break and entries with the beginning of the August vacation season, but good luck and an honest citizen helped the Glen Rock detective bureau resolve at least one of them with a recovery of \$8,000 in stolen goods.

Detective Lon Hotchkiss, who investigated a break and entry into Circle Design on Harris-town Road on July 29 got a break of his own when an employee of the Circle Design Company, buying some tools for his own use in Emerson, recognized a digital read-out counter, a tool used in operating a lathe, as the same one that had disappeared from work. A quick follow-up by Hotchkiss not only recovered the digital read-out tool but five large tool chests also stolen in the same break-and-entry. The digital read-out counter had been sold to the unwitting Emerson shop owner by the thieves, who were identified, and Hotchkiss has arrested an 18-year-old and a juvenile in the case, besides recovering nearly all the loot for a total of about \$8,000 in recovered stolen goods from the theft.

Police say there have been five burglaries this far into August, an upswing over July.

## Wyckoff readies "sign-off" rules

WYCKOFF—The Township Committee has requested Township Attorney Ed Torack to draft an ordinance mandating that large illuminated signs be shut off from dawn to dusk when the stores that own the signs are closed.

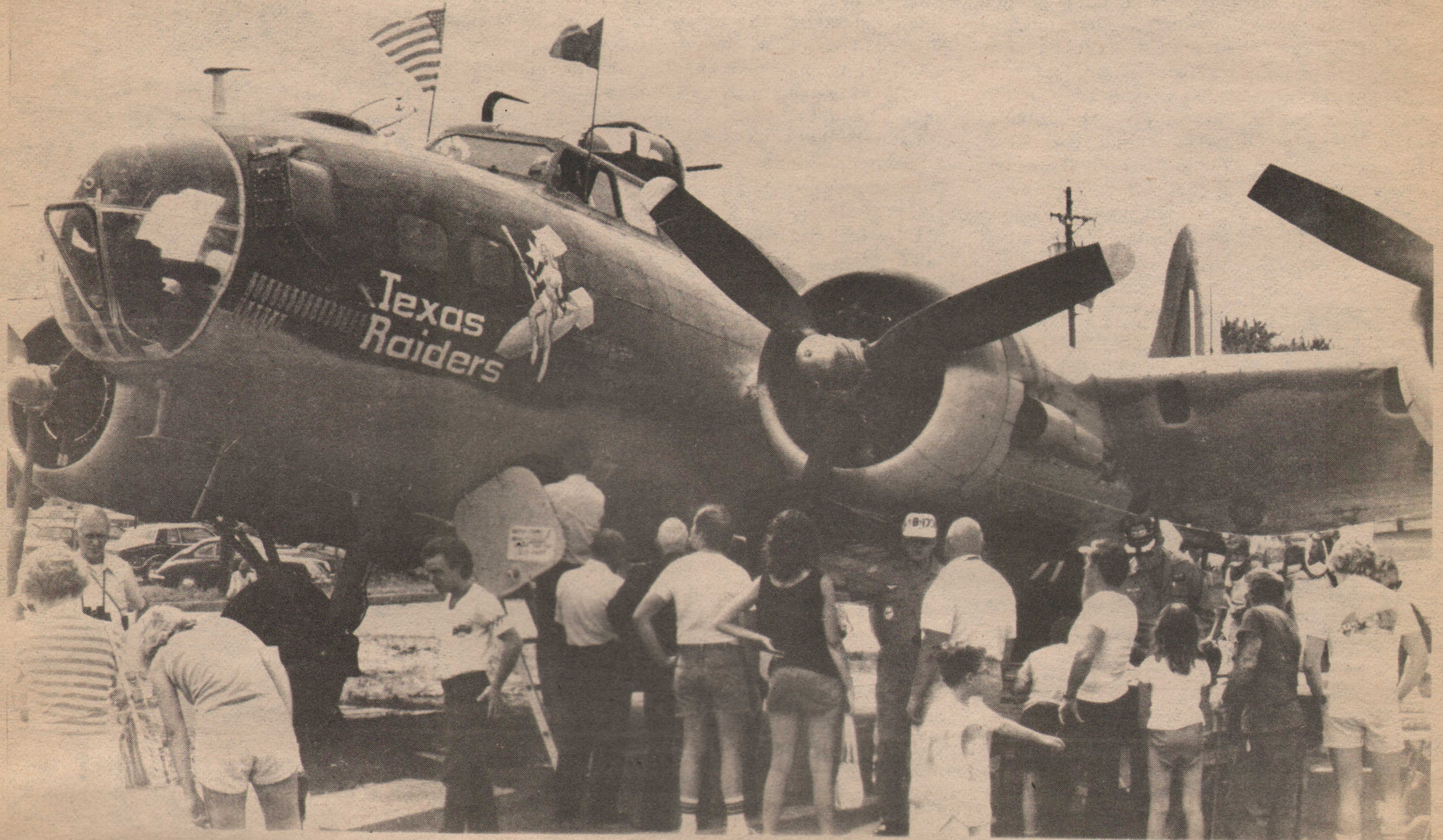
The ordinance would tentatively bear on signs which face residential zones. Township Committeemen said at their work session Tuesday night that some areas are beginning to take on a honky-tonk appearance due to proliferation of illuminated signs which are sometimes left on all night, or at least long after the end of business hours.

The Committee also discussed allowing dance studio operations in a B-1A zone, (Continued on Page 14)



What's going on here? See Pages 3 and 4

# A MEMORY WITH WINGS OF STEEL



She was the symbol of an America that could take it -- staggering in with two engines gone and gaping holes in the fuselage, mauled but not destroyed in sky battles with the awesome technology of the Luftwaffe.

She was the B-17 -- 40 years ago, the weapon that helped restore America's self-confidence after the shock of Pearl Harbor and the debacle in the Phillipines.

Today, her once-awesome size seems ordinary, her 300-mph top speed ludicrous. But the 12,000 B-17s that flew from British bases to blast the industrial heartland of the Third Reich wrote a chapter in the history of World War II that will long be remembered.

Last week, the Confederate Air Force, which maintains historical aircraft in flying condition for the enjoyment of the public and the delight of its own members, flew a restored B-17 into Teterboro Airport for three days. Bill Dolan, Ridge-wood's 1981 Independence Day Parade Grand Marshal and a flying veteran of both World Wars, was able to get there with two of his buddies from World War II, Jim Fisher of Paramus, a B-17 tail gunner, and Frank Vallone of Oradell, a B-17 ball turret gunner credited with shooting down both an ME-109 and an FW-190, the two top-line German fighters of the mid-war years.

Dolan, who trained as a pilot with the French during World War I, served as a squadron intelligence officer during the Second World War and voluntarily flew nine combat missions over Nazi-occupied France. Fisher flew 31 missions, Vallone 32, most of them in 1944 over Berlin.

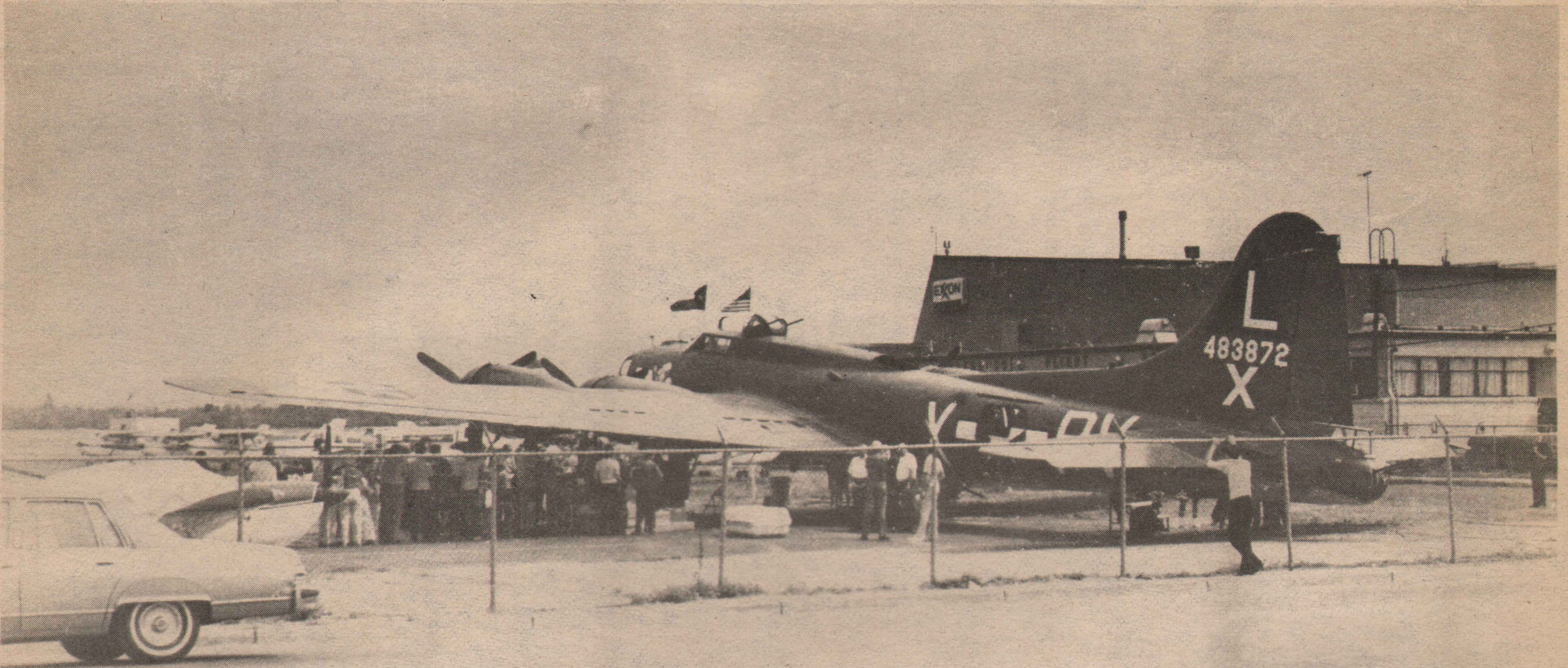
"There was a lot of flak, very heavy and very accurate," Vallone says. "They had some excellent people working for them."

As a sort of keepsake, he carries a copy of Randall Jarrell's brief poem about "The Ball Turret Gunner" in his wallet. The last line reads: "When I died, they washed me out of my turret with a hose."



The gallant Confederates found Bill Dolan, 86, a seat under a shady wing. At right, Vallone at the waist gunner's window. Below, the ball turret.

# VETERANS REMEMBER THE B-17



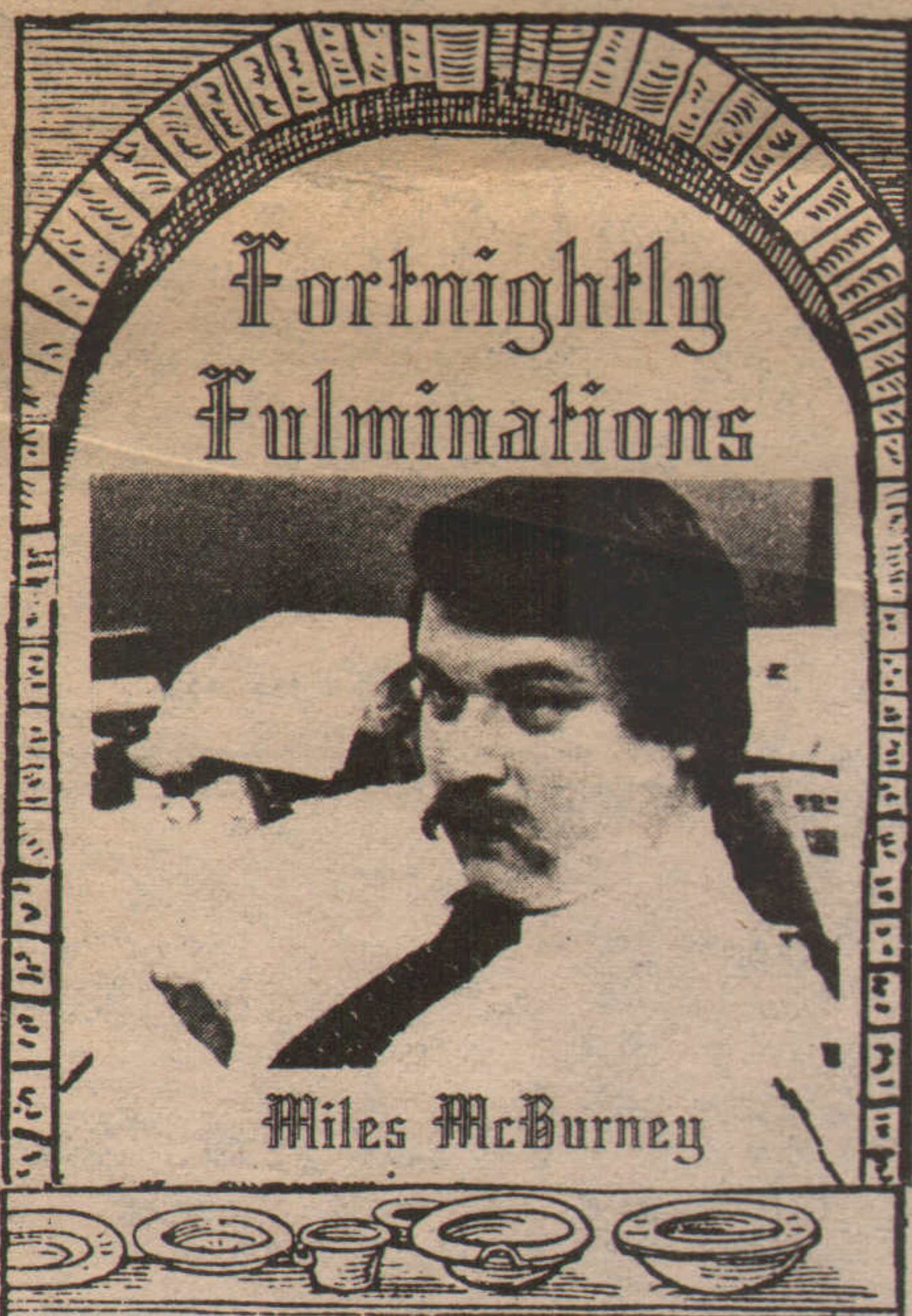
*No giant by modern standards, the Flying Fortress looks pretty big next to the cars at Teterboro Airport.*

Casualties were no joke in 1943-45, when the 10-man crews flew missions to bomb German industrial sites in an attempt to destroy Nazi war production and shorten the war. The British, by contrast, concentrated on devastating population centers by massive night

raids and wholesale use of incendiary bombs to create firestorms in cities like Hamburg and Dresden. American daylight bombing led to appalling casualties among U.S. bomber crews -- daytime raids were actually discontinued from August of 1943 to May of 1944 due to

unacceptable losses in men and planes -- but in the long run, attacks on German oil product did help to shorten the war in Europe.

To the men who flew her, the B-17 will always symbolize an era of valor in the skies over war-torn Europe.



It's been said that people continue to rise until they reach the level of their incompetence. That may not always be true, but it does apply to a certain megalomaniac who happens to own a baseball team.

In the course of his latest tirade last week, this overgrown brat self-importantly proclaimed that he had been involved in sports for 30 or 40 years and that he knew a few things.

Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to make the distinction between knowing a few things and knowing everything.

About 30 years ago, this overstuffed Napoleon was an assistant football coach for a college team. That, in fact, was the last time that a sports job was his full-time occupation. Since then, he has primarily been a backer - the money man who signs the checks after being advised by experts he hired to run the organization.

Our boy did very well at this. Perhaps too well. After several years of being a good check writer, the bombastic boat builder has convinced himself he's a brilliant strategist. His team of front office experts have been

abuse, replaced by cronies and sycophants.

Now, when things are going badly, as predictably they would, this middle-aged brat throws yet another temper tantrum. Like a frustrated spoiled child, he smashes his toys and screams that it's everybody else's fault.

While I feel sorry for Gene Michael now that he's been fired again, I'd have a lot more respect for him if he would tell the Ohio orangutan to take a bat and stick it where the sun don't shine. Instead, Michael is willing to submit to another public humiliation and remain a loyal -- if rather sullen -- retainer. That's his problem.

In firing his manager, our hero explained that it wasn't really the manager's fault the team was performing badly, except that the manager didn't seem to be able to inspire the minions. The real fault, he bellowed, is that the players are dogging it. Players are not working to the limit of their ability; they're paid too much and have become complacent. In other words, the PLAYERS are spoiled!

Coming from almost anyone else, you'd at least have to listen to those contentions. But when the brat in the Bronx talks about other people being spoiled, mine eyes glaze over.

Who decided the team had to have Ken Griffey for a million a year? Or Dave Collins at almost as much? Or John Mayberry? Or the rest of the less spectacular failures? If he got snookered it was his own damn fault. In some cases the players clearly weren't worth what he offered and have no place being on a club that has pretensions of being champions. Others would perhaps live up to their billing if they could keep sharp by playing more often. Still others don't seem, psychologically, to

## A love letter from a happy fan...

Look what this genius decides to do now! He wants to trade two players who have been disappointing this year -- Bucky Dent and Tommy John. Despite this year's records, both are proven veterans who could help many other clubs. They are good trade bait, if that's the only use you can find for them.

But for Dent our boy goes after Lee Mazzilli, a mediocre outfielder-first baseman. What is he trying to do, corner the market on that species? In the last couple of years, his team has gone through at least a dozen second-rate outfielders and first basemen.

For John, he wants a Blue Cross Special, an injury-prone reliever by the name of Bruce Kison. If Kison can stay out of the hospital, he might make a difference to a team, but there's little reason to believe that will happen. As for Mazzilli, he could start for a lot of second division clubs, but he simply doesn't have the tools to be an everyday asset on a contender.

Superpower says he wished he could have fired the team instead of the manager. I wish WE could fire the owner. Since we can't, I have a suggestion to him: Go back to writing checks. For you, George, baseball is all in the wrists.

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