

Airport

Industry essential to Dickson County core of life



The Dickson County Municipal Airport-Pack Field is located at 2370 Sylvia Road in Dickson.

Airport plays a role in Dickson's future

Liberty Aviation LLC is the fixed-base operator for Dickson County Municipal Airport-Pack Field through a contract with the Dickson Airport Authority.

Liberty Aviation is a partnership of Ann and Larry Hansen of Vanleer and Jeff Tipton, who formerly worked for a previous FBO. Tipton serves as director of operations, overseeing the day-to-day management of the facility.

The airport has a 12,500-gallon, above-ground fuel tank for sales of Avgas and a 4,000 gallon tank for jet fuel.

The airport offers T-hangar storage of airplanes and tie-down space. The Tennessee

Highway Patrol also maintains a helicopter there.

The Dickson County Municipal Airport-Pack Field, 2370 Sylvia Road, took the first steps in implementing a \$7 million plan late in 1994.

The Dickson City Council and Dickson County Commission each approved \$25,000 to match state funds used to buy property for a planned expansion and improvement of the airport facilities.

The Dickson County Airport Authority received a 5-10-year growth plan from the state that includes an estimated \$7 million in improvements. Much of that money is obtained from

state and federal funds as the plan is implemented, said Authority Chairman Charles Hampton.

The plan includes:

- Extending the runway from 4,002 feet to 5,500 feet and widening it from 75 feet to 100 feet within the next 3 years.

- Purchasing additional land for instrumentation that will allow precision approaches.

- A new terminal building, which has been completed.

- A new maintenance hangar.

- Taxiways. The northern taxiway has already been completed and the southern taxiway is under construction.

- An expanded apron, which has been completed.

- New T-hangars which have been built.

- New parking lot, which has been completed.

- A fuel farm and protective fencing.

One feature at the airport is an AWOS (Automated Weather Observation Station). The state supplies this system in conjunction with the airport authority to provide in-air weather updates.

Planes that land at the airport can receive the current weather conditions prior to landing. For more, call 446-5962 or for weather information call 446-5481.

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Industry | Industry essential to Dickson County core of life

Railroad grows towns

By Rick Hollis
Special for the Fact Book

Industry has been the essential core of life in Dickson County from its earliest beginnings.

Before the county was formed by legislative act on Oct. 25, 1803, Gen. James Robertson had established an iron furnace at Cumberland Furnace in the northern section of Dickson County in 1793.

Following the purchase of the Cumberland Iron Works by Montgomery Bell in 1804, the iron industry was expanded rapidly by Bell and Robertson's son-in-law Richard C. Napier throughout Dickson County and the Western Highland Rim of Tennessee from Kentucky to Alabama.

At Bell's death in 1855 at age 86, he was regarded as Tennessee's first capitalist and industrialist and the foremost iron master in the entire South.

Dickson County was named in honor of former Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives Dr. William Dickson (1799-1801).

Dickson, a Nashville physician, was a friend of Andrew Jackson and served the Nashville area as a U.S. Congressman (1801-1807).

Accordingly, politics has always played an important role and Dickson County has contributed its share of state-wide leadership.

Charlotte resident Sterling Brewer was Tennessee's Lt. Governor (1821-1823) Dickson resident Frank Hall served as Speaker of the House of Representatives (1923-1925); and Dickson native Frank G. Clement served as Governor of Tennessee (1953-1959; 1963-1967).

Clement's son, Bob Clement,



Dickson, Burns and White Bluff were established and grew as a result of the railroad. The Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis RR, the Louisville & Nashville RR and the Nashville & Tuscaloosa RR intersected at Dickson.

served as U.S. Congressman from the Nashville area (1987-2003).

The aftermath of the War Between the States was kind to Dickson County.

The demise of the iron industry during the War coincided with the invention of steel.

Although the county possessed an abundant supply of ore for iron production – another kind of ore was necessary for steel production.

But the residual effect of the war – the construction of a railroad across the southern portion of the county – catapulted Dickson County into a new era – an era dominated by the railroad and by transportation.

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New industry was established that took advantage of the important crossroads of three important railways.

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A lime kiln was opened in Burns in 1875 that supplied packaged agricultural lime.

Timber products were produced in White Bluff by the late 1800s.

And in 1897, A.H. Leathers established Dickson's first major industry, a mill that manufactured wood products that included handles and a famous line of baseball bats known as the "Dixie Swatter" which was popular among professionals and amateurs.

Dickson saw the growth of textile factories in the 1930s and 40s, but has continued to prosper with an explosive expansion of industry. Today's industrial park is a collection of international firms that manufacture a vast array of products that have helped to produce a healthy, diversified economy.

The openings of Interstate 40 in the mid-60s and I-840 in 2002 reinforce the fact that access to transportation continues as the driving force for industrial growth.

Commercial growth in the county has steadily increased since the 1880s and Dickson serves as a

regional hub for more than 250,000 people residing in several adjoining counties.

Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Lowes, Kroger and Food Lion have amalgamated the traditional "Main Street" businesses and Dickson's growth owes much to the convenience and services provided by the ever expanding retail trade.

Tourism is emerging as an important strength as recreation and commerce merge to create an enjoyable lifestyle for the Dickson community.

The opportunities provided by Montgomery Bell State Park, The Renaissance Center, GreyStone Golf Club, Thunder Alley Bowling Center, Magic Wheels Skate Center, The Roxy Theater and numerous other facilities are making Dickson a destination of importance.

— A comprehensive history of Dickson County can be found in *A Brief History of Dickson County, Tennessee "200 Years of Pride, Promise and Progress"* by Rick Hollis.



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