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Courier-Journal Photo by George Bailey

REVERSE ENTHUSIASM about getting the Air Force academy was plain in Saluda, small community in the heart of the proposed site near Madison, Ind. The three pupils of Saluda's school, background, are, left to right, Randal Hardy, Judith Carroll, and Betty McCormick. The "Wooden Go Home" sign refers to Arthur Wooden, executive secretary of the Madison Chamber of Commerce.

## Group To Choose Air Academy Site Gives 2 Spots Near Here Quick Look

### Any Impressions Are Kept Secret

By JOE CREASON  
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Madison, Ind., April 29.—The five-man commission appointed to select a site for the \$126,000,000 Air Force academy spent today on a hurried once-and-over inspection tour of two proposed locations near here.

One site borders along the Ohio River in Indiana a few miles downstream from here, while the other lies almost directly across the river in Trimble County, Kentucky.

After spending some 7 hours touring through the two areas, none of the commissioners would do more than make generalized

statements in summing up their impressions.

"Both sites are beautiful and we will give them our serious consideration," said Merrill C. Meigs, vice-president of the Hearst Corporation of Chicago and one of the commissioners, as the group boarded their four-engine Constellation to fly to Langley Field, Va., for the night.

#### Inspections Are Hurried

Other commission members include Dr. Virgil M. Hancher, president of the State University of Iowa; Charles A. Lindbergh, a brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve; General Carl A. Spaatz, first chief of staff of the Air Force, and Lt. Gen. H. R. Harmon, special assistant to the chief of staff.

Actually, because of the tight time schedule, the commissioners were able to do little more than

glance hurriedly at the sites as they drove by. During the morning a seven-car delegation from the Madison Chamber of Commerce escorted them through the 10,000-acre site area in Indiana. After lunch at the Elks Club here, Louisville Mayor Broaddus, members of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce and officials of the Kentucky Agriculture and Industrial Development Board took over and guided them through the Trimble County section.

Except for one slight incident, the inspection trip was entirely a routine matter. At Saluda, a small community 12 miles from Madison and in the very heart of the suggested Indiana location, signs of protest against locating the academy in the area were seen.

There schoolchildren had stretched across the road a crudely painted cardboard sign which read: "Go Back to Madison—Don't Take Our School—Save Saluda."

Madison Chamber of Commerce members explained later that Saluda is the one community in the site area that has protested against the academy. Everywhere else, they hastened to add, citizens are working to locate the academy in this section.

"We're proud people around here," said one Saluda resident. "We don't have too much, but we don't want to be run off from what we do have."

#### Protest Petition Sent

"We've sent a petition of protest with over 300 names on it to our congressman, Earl Wilson. These school children and their signs just reflect the way we all feel around here."

The commission arrived by plane from Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, shortly after 10 a.m. today. The group had flown to Dayton after spending yesterday inspecting two other Kentucky sites in Mercer and Jessamine counties.

The big plane landed on the airstrip at the Jefferson Proving Ground, an Army ordnance testing area five miles north of this city. Up almost until the time the plane began to circle for the landing, firing on the test ranges continued without a let up. And the whooping of the 105-millimeter shells was resumed before the commission had climbed into waiting cars for the inspection tour.

#### Take Look at River

From the Proving Ground the convoy drove to the Madison State Hospital for a quick stop and look at the river. Then it skirted Clifty Falls State Park and moved to the Hanover College campus. One corner of the suggested Indiana location reaches to within half a mile of the campus.

The tour stopped on the scenic bluff-top campus for a short briefing. General Lindbergh in particular seemed impressed there and asked numerous questions about where the site began, ownership of the land, distances, and the like.

The next stop was some miles down the river at the home of Dr. William Shuck, Madison surgeon. His home is on a high bluff overlooking the broad valley of the river. Here the commissioners huddled for a brief whispering session before heading back to Hanover and down into the river bottom land for a look at the site from river level.

#### Kentucky Site Across River

Ironically, at this point the proposed Kentucky location was directly across the half-mile-wide river.

The tour continued down the dusty bottom road for some five miles, then wound back up the bluff to Saluda and the reverse-English sign reception.



Principal, John A. Danglade, 1952-1957