

Roy Gibson, state educator, to retire

JACKSONVILLE, Ala., May 20 — Roy Gibson, a member of the Jacksonville State College education department faculty, will retire next Sunday after 50 years as a teacher in Alabama schools.

A native of Morgan County, his first job was in a one-room schoolhouse where he alternated between teaching and attending the old Jacksonville State Normal. He received BS and MA degrees at the University of Alabama. He did some graduate study at Peabody College.

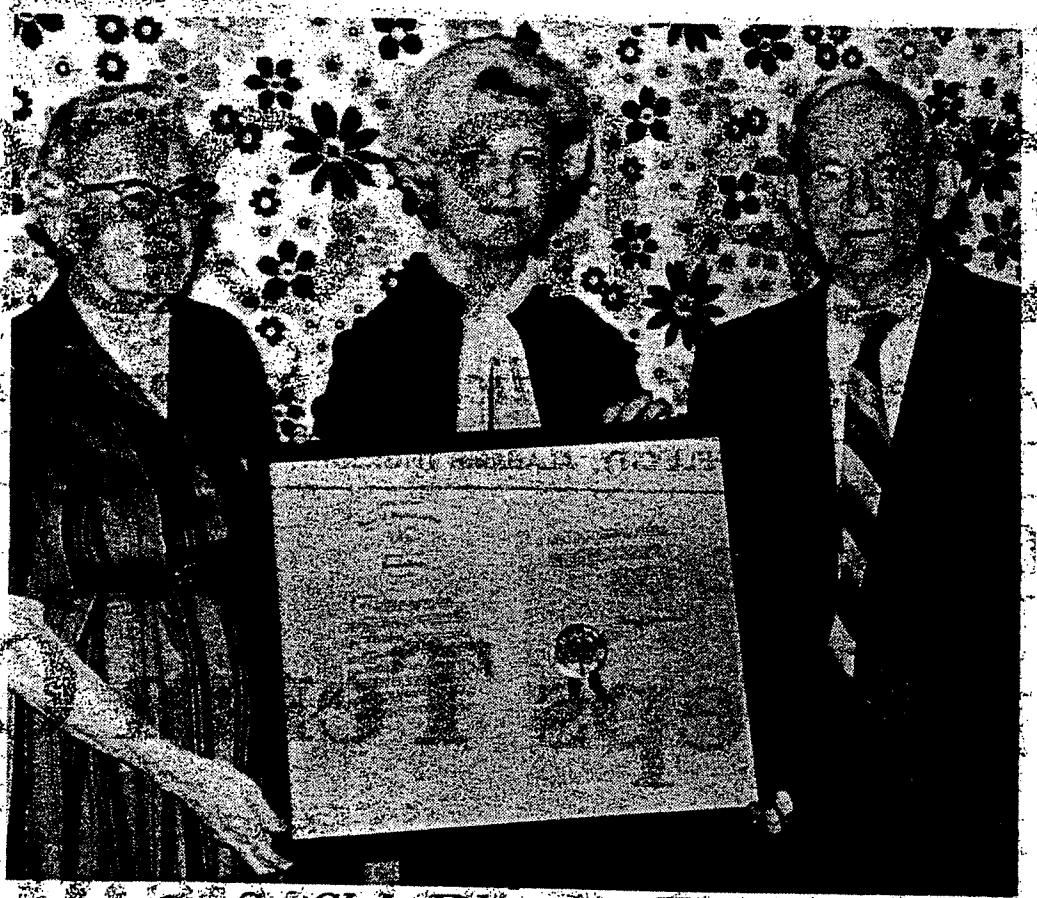
Gibson's experience has run the gamut from the one-room rural school to the college classroom. Thirty-eight of his 50 years were spent in St. Clair County where he served as principal of Odenville High School 21 years and as county superintendent 17 years. He has been a member of the Jacksonville faculty six years.

HE IS LISTED in "Who's Who in the South and Southwest" and "Who's Who in American Education." He is a member of Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Delta Kappa, honorary education fraternities. His administration of St. Clair County schools included the consolidation of schools, the change to county ownership of school buses and adoption of the school lunch



ROY GIBSON
Career nears end

program on a countywide basis. He also supervised the construction of 100 new classrooms. Looking back over his experience, Gibson says, "I've never had an unpleasant year. He thinks today's students are more serious than they ever have been before. Mrs. Gibson, the former Vera Burleson of Hartselle, retired this year from the faculty of the Elementary Laboratory School. Most of her teaching was also done in St. Clair County.



St. Clair Educators Honored

State Representative Marilyn Quarles of Springville is pictured here presenting a dual award and citation signed by Governor George Wallace to Roy and Vera Gibson for "service rendered education in St. Clair County over a 40-year period," during a special meeting of the St. Clair County Retired Teachers Association Monday at Pell City Steakhouse. A past president of the retired teachers association and a former St. Clair County Superintendent of Education, Gibson said he felt "highly honored and very proud." The Gibsons are active in civic and community activities and are members of the First Baptist Church of Pell City. (PHOTO BY AUGUST LEHR)



Prof. Roy Gibson

Avondale's Pell City superintendent, French O. Whitten, is shown above handing Prof. Roy Gibson, St. Clair County Superintendent of Education, a check for \$25,000, a gift from The Avondale Educational and Charitable Foundation, Inc. The money is to be applied on cost of construction of the nearly completed Pell City Elementary School on highway 25. The Avondale Educational and Charitable Foundation Inc. is a non-profit organization established to engage in charitable and educational activities anywhere its trustee's deem advisable, but primarily in communities in Alabama where Avondale and

F. O. Whitten

Cowikee Mills operate. Officers of the Foundation are, Donald Comer, Chairman, General John C. Persons, Vice-Chairman, J. Craig Smith, Treasurer. Trustees in addition to the three officers are Donald Comer Jr., Hugh M. Comer, and L. Comer Jennings. The St. Clair County Board of Education announced several months ago, following a recommendation by Mr. Whitten, J. Craig Smith had committed the Foundation to a grant of \$25,000 toward cost of the new school. The Foundation also gave \$700, half the cost of the new electric scoreboard at Alumni Stadium earlier this year. (News-Aegis photo)



ALUMNI OFFICERS ELECTED—New officers elected for the Jacksonville State College Alumni Association are, from left, Mrs. Caldwell Sneed, Centre, president; Roy Gibson, Pell City, first vice president; Ceburn H. Hulan, Crossville, second vice president; Solon H. Glover, Jacksonville, secretary-treasurer. The officers were elected at the annual breakfast held in Birmingham during AEA.



ROY GIBSON

Retiring

A St. Clair county school teacher with 50 years of service in his profession announced this week that he was retiring at the end of the present school term.

Roy Gibson, principal in St. Clair at Cropwell and Odenville for 21 years and county superintendent of education in St. Clair 17 years, will end his career at the end of the present term at Jacksonville State College. He has been a member of the Jacksonville faculty for the past six years. Prof. and Mrs. Gibson plan to make their home in Ashville.

A native of Morgan county he received degrees from Jacksonville, and B.S. and M.A. degrees from Alabama and did graduate work at Peabody.

Prof. Gibson is listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest and in Who's Who in American Education. During his years as county superintendent 100 new classrooms were built in St. Clair, the school lunch plan program put on a countywide basis. St. Clair schools were consolidated and school bases were changed to county ownership. Mrs. Gibson who was the former Vera Burleson of Hartsell, also taught for many years including a number of years in St. Clair.

City News 5-25-41



QUALIFIES

Roy Gibson.

Gibson Qualifies For St. Clair Post

Special to The Post-Herald
ASHVILLE, March 8.—Roy Gibson has qualified for re-election as St. Clair County Schools superintendent.

Mr. Gibson began his teaching career in St. Clair County in a one-teacher school at Cropwell. When he left the community several years later the school had grown to a five-teacher school and a new building had been constructed.

His next assignment was as principal at Odenville where he served for 10 years. He was elected then as superintendent of county schools.

Under his leadership the Board of Education is promoting the largest school building program in the county's history. A new building was recently completed at Steele, and three others are now under construction.

During his administration the county schools have passed from privately-owned wooden-body buses to county ownership of all steel-body buses.

A county-wide school lunch program has been put into operation and running water has been provided at all permanent school centers.

Mr. Gibson has also led the teachers working with him in a broad in-service training program.

The educator is also active in civic and political affairs of the county as well as in church affairs.

Gibson is a graduate of the State Teachers College.

—Roy Gibson—

Brought changes to schools

A WHITEHEAD
Feature Editor

When Roy Gibson in subsequent years as County Superintendent of Education, there were no wells in the county — schools were without wells and school buildings were without room facilities. In 1912, Gibson had 15 of those 23 schools, found wells as in later years, ran out that first

years as Superintendent consolidated 28 schools and in the consolidation of the schools — teacher schools —

years as an educator in 1912, prior to his coming from Morgan School. He was 17 and had passed the State examination, and he received \$40 a month from the State Line School in the county. The school was known as the Old School.

In 1913, Gibson came to Morgan School — the 11th year here was no 12th year in between his

years were the ones in which he walked several miles to school where they were

Gibson left Cropwell for St. Clair County High School in 1926 and served as principal there for ten years. During his years as principal and teachers, the summers were spent on completing his undergraduate degree in history at the University of Alabama, and in 1935 he received his Masters Degree in supervision and administration in education.

"The graduate classes were small then — graduate school

buying buses and the county Board of Education took over the transportation system" said Gibson.

The county's school buses were frequently of wooden body, and the war brought difficulty in the purchase of new buses. In 1943 Gibson applied to the State Department of Education for 12 new steel bodied buses. His application was turned down, so he took a camera, made pictures of the

work out, then we'll go back to the old way."

"After a year they could see the advantages for their children, and none of the schools we closed down were reopened," noted Gibson.

In 1943, the school lunch program was introduced to St. Clair County, and the first one began at Odenville. "They were the only school with space which could be converted into a lunchroom," said Gibson.

"We didn't know much about running a lunchroom program that first year, but we learned. The lunchroom at St. Clair County High School made \$1,500 that first year," noted Gibson.

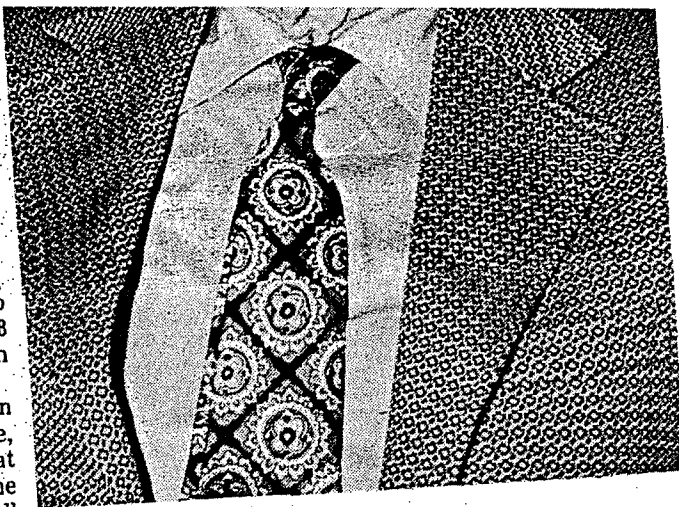
Gibson said that the state allocated \$2,500 for the construction of concrete block buildings for lunchrooms, and thus concrete block lunchrooms sprang forth throughout the county. "That \$2,500 wasn't enough to build the building but the communities and PTA's would come through with money to complete the buildings."

The addition of water lines into the schools throughout the counties and the additions of restrooms were also another area of accomplishment of Gibson's administration. "We went as far as we could each year. Pell City High School had a restroom before it had water, and then the building burned. The new high school had



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Roy Gibson

was not something an area where many saw the need for application of their time," noted Gibson.

In 1938 he began his long term as Superintendent of the Board of Education of St. Clair County. His problems included transportation for pupils.

"We contracted with individual bus owners, but when the war (World War II) came, these men could find good jobs in Gadsden and Bynum. That was the point when we began

buses in use at the county at that time, sent in the pictures and was told by the State Superintendent of Education to resubmit his application — the Board of Education got their buses — all 12 of them.

During Gibson's years in office other changes occurred with the county-wide school system. He saw the need for consolidation, and in making his presentation to the parents he would conclude — "Let's try it for one year, and if it doesn't

restrooms were also an area of accomplishment of Gibson's administration. "We went as far as we could each year. Pell City High School had a restroom before it had water, and then the building burned. The new high school had restrooms and water," added Gibson.

Iola Roberts, the County Training School, Eden School and Pell City High City High School were all built during Gibson's administration, with additions to buildings made throughout the county.

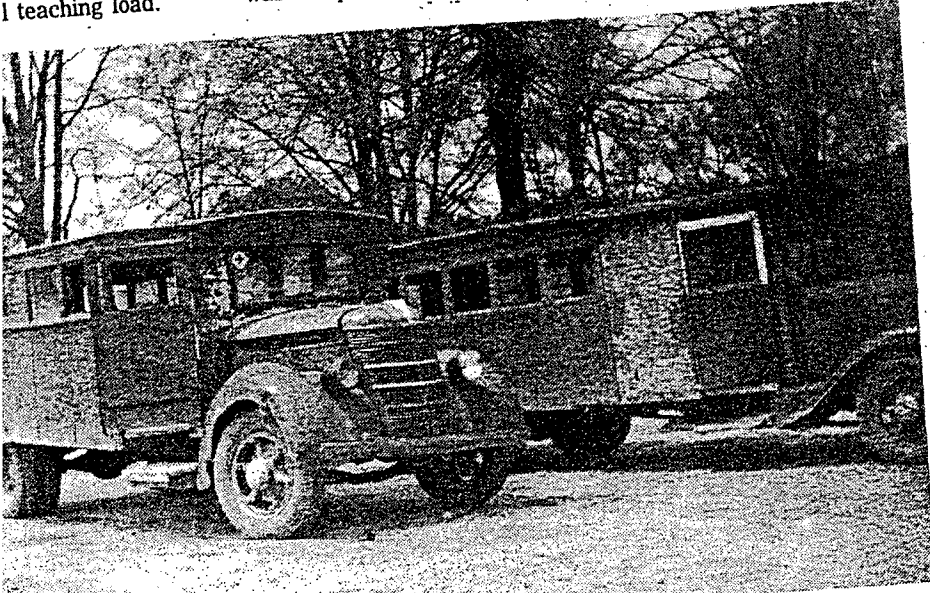
In 1955, the last year of his 8 service as Superintendent of Education, Gibson was invited to join the faculty in the Education Department at Jacksonville State College, and he did. He remained there for from 1955-61 teaching courses in the philosophy of education and history.

"I retired in 1961 — one year before I had to, but I was ready for retirement," said Gibson.

The Gibsons returned to St. Clair County in 1961, to their home in Ashville, and in 1965 moved to Pell City.

"I enjoyed teaching, but I also enjoy retirement. I went to the homecoming in Odenville on the fourth Sunday in April and there were so many I taught — I enjoyed it."

Gibson brought changes to the schools in which he was employed, and in his terms as Superintendent of Education he brought about constructive and necessary change for the wide county school system — he did what he thought should be done for the benefit of the children and youth of the county.



Road work
 opens up
 05 acres

in St. Clair County



'The Fleet'—60 Buses—In 1951

'The Fleet'—60 Buses—In 1951



Gibson's First School—County Line

Chevrolet announces a new small car.

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St. Clair Newsagents