

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

**JOHN B. NISBET, JR. AND JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA -
PROGRESS OF A SOUTHERN TOWN, 1960 - 1990.**

**History of the South Since 1860
History 442**

**Kathy Adams
March 22, 1995**

JOHN B. NISBET AND JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA - PROGRESS OF A SOUTHERN TOWN, 1960 - 1990

In 1931, Jacksonville native, John B. Nisbet, was born in the house built by his grandfather in 1890, where he presently resides. The First Presbyterian Church played an integral part in his life growing up in Jacksonville and presently. Both of his parents were actively involved with the church, his father being an Elder of the church and choir member, and his mother being a Sunday school teacher for many years. The church provided for entertainment and social events as well as filled spiritual needs. The First Presbyterian Church met only on the first, third, and fifth Sundays. The church was very small and shared its ministers with Piedmont and the even smaller neighborhood churches of Salem and Carmel.¹ John Nisbet watched Jacksonville nearly quadruple in size from a population of about two thousand in the 1930's, to about eight thousand presently. As long as he had lived there, the town had always been primarily a mill town and a college town. During his mayoral administration, Nisbet observed the town progress from being dependent on these two factors to becoming a self-sustaining community.

Jacksonville had a unique education system. It had always been an educational community as far back as the 1800's. There was a boys' academy and a girl's academy. Jacksonville State Normal School was established in the late 19th century as the first Calhoun County School. There have been as many as three school systems in Jacksonville at a time. The Union Yarn Mill had its own school system that was operated only for children of mill workers. The City had a separate system for black and white children while the state operated the Normal School system, a training school. In 1929, Jacksonville sold its city school system to the state Board of Education for sixty thousand dollars. The State Board of Education managed the city school system for Jacksonville until the

¹John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams, March 4, 1995, Jacksonville, AL.

University's Board of Trustees was established and the city school system was turned over to them.

Around that time the mill school was closed and those students transferred to the school system operated by the University. During the late 1930's and 1940's, Jacksonville public school teachers were members of the Department of Education at Jacksonville Normal School. They were paid separately and shown on the catalog as working for the Normal school. They were paid extra for having practice teachers working along with them in the classrooms. This continued until the 1960's when racial integration was ordered for Alabama schools. At this time a clause in the 1929 contract between the State of Alabama and the City of Jacksonville was discovered. It stated that the city of Jacksonville would continue its own school board. A school board was appointed by the city council that functioned for a short while until a city wide vote was taken to determine whether the school board should be elected. It was decided that the school board should be elected. The Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University still owned and operated the school system. The auditorium of the elementary school was the only remaining part of the old system. All the current buildings in use by the city schools remained under the ownership of the State Board of Education.²

The military had been in existence in the town since World War II. During that time housing was so scarce, people literally converted chicken houses to tenant houses to accommodate all the families that were stationed at Ft. McClellan, a major infantry base located just outside the town. John Nisbet's own house was converted into an apartment upstairs and was occupied by different military families from time to time.³

The USO had a building in Jacksonville that was used as a community center housing a restaurant, skating rink and a dance hall. The building also served the community as an entertainment

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

center and auditorium where high school and college plays and debates were held. It burned to the ground in the 1950's. ⁴

While race relations became violent elsewhere in the state, Jacksonville really never experienced any problems with integration during the 1950's and 1960's. The town always had some black families living in primarily white neighborhoods. Race relations were congenial and not strained. The black population accounted for less than ten percent of the town's population. There were, however, separate schools for blacks and whites but in 1964, Jacksonville Board of Education issued a "Freedom of Choice" school policy.⁵ Federal mandates ended segregation, and the black school, Eastwood, was later closed. Its students moved to Jacksonville High School with a smooth transition. The black teachers were transferred with the students to Jacksonville High School. The principal of Eastwood, Johnny Brown, was made assistant principal at Jacksonville High and was promised the job of principal when the incumbent retired. The promise, however, was not made good.⁶

There were very few professional black people in town. However, the sons and daughters of several black residents have become doctors and lawyers. Blacks served on different boards and were councilmen for Jacksonville. No discrimination plagued the town.

As John Nisbet matured as a young businessman, he felt a need for Jacksonville to progress. He saw things that he wanted done and realized after joining several civic groups that the only way to bring about changes were to be in power. He decided to run for city council. He successfully ran for the office in 1960 and 1962. He was elected mayor in 1968.

Before 1974, Jacksonville had no hospital and very few doctors. Mr. Nisbet set about to change this. He realized that without a proper health and medical care facility, Jacksonville could not grow to its economic potential. It was at a standstill. The basic businesses were the mill and the college. The Chamber of Commerce was not

⁴Ibid.

⁵Jacksonville City Board of Education Resolution, May 17,1965.

⁶John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams.

very active then. Mr. Nisbet worked to establish a hospital, to attract doctors to the town and to bring in new industries.

Before John Nisbet took the job, the office of mayor of Jacksonville had two duties -- to serve as mayor and to serve as municipal judge. One of the first things Mr. Nisbet did as mayor was to hire a full time judge, Mr. Jim Sides.⁷

In the 60's and 70's, Jacksonville was the recipient of several hundred thousand dollars for improvements for the water and sewage systems from the federal and state governments. With some of these funds Germania Springs was developed into a park and water system. Senators John Sparkman, Jim Allen, and Bill Nichols were all instrumental in getting Jacksonville federal money.⁸ Nisbet was able to find out about available funds by attending mayoral conferences and meetings. He was criticized by some for attending these meetings. Nisbet picked up the RSVP idea from the mayor conferences. He also learned about industrial prospects and how to organize the hospital committee. Nisbet was elected Chairman of the Northeast Alabama Planning Commission, a position that enabled him to learn about even more federal grants and programs. Glenn Coffee, a city planner, also helped him.⁹

To obtain the grants, in most cases, the City of Jacksonville had to come up with fifty to seventy percent matching funds. Sometimes the city was forced to pass additional sales taxes to come up with the money. Hospital bonds were paid off by hospital revenues, and bonds for utility improvements were matched with revenue collected from the utility (water works, gas and sewer) system for its services. Private assessments were made against property owners benefiting from the curb, gutter and street improvements for the balance of the matching funds. It took ten years to collect the assessments.¹⁰ A gasoline tax was passed that was a very unpopular tax. Much criticism came down on it.

⁷John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

Wallace made a personal visit to Jacksonville in 1970, during Nisbet's term as mayor. While not knowing Wallace on a close personal level, Nisbet did know the governor. Wallace liked Jacksonville and his favorable outlook on the city probably enhanced the city's opportunities for state funds.

Other than the Civil Rights Acts concerning public education, federal legislation during the 1960's and 70's, had very little effect on the city of Jacksonville. Local laws had to be passed to accommodate the drug testing requirements that the federal government mandated along with landfill restrictions but except for these changes, there was little direct impact.

Some of Nisbet's accomplishments as mayor were the new fire station built at a cost of \$300-400,000. One structure was built to house all the fire engines and ambulances. Street cleaning services acquired a new sweeper. The city's financial condition improved. Nisbet said he would like to take credit for that but he felt that it came about with the natural growth of the community.

Nisbet had the first code book of Jacksonville published. This included gathering up all city records from a loose leaf binder and sending them off to be printed in book form. It was a costly undertaking, but worth the effort.¹¹

During Nisbet's administration the city had its first budget in fifteen years. The state did not require the city to have a budget. Nisbet thought of a budget as a planning tool for the city. The city council adopted the budget.¹²

Nisbet always looked out for the city employees giving pay raises each year that he was in office. He was instrumental in getting the retirement benefits for them, also. They had no retirement system until his administration.¹³

Nisbet recalled the installation of parking meters. He quickly remembered taking them out. They were more trouble than they were worth. Citizens complained about getting tickets. Merchants

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Jacksonville News, January 7, 1970.

¹³Jacksonville News, April 7, 1970.

got mad, police would not check them regularly and finally city council voted to take them out. Everyone was glad to see them go.¹⁴

At one time during Nisbet's administration, three policemen interrupted a city council meeting to make their own demands for bigger uniform allotments. "Chief Tifton was an old time police chief, very conservative and thought a man should be able to police without a lot of modern stuff."¹⁵ The policemen wanted newer equipment and went over the chief's head to ask the council for it.¹⁶ Inadvertently Nisbet may have precipitated this outburst by telling the policemen earlier to let the council know what they needed.¹⁷

In 1970 Nisbet was president of Chamber of Commerce. Later it merged into Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce. In this capacity it has done more than the original one because the Jacksonville Chamber did not have the organization, being mostly volunteers. However, Jacksonville people are peculiar and want to do what they want to do when they want to do it on their own.¹⁸

A wet/dry vote for Calhoun County was taken. It passed in favor of wet. The county voted thinking that there would be a cut off line at Anniston and that no alcohol would be sold north of Anniston. Some citizens of Jacksonville questioned why Anniston could have alcohol sales but Jacksonville could not. The judge ruling on the issue said that the county had voted to be wet therefore the entire county would be wet. No vote was taken just for Jacksonville.¹⁹

During the Vietnam era Jacksonville did not experience any war protests. However in October of 1970, Jacksonville State University students demanded to be represented on the city council but were denied a seat. The students failed to meet state eligibility requirements for city councilmen. However, they were invited to sit in on the council meetings that were open to the public.²⁰

¹⁴John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams.

¹⁵Ibid

¹⁶Jacksonville News, June 27, 1970.

¹⁷John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Jacksonville News, October 14, 1970.

A federal investigation into Nisbet's water and sewer expansion program was launched. In reality three disgruntled citizens who were mad at Nisbet, Jack Boozer, Ralph Johnson and Frankie Ferguson wrote the president and asked for an investigation of spending federal money to run sewer lines to pine trees and discriminating against certain blacks. None of the allegations were true. The federal government did come in and investigate but found nothing wrong. There was one black citizen who had water but no sewer listed in the complaint. All the northeast part of town lies over a hill and to get the sewage out of town, you had to route the sewage north. It naturally drained that way. In to get the sewage low enough to pump to the sewage it had to go through a couple of miles of nothing but pine trees. Running sewage through pine trees was the example that the disgruntled ones used to get the president's attention.²¹

During his administration in 1971, a few city employees felt they needed some job protection and petitioned the state legislation to create a civil service board. Nisbet did not think it was needed. It was a personnel problem that the city could have handled on its own. The civil service board that we had was created and appointed by the state legislature. It did not help or hurt, It was just there.²²

The fire department needed new equipment. In the 1970's, Jacksonville added Emergency Management Service, an ambulance service. At first volunteers were used, but soon the city grew to need regular paid employees. A push for the hospital started at the same time. Jacksonville had only one physician, Dr. Charles Strange. He was not able to handle all the health needs of the town. Nisbet organized the town to get the hospital started. The Jacksonville City Council appointed a hospital commission to go through the legal processes and state requirements for building a hospital. Money was borrowed to hire an architect to get the plans approved in Montgomery. It was a long and tedious undertaking, "touch and go" at some stages but finally the state of Alabama

²¹John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams.

²²Ibid.

approved the plans. Financing was arranged and the hospital got underway. It was supposed to be built at a cost of approximately three million dollars.²³ Not all of Jacksonville citizens wanted the hospital. They were unsure about building it without a Certificate of Need. This meant that no federal money could be spent on building the hospital.²⁴ Nisbet knew that once the hospital was up and running, that there would be no problem getting Medicare or Medicaid. Several were concerned about the amount of money it required and how the funds were going to be raised. Some did not think the city needed a hospital. The main opposition however was Regional Medical Center located nineteen miles away in Anniston. It argued that there were more than enough beds in the county and this would hamper its own future growth.²⁵ The City of Piedmont also offered suggestions that it be a joint effort of the two cities with the hospital located between the two communities. Unfortunately, this suggestion came too late because the location and approval for the purchase of the current site of the hospital had already been made.

The Jacksonville Hospital expanded tremendously and added about seven million dollars worth of new surgical units. As a testimonial to its success, a maternity ward was built and several new doctors practiced there.²⁶

For a while many were skeptical that the hospital would survive. At first the operating costs were high for the small town of Jacksonville. A group of concerned citizens in 1974 wanted to handle the funding of the hospital in a different manner. They were afraid the financial burden would be too great for the town.

They worked against Nisbet in 1976. He was defeated by Buddy Tredaway with the help of Hazel Hicks. The elected mayor lasted only a few months before Mr. James Shelton was appointed. He did not know the community, was in bad health, served six

²³Ibid.

²⁴Jacksonville News, June 20, 1972.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams.

months and resigned. Councilman David Lee was appointed and served until 1980 when Mr. Nisbet was re-elected.²⁷

The concerned citizens' group realized that the financing of the hospital was being done in the most efficient way possible. The firm of Hugo Marx represented the city of Jacksonville and arranged the bond financing for the hospital. It was felt that once the hospital opened for business, that it would start paying for itself. This proved to be true. Shortly after opening, the hospital earned enough revenue to cover the loan payments. Recently a seven million dollar bond issue was passed to pay off the old debt and borrow more for expansion.²⁸

The Jacksonville Hospital having approximately twenty doctors that practicing there acquired the Mediplex, a medical office building, purchased by the hospital around the time of the Gulf War. This action was taken because the doctor who owned it was called into military service and its future was uncertain. The Mediplex now owned by the hospital was assured a future in Jacksonville with about five doctors' offices located there.²⁹

Recurring problems in city hall under Nisbet's administration were minor, such as trash pick up or sewage problems. These were mostly small day to day problems. Occasionally students from the University would appear at city hall to complain about traffic signals or one way streets. No real problems that could not be solved plagued the city at this time.³⁰

In 1974 Federal Mogul came to Jacksonville. It was built on a forty-one acre site with about a seven million dollar investment. Federal-Mogul's Distribution Center in Jacksonville received its first inventory in January of 1975. The Distribution Center housed the master inventory of replacement parts for one hundred seventeen cars, trucks, buses and heavy duty equipment as well as industrial components for manufacturing. From Jacksonville, the parts were shipped to other Federal-Mogul branches and customers throughout

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Ibid.

the world.³¹ The business community continued to expand slowly in conjunction with the rate of growth of residential developments. Federal Mogul's impact on the community was felt in the increased real estate sales as well in the business sector. A new WalMart came to Jacksonville after Federal Mogul followed by an increase in fast food and regular eat-in restaurants. Parker-Hannifin opened in Jacksonville a few years after Federal Mogul. Having about four hundred jobs, Federal-Mogul was Jacksonville's second largest employer.³²

Jacksonville State University and the city of Jacksonville had a cordial relationship for several years. JSU was a huge influence on the city of Jacksonville. Several hundred persons were employed there. "The city looked upon students as citizens, no more, no less. Some were good, some were bad, some drank, some did not drink. Some smoked some played around, some were serious. You had some rich ones up there, some poor ones up there. Some walked, some rode. Some drove Mercedes, some rode bicycles. We just had to deal with them all."³³

Over the years the school and the town had gotten along together famously. That did not mean that the two always were agreeable on every issue. The city used Jacksonville State University's enrollment to procure federal funds for city improvements such as the sewer system over the years. At the same time the school used the city for things they needed. The city felt that the school should provide for more law enforcement and fire protection. The Jacksonville Police were handling the policing of the eighty or so buildings that belonged to the University and the Jacksonville Fire Department provided protection for the University. JSU paid no property taxes to the city for these services as did all the other property owners, but received these services free. The University argued that the students bought goods in town therefore

³¹"Jacksonville, Alabama," the thirty-ninth in a series of articles dealing with Federal-Mogul locations and the people who work in them, Federal-Mogul, Southfield, MI., 1984.

³²John B. Nisbet, Interview by Kathy Adams.

³³Ibid.

they were contributing to the tax base. This was true. Both entities contributed to each other in their own ways. Jacksonville High School was allowed to use the college's football stadium for its games. Other programs were allowed the use of University facilities. The city of Jacksonville did benefit greatly from the college.³⁴

Jacksonville has received several grants from the federal government for low rent housing. An excellent job was done in public housing. The eligible renters must have some kind of employment to pay the rent. The original started on Margaret Drive. The housing project, in lieu of taxes, contributes money to the city.³⁵

Blue laws in Jacksonville kept most of the businesses closed. Mr. Nisbet's father had a drug store that was kept open to sell only medicines on Sunday. He recalled how movies began to open on Sunday. In the 1970's some merchants began opening their doors for business on Sunday. Whether or not to enforce it was a hard decision to make. ³⁶

The Summer Youth Job program of 1974 was very flawed. The main problem was that the regulations were so strict that a fourteen year old could not operate a lawn mower without supervision. Most fourteen year olds had experience at home with lawn mowers. It was just a part of growing up. But the federal government felt that it was too dangerous for one to operate a lawn mower by himself. He had to have supervision. "It got to be where almost everyone who could be hired under the program had to have a supervisor and therefore became too expensive. The intentions and purpose were good but just got lost under too much paperwork."³⁷

Jacksonville obtained its first computer in 1974, under Nisbet's administration. Things were getting too big and inefficient. Utilities already had automated billing. It was a good move.³⁸

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Ibid.

The First National Bank of Jacksonville had over a million dollars embezzled from it in the 1980's. The stockholders of the bank lost much of their shares in the bank but it was absorbed by First Alabama Bank. Financially, the businesses of Jacksonville were unaffected in their borrowing power or bank accounts with First National Bank. The Daugettes, the primary stockholders, were the ones who suffered the most losses. The city of Jacksonville's money was unaffected by this. The depositors' moneys in First National Accounts were covered by the FDIC, up to the maximum. The loss of the Daugette family in the local banking system was the biggest loss felt by the city.³⁹

In 1993 Jacksonville was offered a grant to improve the town square. However, the bids that were given tremendously exceeded the allotted money. The city had no means of matching the funds available and the project was put on hold indefinitely.

John Nisbet credited the city council for much of the progress made by Jacksonville under his administration. Council members during his terms in office included Jerry Smith, Charles Natar, George Douthit, Theodore Fox, Johnny Brown, Sandra Sudduth and Faye Giere.⁴⁰

Nisbet considered his greatest contribution to the City of Jacksonville to be its growth and improvement. He wanted it to be self-sufficient. There were very few stores, and almost no restaurants while he was growing up. During his mayor terms city services were improved and retirement benefits were secured for city employees. Nisbet resurfaced streets annually with the gasoline tax. He created an ambulance service. (You used to get picked up by the hearse to go to the nearest hospital.)⁴¹ Nisbet was also instrumental in arranging the purchase of the old Post Office Building for the new Jacksonville Library. Mr. Nisbet took great pride in facilitating the city's growth and independence on any one business. He worked hard for a well-rounded community with a government responsive to the people and succeeded.

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ibid.

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Tape recording. Jacksonville, AL. Jacksonville State University.

Gift and Release Agreement:

We John B. Nisbet Jr and Kathy Adams
(Interviewee, print) (Interviewer, print)

do hereby give and grant to Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at 310 Ladiga SE on the date(s) of 3-4-95 for the oral history collection being compiled by the Jacksonville State University Library.

John Nisbet Jr
(Interviewee's signature)

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Date 3/4/95

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Date 3-4-95

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: John B. Nisbet, Jr. M/F Male

Address: 310 Ladiga Street, SE, Jacksonville, AL 36265

Phone number(s): 435-7211

Approximate age or date of birth: 11-21-31

Mother's Name: Mattie McCutchen

Father's Name: John B. Nisbet

Places lived and when: Jacksonville, AL 1931-1995

Education: Jacksonville Schools, Davidson College, Jacksonville State Univ.

Religion: Presbyterian

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) Nisbet Ins. (Agent)

Democrat - Calhoun County Executive Committee

Present occupation: Insurance Agent - Real Estate Broker

Former occupations: _____

Special Skills: _____

Major Accomplishments: Local City Elections - City Council '64 & '65
- Mayor '68-'76; '80-'92

National Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No YES

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee:

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

**JOHN B. NISBET, JR.
PERSONAL CHRONOLGY**

- 1931 Born November 21, 310 Ladiga Street, SE, Jacksonville, Al
son of Mattie M. and John B. Nisbet.
- 1952 Took over father's insurance business in Jacksonville.
- 1956 Graduated from Jacksonville State University and
married Doris Jean.
- 1960 Birth of first child.
- 1963 Birth of second child.
- 1964 Ran for Jacksonville City Council - won
- 1966 Ran for second term - won
- 1967 Birth of third child.
- 1968 Ran for mayor of Jacksonville - won
- 1976 Ran for mayor - lost
- 1980 Ran for mayor - won. Re-elected mayor for twelve
years until 1992.

**Questions for Oral History
Jacksonville, AL 1960 - 1990**

Interview with John B. Nisbet

Earliest childhood memories of Jacksonville.

How did the church function in your life as a child, as an adult?

Did you serve in World War II? How did it effect life in Jacksonville?

Were there any civil rights action in Jacksonville in the 1950-1960's?

Any effect of civil rights movement in Jacksonville? In the education system?

Effect of affirmative action in Jacksonville?

How did voting laws effect the town?

Any violence in town during 1960's due to Vietnam War resistors or drug use? Did JSU students at this time demonstrate?

Why did you decide to get into local politics?

During your term of office - what were the major items you wanted to accomplish?

Bond issues for Jacksonville during your term? Problems in paying them?

What were changes made in city services during your administration such as water, sewer, police, fire department, garbage pick up?

Where was city hall during your administration?

Did city council seem to be able to come together on most big issues or were they divided? Councilman Lee on hospital issue.

What was your most recurring problem during your terms? What was your hardest decision regarding the city during your terms?

What were changes in business sector during the 1950-1990?
The oldest business in Jacksonville was Reid's Shoe Repair, established by a former slave in the 1890's. Is it still operating?

First National Bank of Jacksonville made news when it was uncovered that an employee had embezzled over a million dollars. Other than the primary stockholders, did this effect businessmen in the town?

What are some of the changes in the educational system occurring during this time period?

What has been the impact of college students on the town of Jacksonville? Did they try to take over city hall at one time?

What was the impact of federal money on Jacksonville during your terms? Did you receive state money for any improvements? How would the town come up with matching funds if that was a requirement to receive federal or state funds for various projects?

During this time what were some of the activities of the police department?

Did any important legislation (state or federal) during this time frame effect Jacksonville?

What is the impact of Union Yarn Mill on Jacksonville? Is it still the largest employer in the town? (1906)

In 1974 Federal Mogul started up in Jacksonville. What other businesses did it cause to start up in Jacksonville?

In 1976 the Jacksonville Hospital opened. How many doctors are in town now as a result of the hospital being built? How many doctors did Jacksonville have before the hospital? Did you have problems in attracting new doctors to this area?

Is the Family Health Center a direct outgrowth of the hospital?

What is the relationship between the city and JSU? Are there any combined projects? Has JSU been responsible for any federal moneys coming to the city? Has For McClellan had any impact on federal moneys to Jacksonville?

In 1993 the city received federal money for the Jacksonville Square Project. Was this a grant or loan? How was Jacksonville able to get this money?

The following are some of your accomplishments in office:

Enlarged fire department.

Street cleaning - new equipment

improved financial condition of the city of Jacksonville

\$12 million building boom from JSU

\$256,000 federal grant for sewage system for city.

City code book published.

First budget in 15 years.

City workers got 10% pay raise.

Germania Springs - park planned in 2 phases.

1970 - another federal grant \$336,000. Did this require help of Sparkman, Jim Allen and Bill Nichols?

What was the impact of parking meters on Jacksonville? What were the reactions from citizens?

Bonds were sold to finance the hospital. How hard was it to get this done?

In 1970 city employees began a retirement plan. How did you accomplish this? Where did the extra money needed for it come from?

Governor Wallace visited Jacksonville during your term. Did you have a personal relationship with him?

There was a record voter turnout for Jacksonville in 1970. What was the driving force behind this?

In June of 1970 3 policemen made requests to city hall by passing the chief. What transpired in the council meeting then?

Was there a gas tax passed for paving streets?

Tax problems for sewage allowance in 1970?

What happened in mayor's conference in Washington DC. in 1970?

When did beer become legal in Jacksonville? Was this a city or county issue?

The Jacksonville airport was built in 1970. Were you instrumental in this?

What was the Henry Farm Park project?

What happened when JSU students demanded representation in city affairs in 1970. Was this their way of protesting something they disagreed with that the city had done?

Jacksonville has a unique situation in their education system. The college actually has control of the primary, middle and high schools. When did this begin? Has it been good for the education of Jacksonville residents?

Population increased 2000 from 1960 to 1970. What was this due to?

In 1971, the curfew for girls at JSU was extended to 2 AM. Did this increase any problems for the city as far as increased accidents or arrests?

Goggans manufacturing and Stoney Brook Golf Course opened in 1971. What impact was felt from these new businesses?

What was the federal investigation for the sewage project about in 1971? Was it a black/white issue?

You were the chairman of East Alabama Regional Planning Development Commission in 1971. Was the commission able to do the things that were slated for that time?

Did Jacksonville receive low rent housing grant money in 1971? How does this work?

A civil service board was started in Jacksonville. Did this help the job market in town?

Describe the long term debt financing for Henry Farms Park.

Were the first women to hold city jobs hired during your election? Why did it take so long?

Was there an issue over the landfill in the 1970's?

What effect did the National Guards have on Jacksonville when they were installed in Jacksonville in 1974?

What was the impact of the first Chamber of Commerce of Jacksonville?

What was the impact of the Blue Laws in Jacksonville in 1974?

Pay raise granted to city workers in 1974, was this hard to do?

What was the Summer Youth Work Program in 1974?

When did Jacksonville get its first computer?

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution or legacy to the city of Jacksonville?

Interviewed by Kathy N. Adams
for oral history project
History of the South Since 1860
Jacksonville State University
3-4-95

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