$87,000 Airport Strip
Dedicated In Jeanerette

By IRENE BIENVENU

Leon Gary, commissioner of Public Works with the McKeithen administration, was main speaker on Sunday at dedication ceremonies held at the new $87,000 Jeanerette Airport (blacktop surfacing) in conjunction with the Kaycee Days held during the week end.

"Our new governor has demonstrated his interest in this part of the state," Gary said. "It is up to the people of this area to get their share of the benefits that will help you to grow and to progress."

Lawrence Bourgeois, former police jury president, introduced the speaker as well as other distinguished guests. Bourgeois in a short welcome to the crowd stated that "Many people do not fully grasp what this airport will mean to Jeanerette and the entire area . . ."

He brought out the fact that six farsighted individuals were responsible for acquiring the property originally. "These men signed a personal note to purchase the property. Later, of course, it was turned over to the state. But these six men, gave us a head start on progress and future development. They were Dr. L. M. Villien (now residing in Abbeville), J. P. Lapeyrouse, former mayor of Jeanerette, E. L. Chaney (a former mayor of Jeanerette, now deceased), Charles Mourret, Wilbur Allain and Donald Roane."

On the speaker's stand beside Bourgeois and Gary were Chester Baudoin, Sheriff of St. Mary; Gerard Wattigny, Iberia parish sheriff; Father W. Labbe, assistant pastor of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church; Mayor Curtis Myers and Charles Moresi, member of the city council. Other council members recognized were: Dickie Breaux, Henry Glover, Roy Walker and Earl Robichaux. Other dignitaries introduced were: Harry Moresi, former police jury member; Earnest Fousquier, vice president of the Iberia police jury; Murphy Hebert, jury member from Ward II; Ollie DeGravelle, jury member from Ward 8; Larry Lampo, police jury member from Ward 8.

The Benediction and Blessings and Invocation were given by The Rev. Father Wilton Labbe.

Mayor Curtis Myers gave a short welcome address.

The new airport commission, announced, comprise the following members: Bryan Allain, Roland Hebert, J. P. Lapeyrouse, Millard Mannina, Richard "Dickie" Breaux and Charles Moresi. This commission was also recognized at Sunday's dedication ceremonies by Bourgeois.

Gary told the crowd that Claude Kirkpatrick, outgoing commissioner of public works, had hoped to fly to Jeanerette for the dedication, but the weather had not permitted it.

The Jeanerette Airport was one of Kirkpatrick's top projects during his administration, and it is through his efforts and the efforts of the police jury of Iberia Parish, that the facility was made available to Jeanerette.

Bourgeois told the crowd: "Only seven or eight towns in Louisiana can boast as fine an airport as we have here. It will have great impact on our future development."

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