

# Alabama taxes low, Wallace says at airport dedication

BY HUGH MERRILL  
News staff writer

PELL CITY, Sept. 17 — Gov. George C. Wallace told a crowd of about 300 at the dedication of the Pell City Airport Saturday that Alabama pays less tax "per person" than any state in the nation with exception of two.

He added that less than 5 per cent of tax revenue in Alabama is used to pay off debt.

Mrs. Wallace, Democratic candidate for governor, did not appear with her husband at his speech during a rain that held down his audience.

He said she was home in Montgomery packing his clothes for the governor's conference in Kentucky.

In response to Republican criticism that Wallace has placed the state heavily in debt, the governor pointed out that money was borrowed to build roads and improve schools in order to attract new industry.

"AT LEAST WE didn't build bridges in Yugoslavia or Ghana or Egypt for Tito and Nasser, not us in Alabama," he asserted. "We would have more money to do things if they didn't carry it all up to Washington and throw it away."

The governor said that an additional \$200 million worth of industry will be announced for Alabama before Jan. 1.

He said that statements he made in the past which had received criticism in other sections of the country were now being echoed by the mayor of

Chicago and the governor of Illinois.

Wallace pointed out that Illinois officials had said it was taking too much of the highway patrol's time to handle racial problems. He had blamed demonstrators and the federal courts for an increase in highway deaths during racial demonstrations in Alabama.

THE GOVERNOR continued to attack leaders in both the Republican and Democratic parties.

"None of them have ever paid any attention to me and you," Wallace said. "I want to hurt both of them. They've spat upon me. And there ain't a dime's worth of difference between either Democrats or Republicans in Washington."

He was equally critical of Lyndon Johnson, Earl Warren, Hubert Humphrey, Richard Nixon, Robert Kennedy, Nelson Rockefeller and Jacob Javits.

"If you put them all in a sack and shake them up you can't tell the difference between them when they fall out, so I say grab them by the nape of the neck and stick them back in," Wallace said.

As usual, the governor was critical of what he called "the sissy britches press." He said they were "ashamed of Alabama and had an inferiority complex."

Finally, the governor said his wife had picked out a job for him if she is elected in Novem-

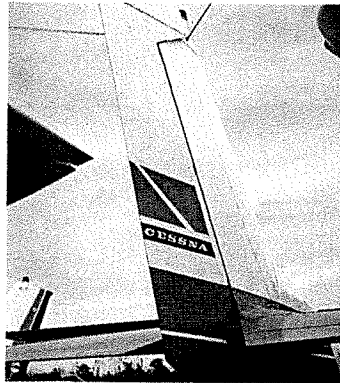
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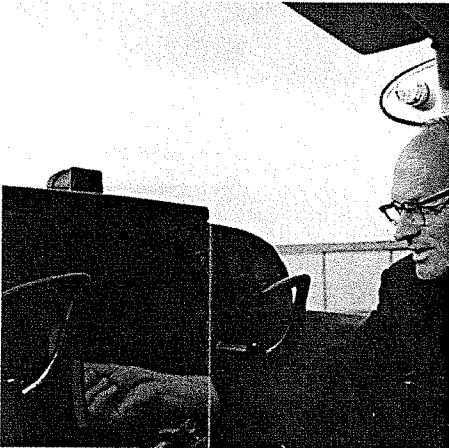
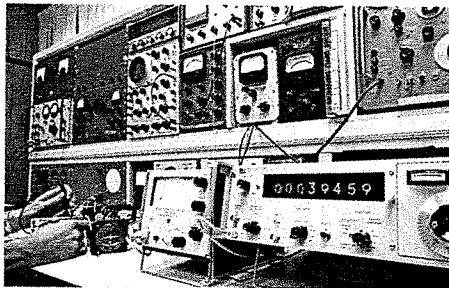
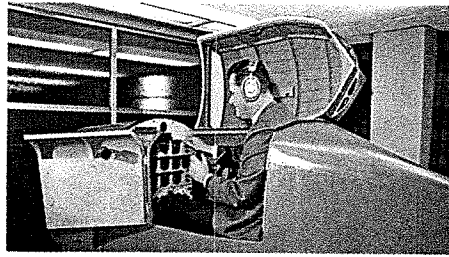
# AIRPORT



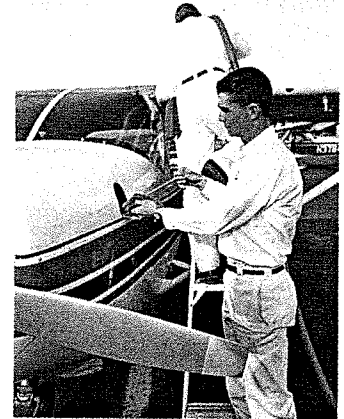
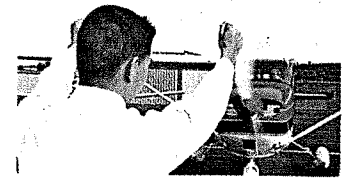
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## SERVICE

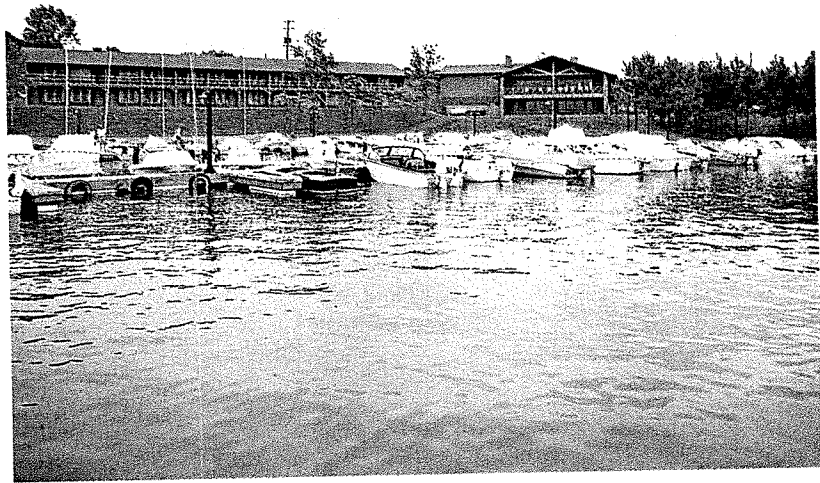
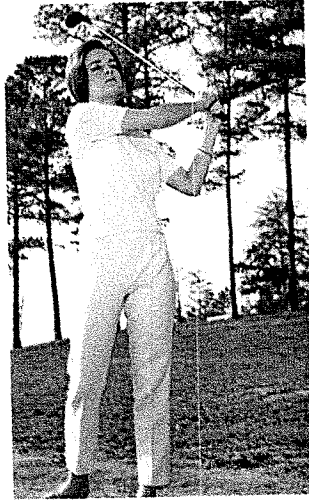


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Birmingham, 322-1301

# Talk by Wallace to dedicate airport

*B'ham News*

PELL CITY, Sept. 14 — Gov. George C. Wallace will speak Saturday at dedication ceremonies for the new St. Clair County Airport near here.

The dedication program, which begins at 2:30 p.m. at the airport, will also feature an air show starring stunt pilot "Bevo" Howard of Charleston, S.C., the Birmingham Parachute Club, and a helicopter company of the Alabama National Guard.

The airport, built as a joint project by the Alabama Department of Aeronautics and St. Clair County Commissioners Court and operated by K. V. Aviation, Inc., boasts an administration building, a large maintenance hangar and 12 individual hangars. An expansion program is already underway to construct 12 additional private hangars.

The 4,200-foot runway will accommodate twin-engine aircraft and small business jets.

Headquartered at the St. Clair Airport is an FAA-approved flight school which now has 40 students in training for pilots' licenses.

Saturday's dedication program will include an official welcome from Hoyt B. Hamilton, probate judge of St. Clair County; remarks from Kyle Vess, president of K. V. Aviation Inc., and comments from Asa Rountree, past di-

rector of the Alabama Department of Aviation.

The traditional ribbon cutting will follow Wallace's address. Ceremonies will conclude with the air show.

# Liberty

from Page 1

KV Aviation Inc. in Pell City and other personal credits.

VESS, CONTACTED at his home, declined comment on what he said was the advice of his attorney, Drew L. Redden.

Vess surrendered to sheriff's deputies at the County Courthouse Wednesday night after 10 felony charges of larceny were filed, accusing him of ordering rebates on premium overpayments to a non-existent company — Tomoka Investment Co., Tampa, Fla.—and converting the rebates to his own use.

The initial charges covered only a period from April-to-July this year at a loss of about \$40,000, but Samford said "misappropriations" had occurred for six or seven years.

Samford today issued a blanket letter to stockholders



FRANK SAMFORD JR.

of Liberty National, assuring them that systems and procedures throughout the company are being carefully investigated.

THE FULL TEXT of the letter was as follows:

"On Wednesday, Aug. 23, it was discovered by an officer of the company that a number of company checks had apparently been issued to persons not entitled to receive them. We immediately notified the insurance company carrying our fidelity bond and with their assistance began a full investigation.

"By Tuesday, Aug. 29, it

## Liberty sets loss at nearly one million

BY JACK HARTSFIELD  
News staff writer

Officials at Liberty National Life Insurance Company in Birmingham today set its loss at \$980,325 in the wake of a bogus "premium refund" swindle and the arrest of the company's former assistant secretary.

Frank P. Samford Jr., president of the firm, disclosed the initial figure this morning, but emphasized that the total loss will not be known until a massive audit is completed.

Kyle K. Vess, 35, the former assistant secretary now free on \$10,000 bail on 10 separate larceny charges, reportedly has volunteered to liquidate his assets.

Samford said Vess's holdings are now in the possession of Liberty National, including real estate, the rotund church deacon's controlling stocks in

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was clear that a very large sum of money had been misappropriated over a period of six or seven years. On that date, all information in our possession was made available to the Jefferson County District Attorney and a general statement was released to the press.

"On Wednesday, Aug. 30, Kyle K. Vess was arrested and charged with grand larceny and obtaining money under false pretenses. Mr. Vess had been an employe of the company from 1955 until Aug. 24, 1967.

"HE HAD SERVED as manager of the ordinary renewal premium department and at the time of his leaving held the title of assistant secretary to the company.

"The exact amount of the loss has not been finally determined, but at this time it appears that the total was \$980,325. A firm of independent certified public accountants is now in the processing of conducting an audit.

"It appears that \$231,263 of this total was misappropriated during 1967. This amount is more than covered by our fidelity bond. All losses suffered in prior years have already been reflected in our statements for those years.

"This means that the misappropriation will have no adverse effect on the company's surplus or on its 1967 earnings.

"AS A MATTER of fact, it appears that the net result of recoveries by the company will be to increase surplus by over \$300,000. Total surplus at the end of 1966 was over \$53 million.

"Needless to say, we regret the necessity of reporting this unfortunate development to you. You can be sure that we are carefully investigating all of our systems and procedures to see if any changes are indicated as a result of this situation.

"Obviously the company's ability to carry out its obligations has not been affected in any way, and business is continuing as usual.

"We are confident that 1967 will be one of the best years in the company's history—Sincerely, Frank P. Samford Jr., president."

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*B'ham News August 31, 1969*  
**Insurance exec arrested  
on 10 larceny counts**

A rotund 35-year-old church deacon was free on \$10,000 bail today in Birmingham after surrendering to sheriff's officers in what may become the city's largest embezzlement case.

Kyle K. Vess, a well known Alabama aviation enthusiast, was charged Wednesday with 10 counts of grand larceny and obtaining money under false pretense from Liberty National Life Insurance Co. while auditors continued poring over accounts expected to reveal a \$1-million loss.

Vess, who reportedly resigned from the firm about 10 days ago as department manager of premium returns, walked somberly into the nearly empty County Courthouse about 9 p.m. Wednesday, with his attorney, Drew L. Redden.

THE 420-POUND former chairman of the board of management of the Five Points South YMCA was booked and released on bond pending preliminary hearing.

The 10 warrants issued for his arrest involved an estimated \$40,000 from April-July this year paid out as returns on overpayment of premiums authorized by Vess to what investigators claim was a non-existent company.

Dist. Atty. Earl Morgan's staff, working closely with a team of accountants at the insurance company, charged that Vess, under false pretenses, had ordered the sum paid to Tomoka Investment Co., in Tampa, Fla.

Investigators claim there is no such company and that

Vess converted the premium rebates to his own use.

Frank P. Samford Jr., president of Liberty National Life, initially said the losses extended over a six year period.

WHILE AUDITORS will continue the search for discrepancies in the accounts, any disclosures dating back more than three years cannot be used for prosecution purposes. The statute of limitation on grand larceny is three years.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Joe G. Barnard, who spent the day probing the case at Liberty National before the warrants were issued, said four other employees at the firm were involved in the routine handling of the payments, but were unaware of the circumstances.

Vess, a promoter of the

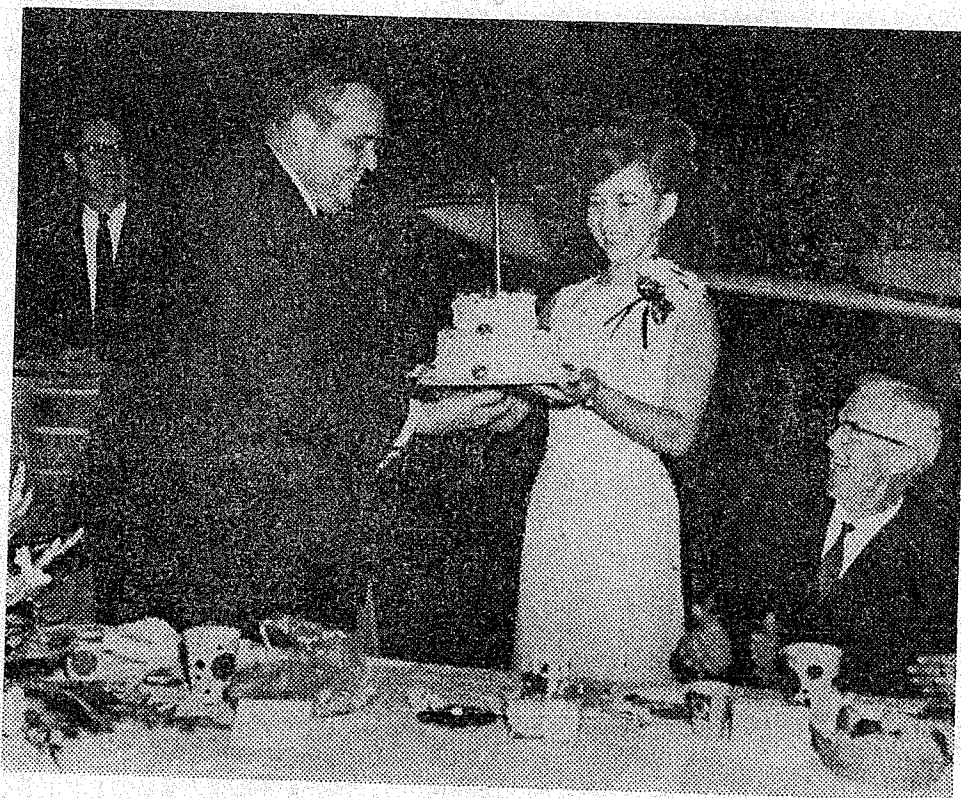


**KYLE K. VESS**

Southeastern Aircraft Exposition in Birmingham, is also president of K-V Aviation, a private flying firm in Pell City, which leases the airport there and operates it for St. Clair County.

He declined comment to reporters when he surrendered at the sheriff's office.

Vess has been a Sunday school teacher, sang baritone in the choir and served on the board of deacons of Southside Baptist Church.



## Happy Birthday, etc.

To mark KV Aviation's Miss Brenda Miller presented KV President Kyle Vess with a cake and one candle. Seated is Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton who announced the new Airport members.

# Airport Marks 1st Anniversary

Some 315 customers and guests helped KV Aviation celebrate its First Anniversary at the St. Clair County Airport recently with a buffet dinner and awards night.

The catered affair was held in KV Aviation's large maintenance hangar and featured service awards and recognitions of KV employees and customers.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement by Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton of the formation of a St. Clair County Airport Authority.

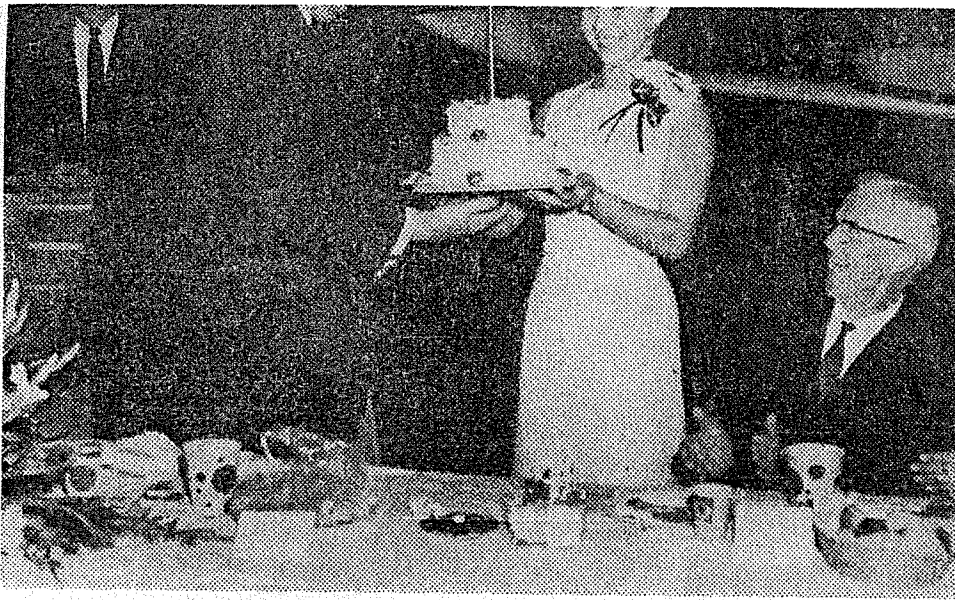
Members of the authority are T. C. Casady, Jr., E. A. Borders, W. H. Harmon, J. B. Martin, Jr. and W. W. Mize Jr.

Kyle Vess, president of KV

tion for being the leading aircraft salesman in total dollar profit and Mr. Tuggle's was for "extraordinary service."

One unexpected award was the presentation of a bronzen plaque to Terry McCall commemorating the fact that Mr. McCall was the first student of KV Aviation.

Among those sitting at the head table, other than Mr. Vess and Judge Hamilton and Mrs. Hamilton were Mr. and Mrs. Harley Clapsaddle and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Boynton. Mr. Clapsaddle and Mr. Boynton were representing the General Aviation District office in Birmingham; Mr. Bob Thompson, rep-



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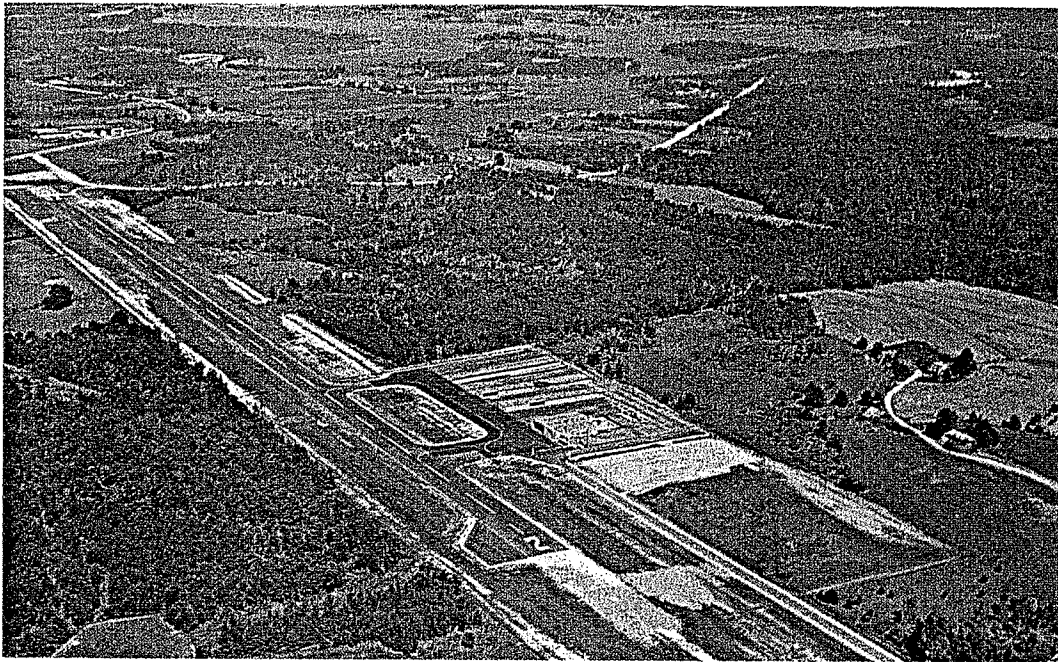
Kyle Vess, president of KV Aviation, made the presentation of service pins to all employees. He also presented general manager Forest Elmore and Gene Tuggle, head of the customer service department, each with a silver tea and coffee service. Its First Anniversary at the

airport for being the leading aircraft salesman in total dollar profit and Mr. Tuggle's was for "extraordinary service."

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The evening was climaxed with the singing of "Happy Birthday" and a presentation of a one-candle cake to Mr. Vess.



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# Vital for industry

# St. Clair Co. Airport



## **Executives Use St. Clair Airport**

At the St. Clair County Airport, operated under lease Air Service, there is a plane for the past six years byyyyyyyy Jolie owned by

changes. "We aren't fast," says Dale, "but we are thorough.

At the port, pilots have available 100 octane fuel and jets

The



**efficient operation**



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Serving  
St. Clair

a trucking executive, another

## Executives Use St. Clair Airport

At the St. Clair County Airport, operated under lease Air Service, there is a plane for the past six years byyyyyyyy Jolle owned by a University official, one flown by a trucking executive, another belonging to a local manufacturing firm, and a host of others who enjoy the convenience, ease and comfort of flying in and out of St. Clair County.

For anyone looking for a place to nestle his craft to earth or lift it to the sky on a quick business jaunt or casual pleasure cruise, St. Clair County Airport is a place very easy to call an aviation home.

Situated on the edge of Cropwell, just south of Pell City, the airport is operated by Oscar and Jo Jolley, the mom and pop of the outfit; David, the elder son and wife, Pat; and Dale, just married, and whose wife hasn't yet gotten into the business.

For ten years the Jolleys operated their air service as an adjunct to the airport, but six years ago took over the lease. Since then the services have been good, the atmospheres congenial, and the facilities kept in top shape.

St. Clair County Airport, owned by county government, affords a 4,200-foot runway, enough to accommodate aircraft through Lear Jet size. There are 24-T hangars for storage, all of which are full now, and 15 clients waiting. Ten aircraft rent tie down space, "but we have a whale of a lot of room for more tie-downs," says son, Dale, waving an arm down the taxiway.

David handles the maintenance—general maintenance, oil changes, tire

changes. "We aren't fast," says Dale, "but we are thorough.

At the port, pilots have available 100 octane fuel and jets can gas up there too. There is an allotment of about 8,500 gallons of regular and 9,000 gallons of jet fuel monthly, at prices commensurate with, or even slightly below, those at comparably-sized airports.

Oscar, David and Dale are all certified pilots, and Oscar holds certification as a flight instructor and an instructor for instrument flying as well. Instruction at the airport can take a student all the way from novice to commercial pilot. And, instruction is available on VA benefits for those eligible for that type of financing.

St. Clair County Airport and Jolley Air Service are comfortable, friendly service facilities. "We're just an easygoing, family operation," says Dale, who will give anyone a guided tour because he just "likes to get out and walk around the place."

"Anybody can drop out any afternoon, any time, really, and sit inside and talk, or outside and have a cool drink. We invite people out just to watch the craft land and take off."

One member of the family is on duty at the airport 24 hours a day. The runway is a fully lighted one, and night landings are lighted if notification is given. The lights are at 100 per cent efficiency and kept that way. There is a beacon, also.

Direction finding equipment is at nearby Anniston airport, and incoming pilots or outbound craft may utilize radar equipment at Birmingham airport only 35 miles away.

(See Airport page 5)

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## Airport (Continued from page 4)

St. Clair County Airport puts flyers only five minutes away from I-20, 10 minutes from Pine Harbor, 15 minutes from Point Aquarius, and not more than 25 minutes from anywhere in the county. "We are now working on the idea of installing a taxi service," says Dale.

An inspection of the runways and taxiway surfacing shows good maintenance procedures, although some growth keeps the mower hopping during the summer. The Jolleys make it a point to keep a good house.

Hangar space goes for \$55 and \$65 per month. Tie down storage is \$2 per night, with a \$10

minimum charge. There are no landing fees. "We're a pretty standard airport," Dale notes, "but we're a little friendlier than most."

Local businesses utilize St. Clair County Airport, and some governmental agencies fly in and out. Nearby is space leased by the Army National Guard, primarily for its helicopter and other light craft.

Having had 28-years in the U. S. Air Force, Oscar Jolley and his family know how to operate a flight facility well.

Should any business be concerned that there may not be

(See **Airport** page 19)

# Industrial growth an indication of progress

According to a recent newsletter from the Metropolitan Development Board, St. Clair County has been identified as a major growth center for new and expanding industry in Alabama during 1979.

Capital investment from new firms totalled \$16.5 million; and 280 new jobs will be created. Expansion activity represented \$2.3

million and 102 new jobs.

The same newsletter reported no new industries opened in nearby Shelby County—a county that has long boasted of being the fastest growing in the state.

From this information one can surmise St. Clair County's progress has yet to peak. Things are looking good for St. Clair!

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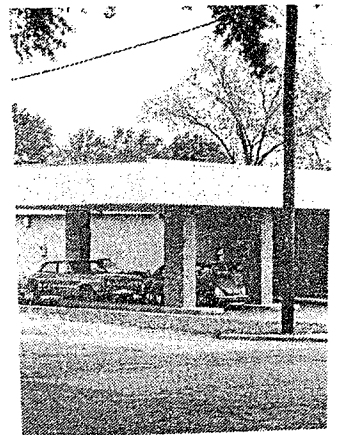
# "We don't be in standing s

Ashville Savings Bank, through its Northern St. Clair County, offers area all modern banking services. Bank has been beneficial to the to Margaret, Odenville, Ragland, Steele and has made loans to ma agencies that has provided sign This institution has also helped tl agencies to finance public projects

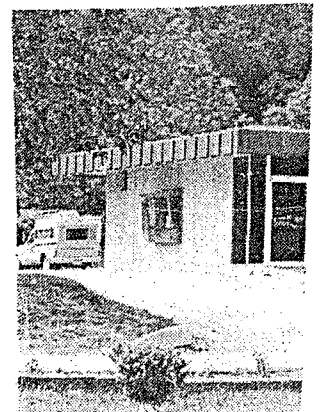
Hundreds of families have better and living conditions with the aid o

We are constantly striving to offer continuing effort to improve our tr

Ashville  
1976



Odenville  
1972



## St. Clair

(Continued from page 18)

General Washington and a committee of the House of Representatives, but St. Clair resigned from the military again and continued as governor of the Northwest Territory. Needless to say, his political aspirations were checked.

He continued to object to centralization of local control in the territory and opposed statehood so strongly that he sought to gerrymander the land into small portions to postpone statehood indefinitely.

At the turn of the 19th Century, Jeffersonian politicians took after St. Clair to remove him from his governorship and create the state of Ohio. They created the state, but could not eradicate St. Clair. That came a year later when, at the constitutional convention of 1802, St. Clair denounced as null and void the creation of Ohio.

Thomas Jefferson booted him. Like Andrew Jackson, St. Clair also had a Hermitage, the home to which he retired near Ligonier, Pa. There he built an iron furnace to cast stoves and castings. Said to be a generous lender and one who signed promissory

notes for friends, he spent himself dry and, when the government failed to repay money he had spent in service to it in the northwest territory, he lost his fortune and fell into chill penury.

In 1812 he published "A Narrative of the 1791 Campaign..." and tried to explain his actions therein. His last years were poverty ridden and he died in a log cabin on Chestnut Ridge.

Who proposed the name St. Clair for the new north-central Alabama county in 1818 is not known. There is speculation that the man's death only three months prior did not reach southern ears until about the time of the 1818 convention and was fresh "news" at the time a name was being considered.

Too, it is possible that, with primitive communications of the era, full news of the man's unsuccessful political and military episodes was not widespread.

Yet, how he came to be known in the deep south as a man worthy of historic immortality is still an unsolvable and, at times, perplexing enigma.

## Airport

(Continued from page 5)

air service available in St. Clair County if it wanted to locate here, let their mind be put at rest.

For business or pleasure—for access to the lake and golf resorts, boating, fishing, or to the envy of industrial southern cities, St. Clair County Airport and Jolley Air Service are more than

just a little country airport. Jolley As Dale says: "We'd just like for folks to drop out some afternoon and chat, look around, enjoy themselves."

You don't find that kind of hospitality in just any airport in the south.

## Teaching Center.

According to the 1960 figures, St. Clair County ranked 28th among Alabama counties in the median level completed among population of 25 and older.

Special government-supplied programs are offered in St. Clair County schools as they are in others which afford students the better part of learning. Remedial reading, math programs, special post year testing, vocational training, special education, head-start (one in the county), and a Special Development Center is located in Eden Elementary School.

Sports programs are available at all county schools, with many of the teams being represented annually in state competition.

Two years ago Pelham reached the state playoffs in football, and this year Springville High was runner up in the state A championships in basketball. As were the girls from Ragland in 1-A ranks. Springville captured several places in track competition.

Withal, any student in St.

## Leader

(Continued from page 1)  
performed counter announced an investment of \$6,000.

The Rainbow City firm Ragland Brick Company, producers of building bricks, announced expansion, but their capital investment is confidential.

All the above are in St. Clair County and provided a boost for the county.