Modern architecture greets incoming visitors
Opening of LC airport marks new era in aviation for area


A new era in aviation for Southwest Louisiana opens this weekend with the dedication of the $8 million Lake Charles Municipal Airport.

A gigantic air show featuring the U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels, Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command and other aircraft is scheduled Saturday and Sunday. A complete schedule is on another page in this section.

High point of the aerial weekend, however, will be the official dedication ceremonies at 1:45 p.m. Sunday during which Major General John K. Hester, assistant director of operations for the U.S. Air Force, will be the main speaker.

A host of federal, state, parish and city government officials and civic leaders will take part in the dedication along with representatives of the civilian airlines.

Special arrangements are being made to handle the thousands of automobiles expected to bring up to 50,000 spectators to the airport south of Lake Charles Saturday and Sunday to see the air show.

Special concession booths will be set up on the grounds. Static exhibits on a large number of military and civilian aircraft will be open to the public.

Visitors to the dedication event will see Eastern Airlines, Trans Texas Airways and Trans Airlines aircraft that serve Lake Charles land and take off with passengers traveling to all parts of the United States.

The jam-packed schedule of events includes also parachutists, a simulated atomic bomb run, along with the Second Air Force, Fort Polk and McNeese State college bands.

Visitors may inspect the large terminal building which houses offices of the three airlines serving the city; the Seven Nations restaurant, coffee shop, Gaslight Lounge, Hertz Rent-A-Car service and other facilities.

Visitors will also see the huge control tower, equivalent to a six-story building, and view the array of controls in the Flight Service Station. Also in the tower building are other Federal Aviation Agency facilities, U.S. Weather and administrative offices.

Two civilian operators, Petroleum Flyers and Louisiana Flyers, will also be based at the airport.

W. J. (Bill) Dumatrait, a former member of the Calcasieu parish police jury and chairman of the jury’s airport committee, is manager of the new airport.

A. E. Johnson is maintenance supervisor.

Members of the Airport Authority who are charged with operation of the airport are E. R. Kaufman, president, George L. Mater, L. Lee Welch, Cecil K. Colon and David B. Self.

Flenniken Construction company was the prime contractor for the runway and other earthwork and Lanza Enterprises Inc. was prime contractor for the terminal building and sewage plant.