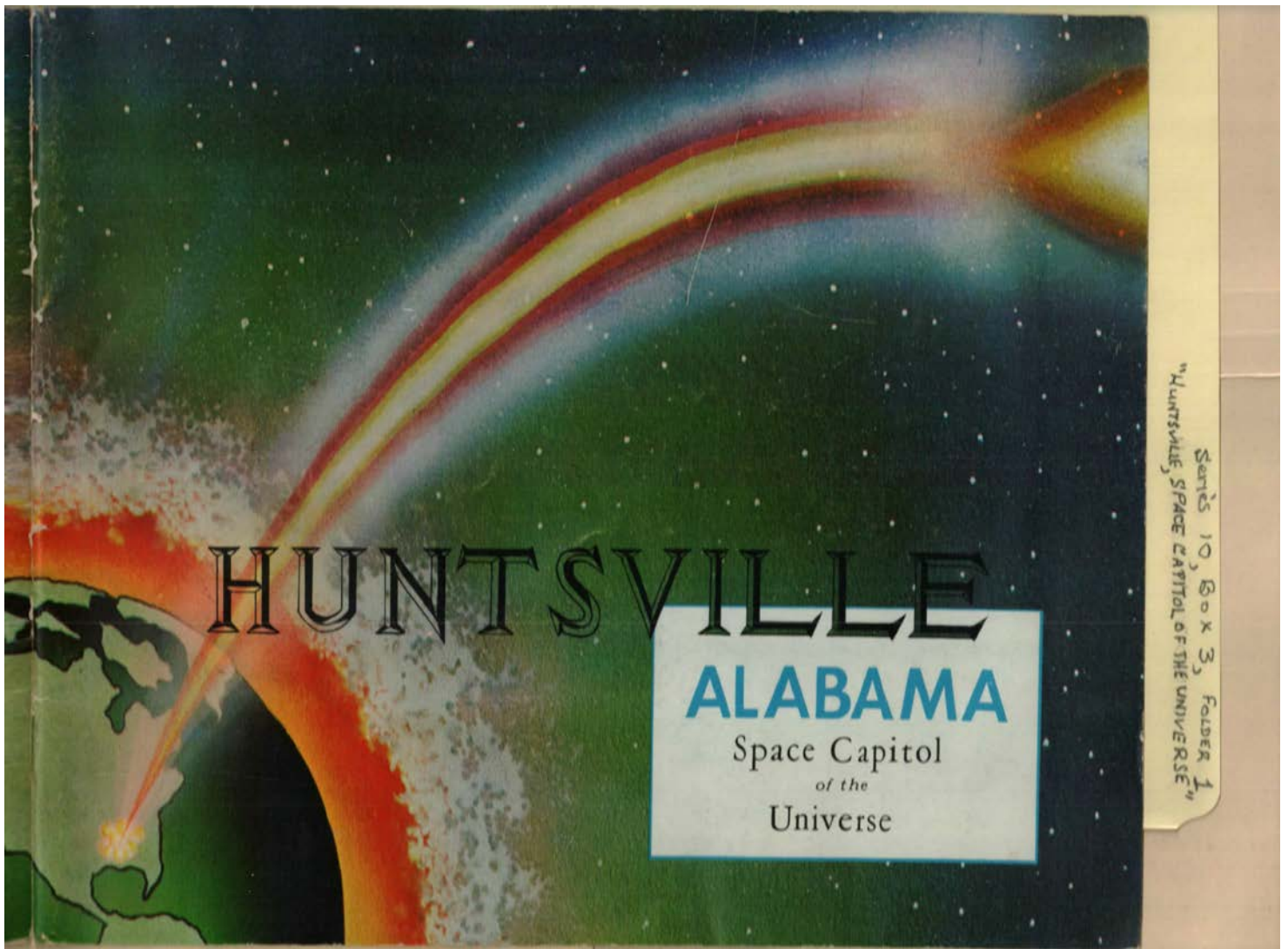


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

Image 1 r10_03-01-000-0001 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Huntsville, Space
Capitol of the

Universe

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

Image 2 r10_03-01-000-0002 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

A Report ... to the Citizens of Huntsville, Alabama

Pages	1	A Message from your Mayor
	2	Your City Council
	4	Accomplishments: 1959
	6	The Plan: 1960
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	10	Street Department
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	33	Recorder's Court

LIBRA, PARAGON PRESS, MONTGOMERY

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capitol of the Universe"

Types:

booklet

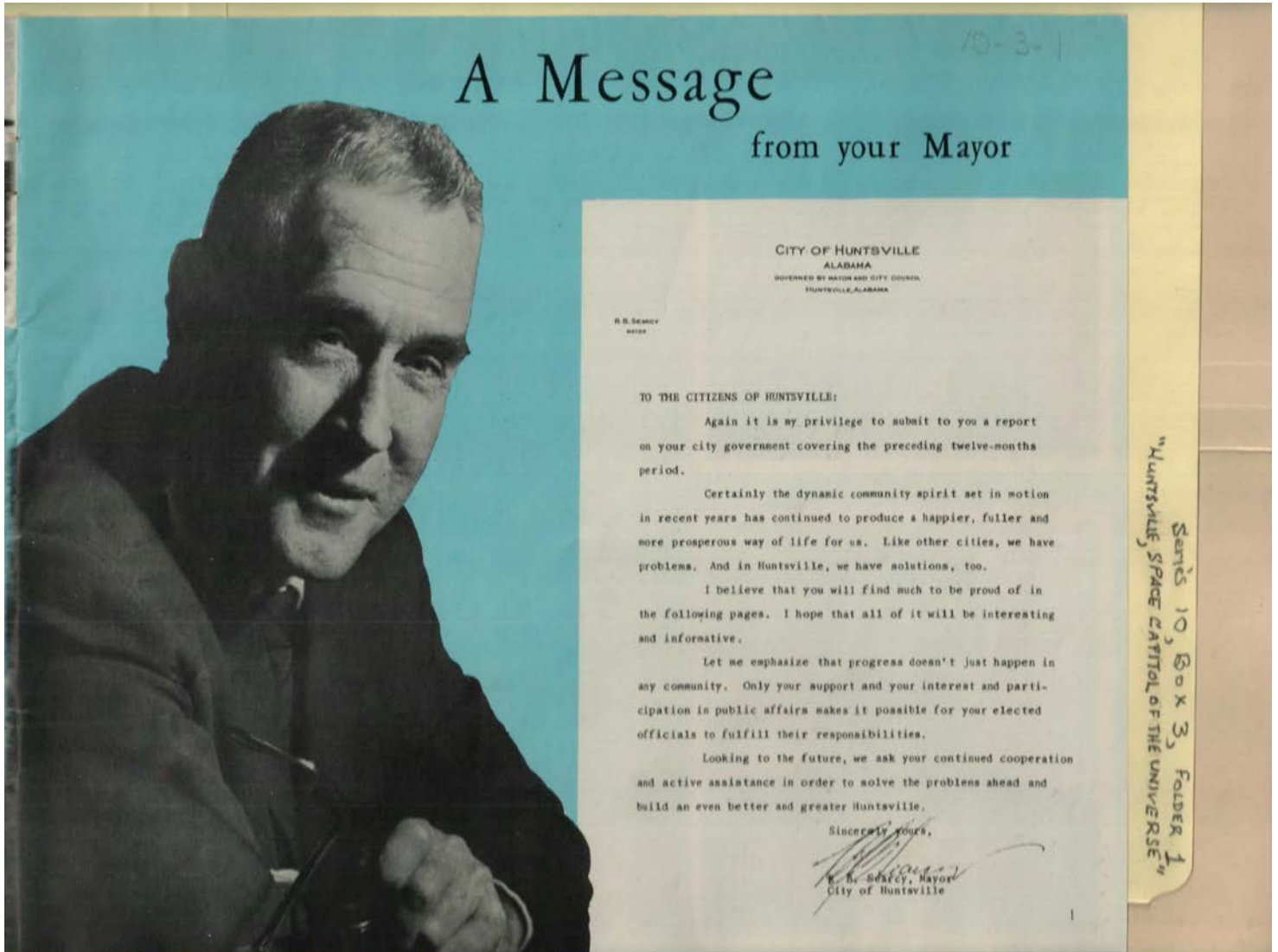
Dates:

1959

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

Image 3 r10_03-01-000-0003 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

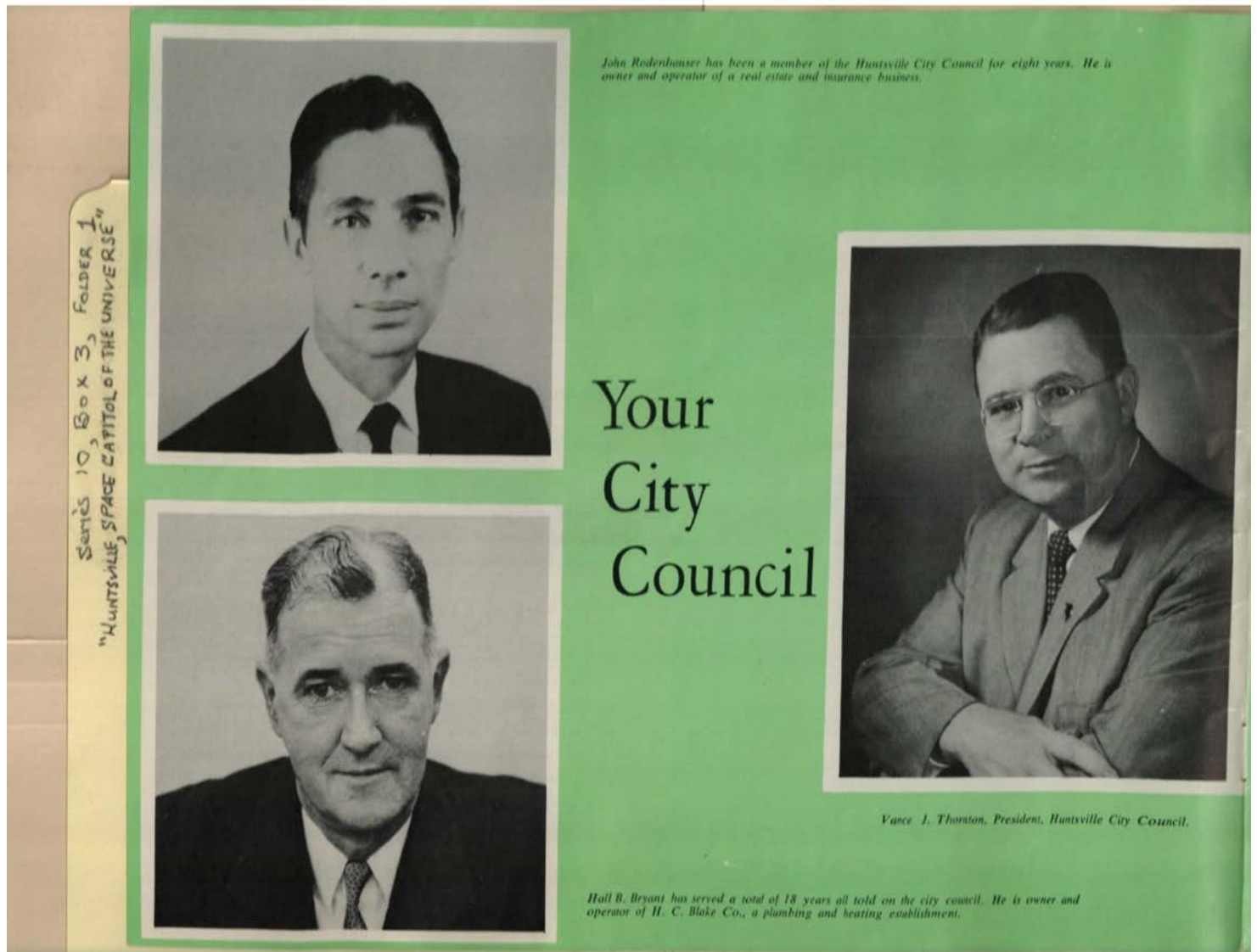
Searcy, R. B., Mayor

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph



Names:

Bryant, Hall B.,
Councilman

Rodenhauer, John,
Councilman

Thornton, Vance J.,
Councilman

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

Image 5 r10_03-01-000-0005 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Houston Goodson an eight-year veteran with the Huntsville City Council, also is a business man when not tending city business. He operates a variety and ice cream store.



Vance J. Thornton is president of the Huntsville City Council. He has been a member of the group for 11 years. He is a partner in the insurance firm of Thornton & Thornton.

Orderly consolidation of the gains of a skyrocketing growth rate continues to be one of the foremost problems facing Huntsville's city government. Each year sees previous records fall. Yet Huntsville's city officials are seeing to it that Huntsville has none of the faults of "boom town" growth generally associated with cities increasing in size as rapidly as Huntsville.

New municipal buildings, increased services to newly-acquired residential areas, and a plan for improving the downtown area are being considered by the council as 1960 dawns.

Louis B. Lee has been a member of the Huntsville City Council for eight years. He is associated with the Lee-Bentley automobile agency.



SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Bryant, Hall B.,
Councilman

Goodson, Houston,
Councilman

Lee, Louis B.,
Councilman

Rodenhauser, John,
Councilman

Thornton, Vance J.,
Councilman

Places:

Huntsville, AL

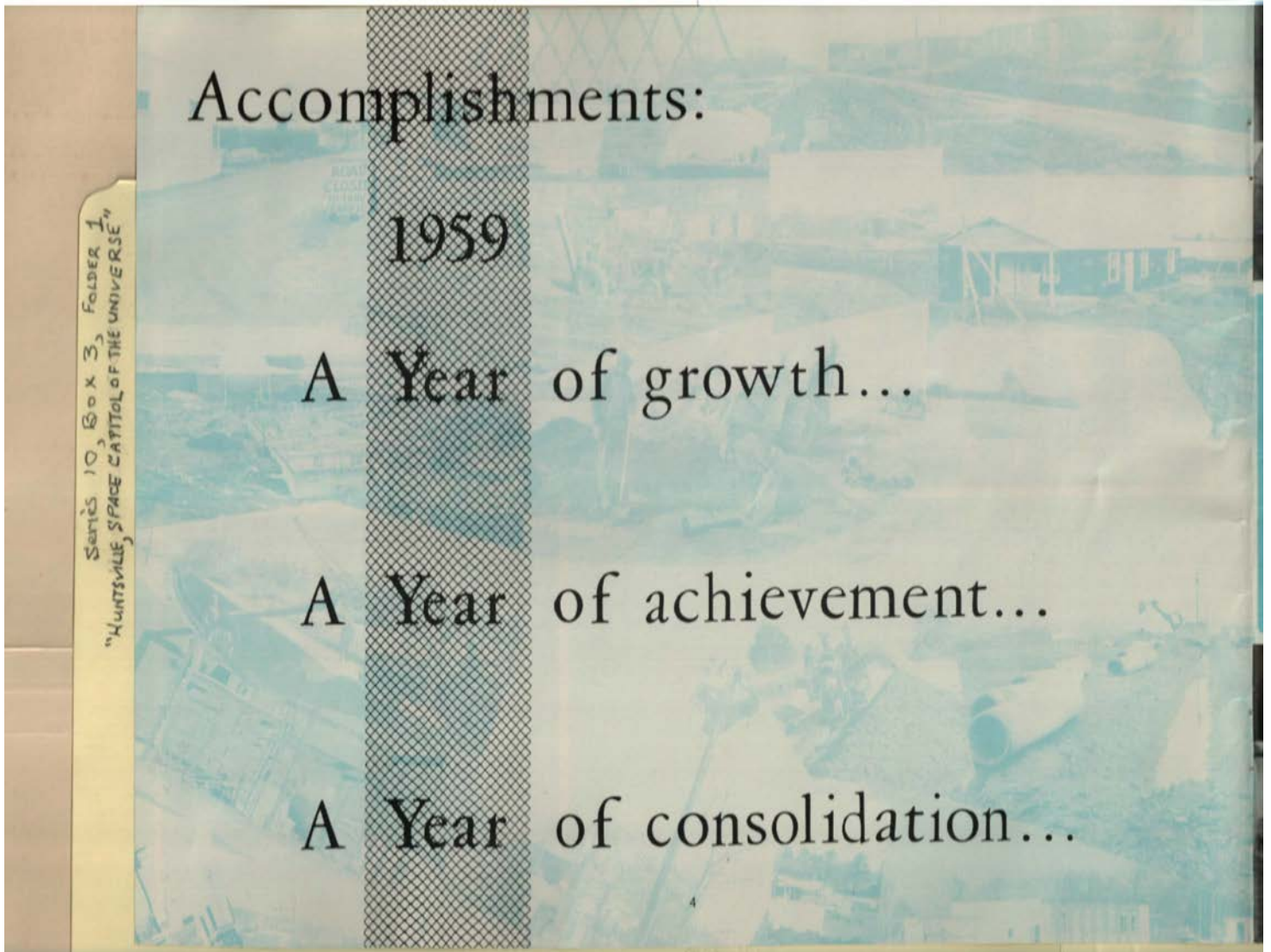
Types:

photograph

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

Image 6 r10_03-01-000-0006 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Types:

booklet

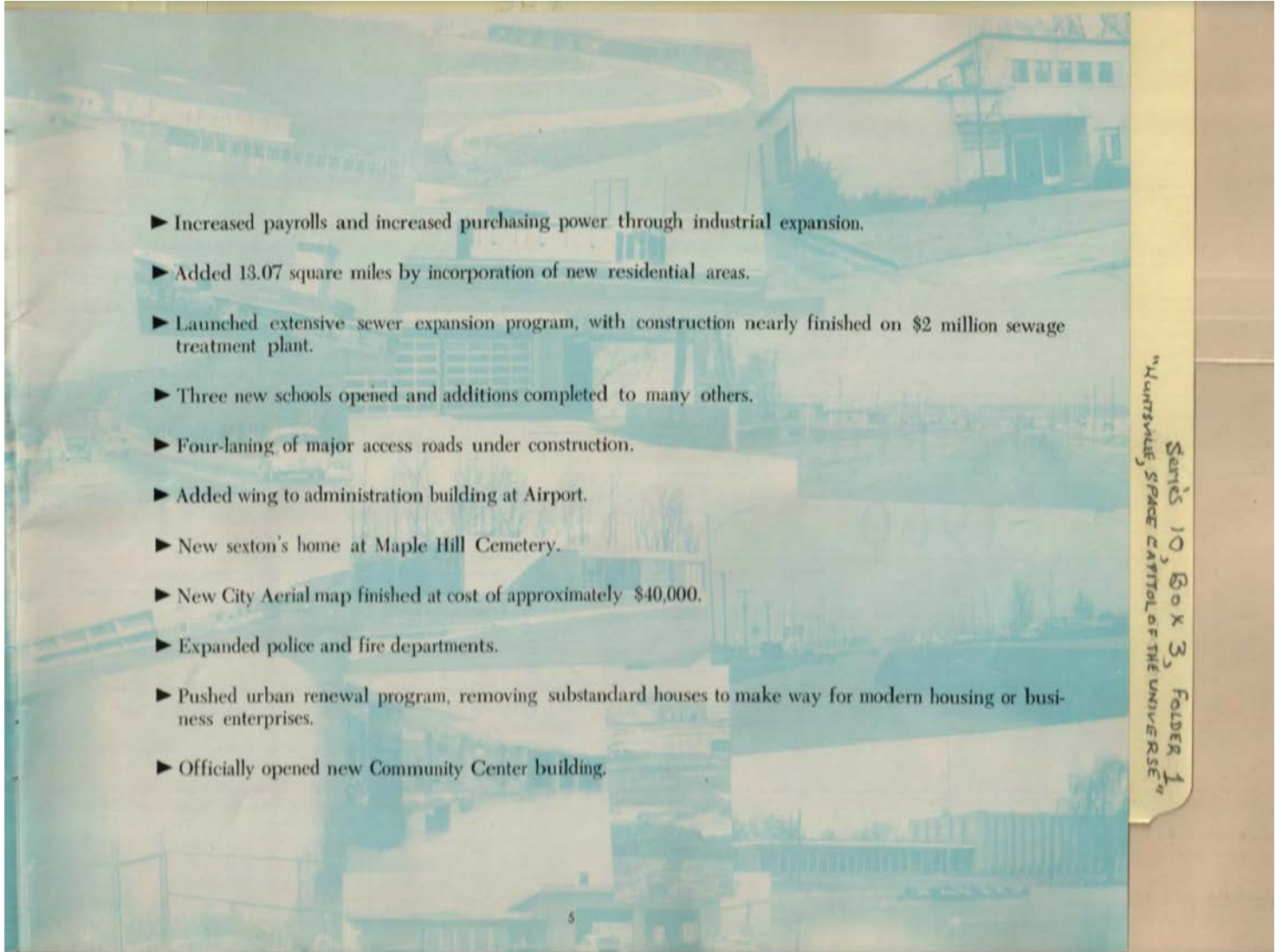
Dates:

1959

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

Image 7 r10_03-01-000-0007 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

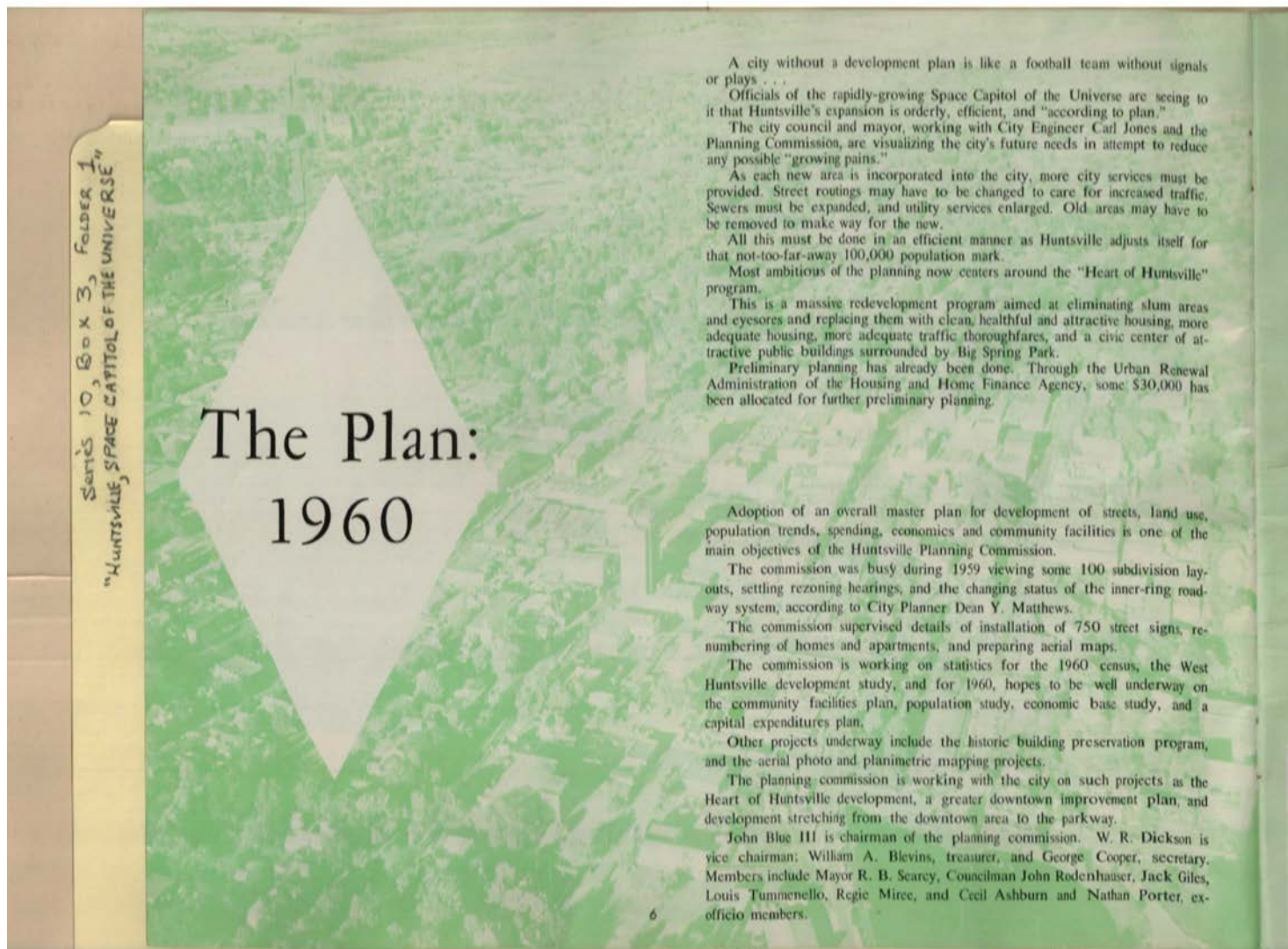


Names:

Accomplishments

Types:

booklet



Names:

Ashburn, Cecil
Blevins, William A.
Blue, John, III
Cooper, George

Dickson, W. R.
Giles, Jack
Matthews, Dean Y.
Miree, Regie

Plan
Porter, Nathan
Rodenhauser, John
Searcy, R. B., Mayor

Tummenello, Louis

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1960

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

Image 9 r10_03-01-000-0009 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



This aerial photograph of Huntsville, and a system of maps are part of the projects given assistance by the Planning Commission during the year.



City Engineer Carl T. Jones.



7

Regular staff of the Huntsville Planning Commission are (left to right) Peggy Countess, Wesley Jones, Jack Fahey, and Dean Matthews. On the table is a land-use plan map.

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capitol of the Universe"

Names:

Aerial Photograph of
Huntsville

Countess, Peggy
Fahey, Jack

Jones, Carl T.
Jones, Wesley

Matthews, Dean

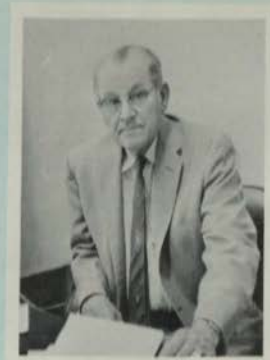
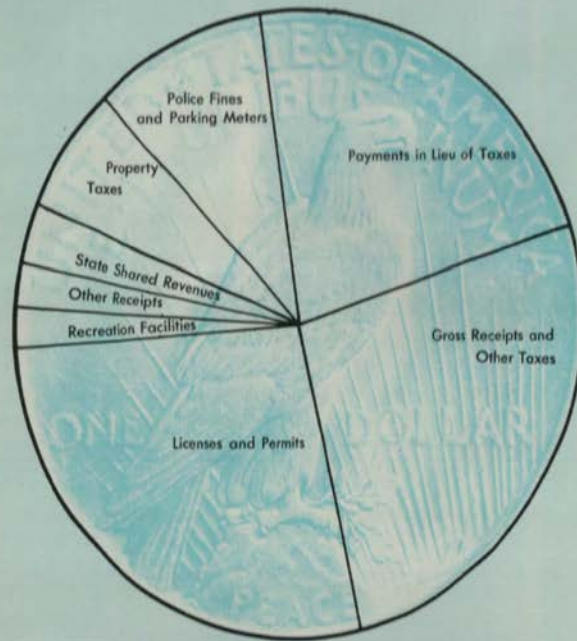
Types:

photograph

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Fiscal and Finances

YOUR TAX DOLLAR:



N. M. Payne,
clerk-treasurer.

As Huntsville grows, so do the problems of the people who handle its finances . . .

Veteran Clerk-Treasurer Norris M. Payne saw many records fall during the year 1959, and he expects more to be set in 1960.

Mr. Payne, who works directly under Council President Vance Thornton, must handle the city's purse strings. He sees that accurate accounts are kept of where the city gets its revenues and where they are spent.

The accompanying pie-plate graph shows where the city's revenues came from and where they went.

Total general fund revenues during 1959 were \$3,447,972.30, up from the 1958 total of \$2,852,471.79.

Gross receipts and other special taxes swelled the general fund total during the year by \$1,903,189.04. Licenses and permits brought in an additional \$840,546.38.

Other general fund revenue sources included general taxes, \$215,487.04; ABC Stores, beverage licenses and taxes, \$262,503.86, and Recreation, \$35,560.22.

Largest expense from the fund was for the protection of life and property, or the police department and fire department, which came to \$827,275.64.

Other expenses from the fund included street construction, cleaning and maintenance, \$575,075.33; garbage collection and disposal, \$222,021.90; sewer construction and maintenance, \$69,884.24; recreation, \$366,373.12, and schools, hospital, health and library, \$356,891.89.

Mr. Payne's department also has to handle details of the sinking fund, bond sales, etc.

Where it comes from, and . . . 8

Names:

Fiscal & Finances

Payne, Norris M.

Thornton, Vance

Types:

booklet

chart

photograph

City Clerk-Treasurer's Office and Staff



Council President Vance J. Thornton.



Where it goes in Huntsville.



Available for Appropriation

Protection of Persons and Property

Street Construction, Cleaning and Maintenance

Sewer Construction and Maintenance

Street Lighting

Employed Welfare

Other Agencies

Other Expenses

Airport, Public Dock, and Housing

Schools, Hospital, Health; Libraries, Etc.

Garbage Collection and Disposal

Fiscal and Administrative

Recreation

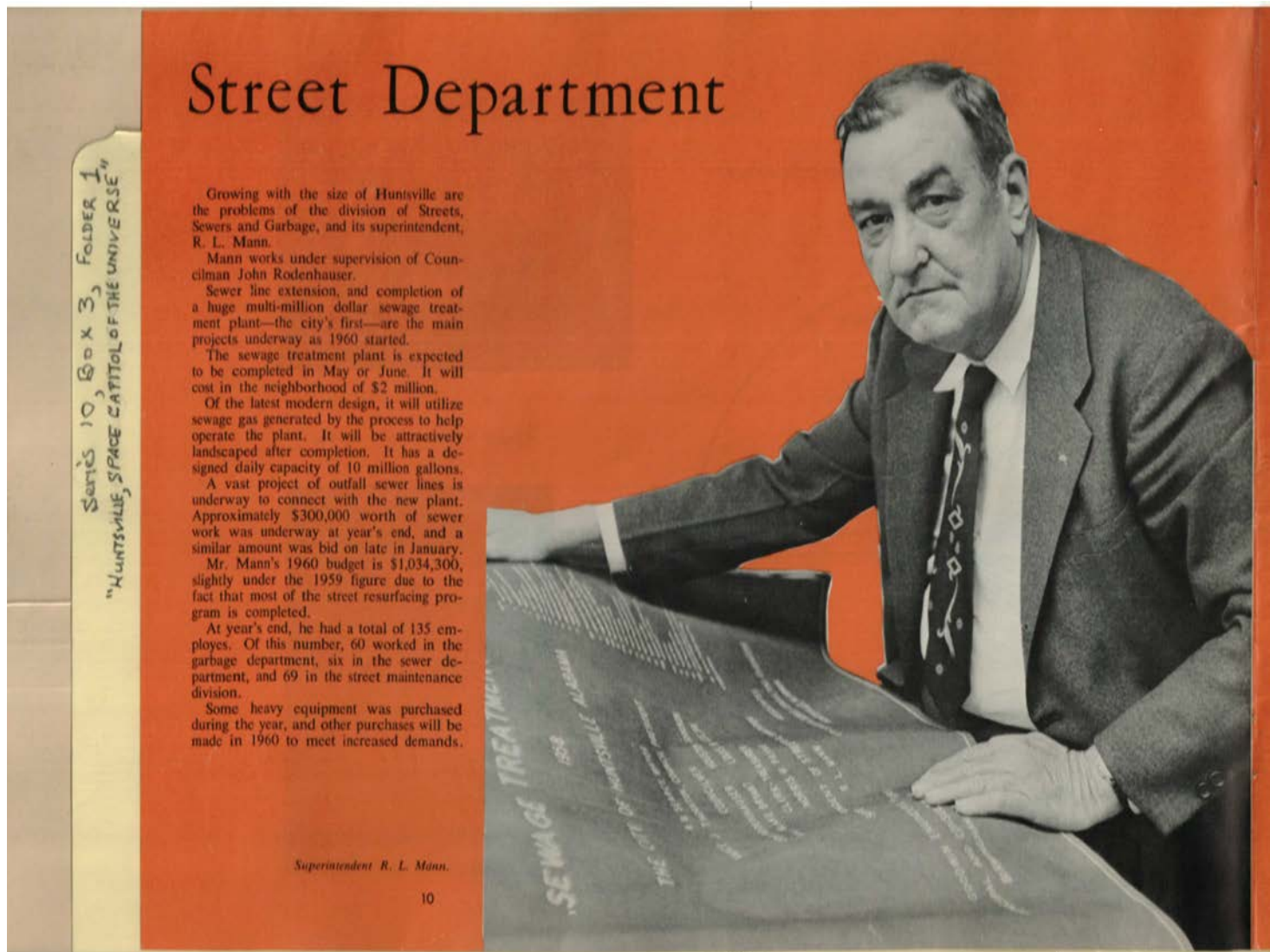
Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capitol of the Universe"

Names:

Thornton, Vance, J.

Types:

photograph



Names:

Mann, R. L.

Rodenhauser, John

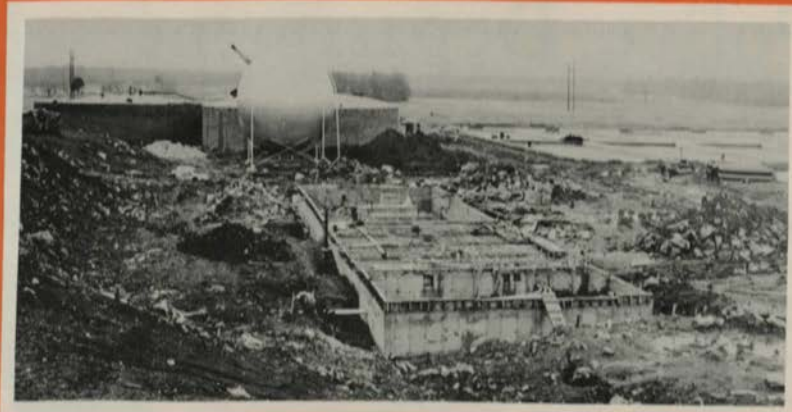
Types:

booklet

photograph



Councilman Rodenhauser.



Construction is well underway here on the new \$2 million sewage treatment plant.



Modern equipment to service Huntsville



More sewer lines are laid as city moves to service all areas.

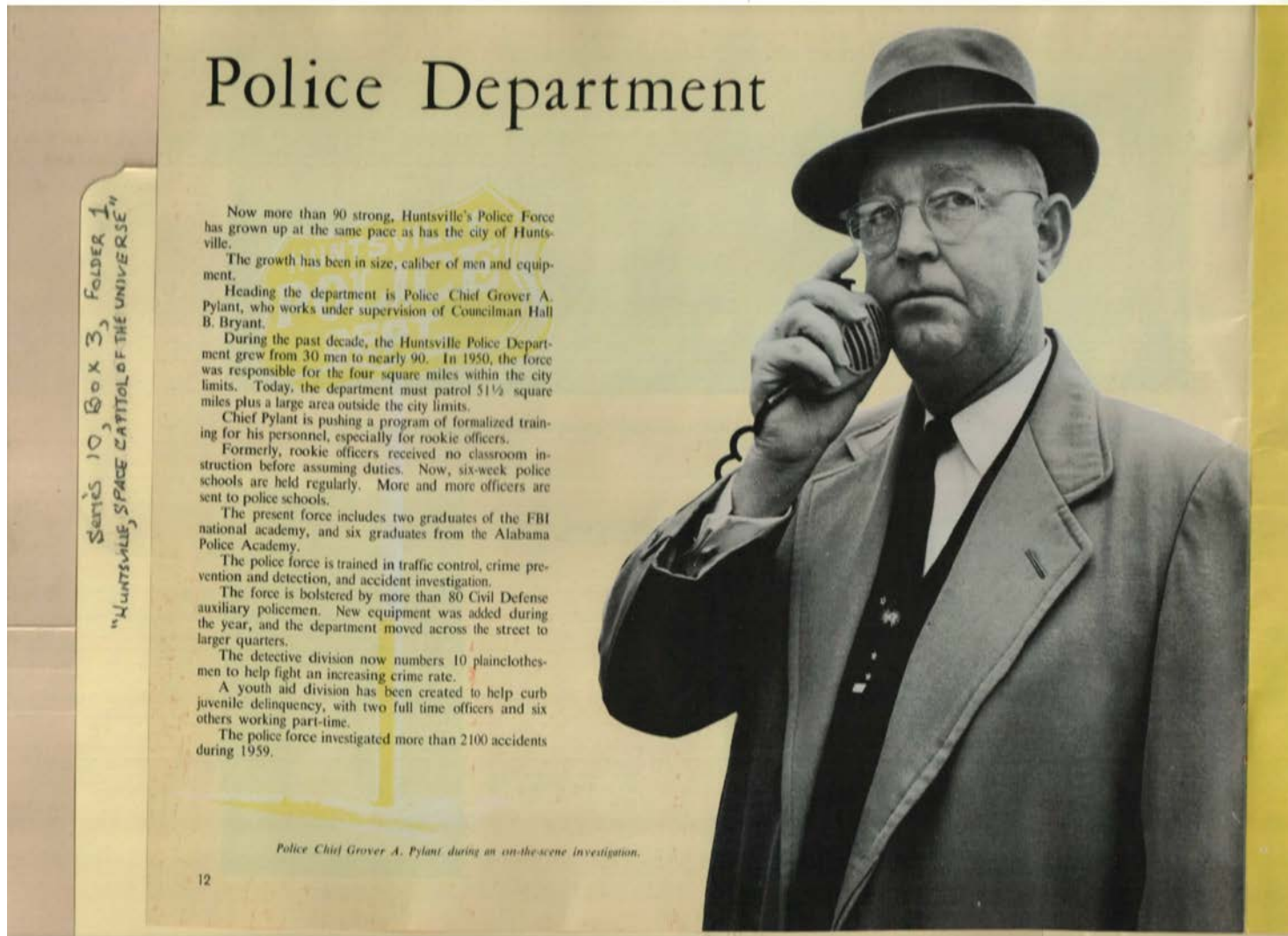
Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capitol of the Universe"

Names:

Rodenhauer, John

Types:

photograph



Names:

Bryant, Hall B.

Pylant, Grover A.,
Police Chief

Types:

booklet

photograph



Police radio operator.



Police Chief Grover Pylant discusses problems with Councilman Hall B. Bryant.



The larger quarters now occupied by the Huntsville Police Department.

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Bryant, Hall B.

Pylant, Grover A.,
Police Chief

Types:

photograph

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Fire Department



Modern station on Monte Sano Mountain put into service.

Fire Chief Tolen checks new equipment.



Fire Chief Massey Tolen with Councilman Houston Goodson.

The record of what "didn't happen" during 1959 points up vividly the excellent job being done by the Huntsville Fire Department as it sought to keep pace with the rapidly-expanding size of Huntsville.

Although 1959 saw some 1,004 alarms turned in—about 190 more than in 1958—loss was kept to a minimum, and the two large blazes which broke out last January were confined to a small area.

Fire Chief Massey Tolen, working under Councilman Houston Goodson, is seeing to it that his department grows and becomes more and more efficient in order to meet any possible emergency.

Only a few firemen operating from a single station were charged with protecting lives and property in 1950, records show. A total of 83 firemen from four stations did the job in 1959.

A fifth modern fire station is scheduled to be completed this year on Highway 72.

Residential runs topped the year with 313. There were 43 false alarms turned in.

A new station wagon for the fire inspector and a car for the chief were bought during the year.

An extensive training program is being carried out, with 14 trainees, scheduled to fill the roster when the new station is opened—taking daily training courses.

As a part of the training, and coupled with urban renewal and minimum housing requirements, the trainees burn condemned houses and get valuable first-hand experience in fighting and confining residential blazes while clearing slums at the same time.

Names:

Goodson, Houston

Tolen, Massey, Fire Chief

Types:

photograph



Group of fire fighting trainees study the importance of tying knots.



Trainees learn how by fighting fire in sub-standard residences.

Nearly completed fire station on Highway 72.



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SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

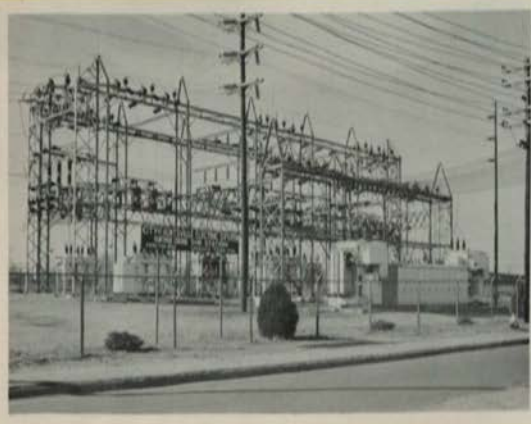
Names:

Fire Fighters

Types:

photograph

Utilities



Electric system's central sub station.

James S. Wall (left), water superintendent, and T. J. Hicks, pump operator, at central control panel.



SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

The City of Huntsville in 1959 again saw record growth in the electric system which it owns and operates, serving the City of Huntsville, the towns of Madison and New Hope, and rural areas of Madison County.

The city also owns and operates the water system and the natural gas system which serves the city and surrounding areas.

Each of the three utilities is administered by a three-man board, whose members are elected by the City Council from qualified electors of the city who are not officers or employees of the city.

Members of the boards are as follows:

Electric Utility Board—M. B. Spragins, chairman; Jesse Patterson, secretary, and A. D. Elliott.

Gas Utility Board and Waterworks Utility Boards—H. M. Rhett, Jr., chairman; James E. Davis, vice chairman, and Gordon Maples, secretary.

All personnel of the three utility departments are selected and employed by the respective boards. Karl A. Woltersdorf is manager of all three utility departments.

Electric System—The city purchases its entire electric power supply from the Tennessee Valley Authority for resale to consumers in Huntsville, Madison County and a small portion of Marshall County. Resale rates to consumers are uniform throughout the service area and are among the lowest to be found anywhere in the nation and are about half the national average. Electrical consumption, as a result, is considerably above the national average.

The growth of the system has been in an efficient manner, meeting the challenge of the growth of Huntsville and Madison County. In 1955, there were 23,770 electric customers. Annual sales this time were 230,553,325 KWH's, with a gross annual revenue of \$2,391,147. The year ending September, 1959 saw the customer total rise to 32,918, with annual sales reaching 423,009,025 KWH's, and gross annual revenue amounting to \$3,940,908.

Natural Gas System—The city has operated the local gas distribution system only since 1952, when it purchased the small and inadequate propane gas facilities from Alabama Gas Co., which then served less than 500 customers. It entered into a contract with Alabama-Tennessee Natural Gas Co. to purchase natural gas for distribution to Huntsville and Madison County. A total of \$2 million natural gas system revenue bonds was originally authorized (of which \$1.5 million were sold) to construct the original distribution system to serve about 3,200 customers. Subsequently, an additional \$1.5 million gas system revenue securities have been issued to build facilities necessary to meet the growth and expansion of services.

The system had 5,174 customers at the end of the 1955 year. Annual revenue was \$633,860. At the end of 1959 year, there were 11,718 customers, with annual gross revenue reaching \$1,523,160.

Water System—The municipally owned Huntsville water system is reportedly one of the oldest public water supply systems in the nation. It dates back to about 1815 when water was pumped from Big Spring to a reservoir located on the present courthouse square. The system has been in continuous operation since that time.

Names:

Davis, James E.
Elliott, A. D.
Hicks, T. J.

Maples, Gordon
Patterson, Jesse
Rhett, H. M., Jr.

Spragins, M. B.
Wall, James S.
Woltersdorf, Karl. A.

Types:

booklet

photograph

In 1957, following a \$4 million improvement program of the water system to include additional sources of supply, more adequate storage facilities and extensive additions to the distribution system, Big Spring was abandoned as a water supply source.

As a result of a cooperative study of groundwater resources with the U. S. Geological Survey and the State of Alabama, the City of Huntsville has been able to keep up with rapidly growing demands on its system from local groundwater sources. At the present, plans are underway which will not only provide additional sources of groundwater supply, but also will include surface supply from the Tennessee River should it ever become necessary.

As of September, 1959, a total of 18,163 water customers were billed by the city of Huntsville, as compared to 9,950 customers in September, 1954, an increase of 82.5 per cent in five years.



Gas main installation.

Installing new water mains.



Manager Karl Woltersdorf at desk.

New overhead lighting on Memorial Parkway.



Construction underway on \$300,000 gas peak shaving plant.



Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capitol of the Universe"

Names:

Woltersdorf, Karl. A.

Types:

photograph

Schools

The year 1959 broke all records as far as the Huntsville School system was concerned, making 1958 seem minute in comparison.

Dr. Raymond L. Christian, superintendent of education, said that the same pace should continue in 1960.

More schoolrooms, more teachers, more educational facilities—and more funds—will continue to be the major needs as Huntsville continues to grow.

The 1959 school year showed some 14,878 pupils enrolled. This compared with 13,177 last year and a mere 5,200 in 1956.

Despite this record growth, an efficient less-than-30 pupil to teacher ratio

has been maintained.

As the city grew, the school system had to grow. Schools completed during the year included: A \$231,000 school on Monte Sano Mountain; A \$222,000 University Place Elementary School having 12 classrooms; The 12-room Lakewood Elementary School costing \$218,824; a two-room addition to Terry Heights School at a cost of \$23,000; a 12-room addition to Madison Pike School at a cost of \$98,000, and a four-room addition to Council High School at a cost of \$54,000; Renovation and reopening of West End Elementary School at a cost of \$25,000, and 12-classroom addition to Lakewood Elementary at a cost of \$139,000.



The modern building in which the board of education is housed.

Upcoming construction includes a 10-room addition including lunchroom, gym and auditorium to West Lawn Junior High at a cost of \$487,000; an addition to Butler High costing \$125,000, and plans have been drawn for a 12-room addition to Whitesburg Elementary and Junior High at a cost of \$700,000.

The system has 22 schools and 516 teachers at the end of 1960. In 1956, there were but 180 teachers and nine schools.

"Our great need," said Dr. Christian, "is junior high school space."

The recent annexation to the city and its continued growth require three more elementary schools in the near future, he pointed out. The school system needs immediately either one more senior high and one more junior high school, or convert a junior high to senior high and build two new junior high schools.

18

Names:

Board of Education
Building

Christian, Raymond
L., Dr.

Types:

booklet

photograph

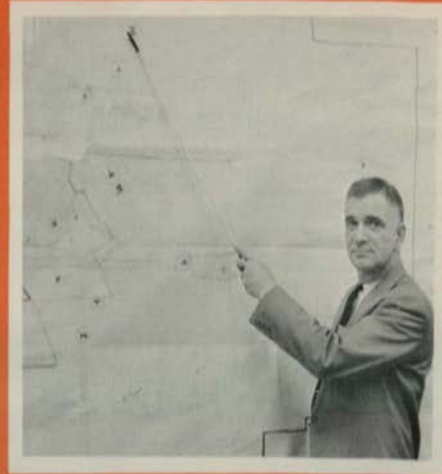
SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"



The recently completed Monte Sano School, costing \$231,000.



The new University Place School which cost \$222,000.



Dr. Christian points on map to site of a contemplated new junior high school.



The Westlawn School, where new gym, auditorium and lunchroom were added at a cost of \$487,000.

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Christian, Raymond
L., Dr.

Huntsville School
Buildings

Types:

photograph

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

The city's modern new Recreation Building.

Parks and



All records were broken in the city's Parks and Playgrounds department, with 1960 expected to be even busier.

Councilman Louis Lee, chairman of the city's recreation committee, said the program was the "best return" of any tax dollar spent.

Highlighting the year was the opening of the modern new community center at Big Spring Park.

The city has plans to build during the coming year a similar recreation center for negroes near Council High School.

Thousands of men, women and children took part in the many individual and team events available throughout the year.

Softball was one of the more popular activities, with 950 persons on 37 teams taking part.

The baseball program comprised 23 teams with 850 boys taking part.

The Babe Ruth and Little League All-Stars won district meets and participated in the State Tournament.

Also successful was PeeWee football, with 400 youngsters playing on eight teams.

PeeWee and independent basketball play was well attended.

The city's 18 playgrounds attracted 4,400 registered participants. The fishing rodeo and campout drew 1,800 boys and girls.

Records also were set by the two swimming pools. Big Spring had an attendance of 46,870, while Binford Park pool drew 5,721. Swimming competition and tennis also drew record numbers of participants.

A number of clubs used the facilities of the new Center during the year.

Work was started in the winter of 1958 to develop and beautify the Brahan Spring area.

The city owns 50 acres and this site is a natural for recreation.

20

Names:

Lee, Louis B.,
Councilman

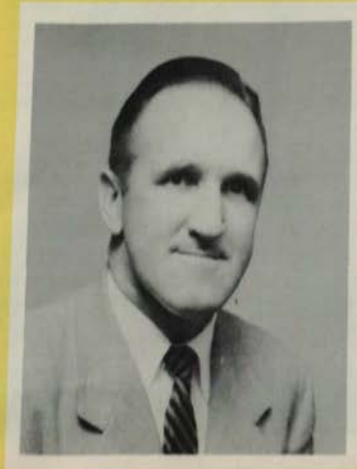
Recreation Building

Types:

booklet

photograph

Playgrounds



Paul Anderson,
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation



A Fair Day on the Fairway.



Champions of the Pee Wee
Football League.



Tennis winners in the
10-and-under class.

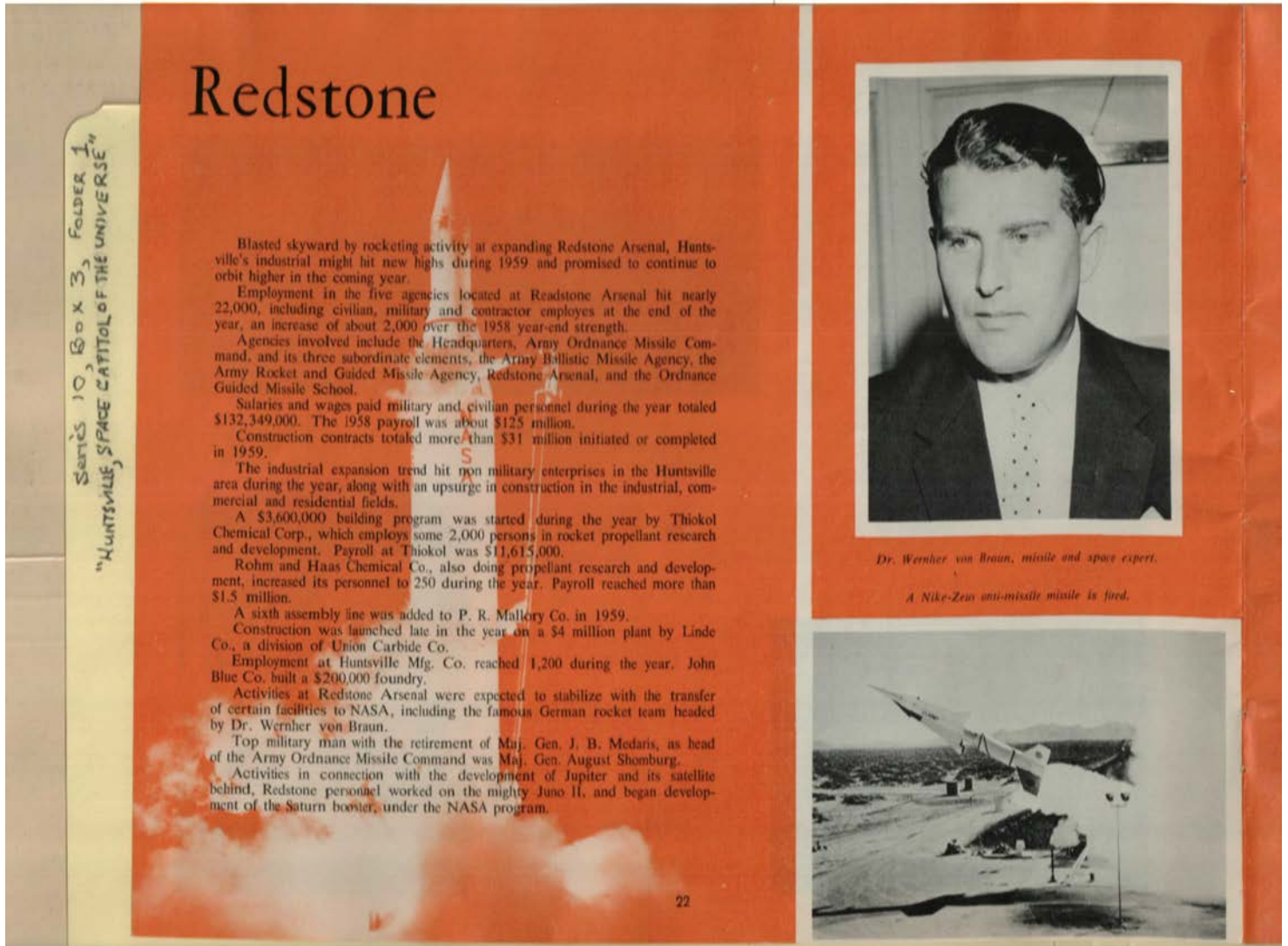
Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Anderson, Paul

Types:

photograph



Names:

Medaris, J. B.,
General

Nike-Zeus Anti-
Missile

Shomburg, August,
General

von Braun, Wernher,
Dr.

Types:

booklet

photograph



The test stand at ABMA, showing modifications to handle the mighty Saturn booster.



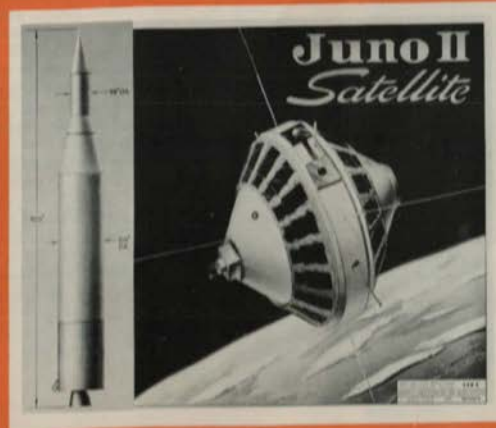
Simulated fueling of Redstone Missile.



Satellite-Launcher Jupiter at moment of blast off.



Missiles and Missilemen



Models of the Juno II rocket and satellite.

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Missiles Scenes in
Huntsville

Types:

photograph

Urban Renewal



Executive Director Nathan Porter checks for projects underway.

The fire had not just started by accident . . .
Flames ate swiftly up the rich aged wooden walls of the house, sending clouds of black smoke pouring skyward.

Shortly before, a man with an assortment of easily combustible materials had been seen entering the dwelling house.

He was a fire bug!

He had entered the house, ripped paper off the walls, piled it loosely in a corner, and then applied a match. As the fire caught, he rushed outside.

His work done, the "fire-bug" turned "fireman" and joined his buddies in putting the fire out . . .

This scene is repeated almost daily in Huntsville under the careful and watchful eyes of fire officials.

It is all a part of the vast urban renewal projects underway in the Rocket City. Already, it has cleared the city of a vast jungle of substandard shacks, and made room for better housing facilities or light industrial application.

The burning of the old shacks, in addition to serving a valuable aim in the urban renewal and minimum housing programs, also gives Huntsville firemen-trainees valuable first-hand experience in fighting fires.

At present, urban renewal projects underway are the West Clinton Street project; the Winston Street project, and the Madison Pike-Ninth Avenue project.

The West Clinton project has been delayed for some months because of a proposed grade separation to be built at the intersection of West Clinton Street and Memorial Parkway. The area is to be developed for commercial use.

The Winston Street project is underway with acquisition completed with the exception of two parcels. Of the 226 families here to be relocated, 200 had been relocated by the first of the year. Forty-nine are in public housing. Of the 282 dwelling units scheduled to be torn down, 68 remained at the end of the year. Site improvement started the first of the year for redevelopment for light industrial use.

The Madison Pike-Ninth Avenue project is underway with 60 per cent of the property acquired by year's end and 17 families relocated. This left 148 families still to be relocated. This area is to be redeveloped for residential use.

Approval has been received for a general neighborhood renewal plan study of an area known as the Heart of Huntsville area, containing 185 acres. It is to help revitalize the growth of the downtown area by tying it to the parkway development.

Names:

Porter, Nathan

Types:

photograph



Judge Ashford Todd; Herbert Johnson, Sr.; Oscar Mason, Chairman; H. E. Monroe; and Butler Ragland, Commissioners.



Sub-standard structures are being vacated.

Down with the old to make way for the new, as firemen control a blaze they started.

Flames eat into sub-standard structure as firemen fight in a light snowfall.



Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capitol of the Universe"

Names:

Johnson, Herbert, Sr.
Mason, Oscar

Monroe, H. E.
Ragland, Butler

Todd, Ashford, Judge

Types:

photograph

Public Housing

Construction starts on a new low-rent housing project.



During 1959, Huntsville's PHA aided low-rent housing projects increased in size and service, keeping pace with the needs of fast-growing Huntsville.

Northwoods Project was completed during the year, adding 269 dwelling units to the low-rent facilities available.

Also during 1959, acquisition started on the Madison Pike-Ninth Avenue Urban Renewal Project, containing 49.917 acres, and two other low-rent projects, Brookside, with 76 units, and Lincoln Park, with 194 units were started.

The Housing Authority, directed by Nathan Porter, operates Butler Terrace Housing Project, containing 254 units, and Sparkman Homes, containing 186 units, for white occupancy, and Council Courts with 180 units for colored occupancy. The authority also operates Binford Court, a 220 dwelling unit project, purchased in 1953 from the government by the local authority.

With the exception of Binford Court, the tenants, in order to qualify for one of the scarce vacancies which occur from time-to-time in the PHA aided low-rent projects, must be a citizen of the United States, qualify as a family or aged person, and have a gross income of less than \$3,000 a year plus \$100 for each child.

The rents paid by the occupants are based on their incomes, plus the number of minors in the family, and has no bearing on the size of apartment required. Although these projects contain a number of welfare families, the average rentals received per unit averages \$33 a month. This includes all utilities with the exception of electricity, and in addition, each tenant is furnished with a range and refrigerator.

When tenants become over-income, they are given notice they must vacate their unit within 90 days and find private housing elsewhere.

At present, the Housing Authority operates Council Courts, Butler Terrace and Addition, Sparkman Homes, Northwoods, and Binford Court with a total of 1109 units involving 4269 people.



*Oscar Mason,
Chairman*



*Nathan Porter,
Housing Executive Director*



One of the housing projects operated by the Huntsville authority.

Names:

Mason, Oscar

Porter, Nathan

Types:

photograph

Transportation

An airliner awaits passengers at the administration building of Huntsville's busy airport.



A view of Huntsville's modern passenger terminal at the Airport.



Huntsville's continued rapid growth during 1959 put added loads on transportation facilities leading to and from the Space Capital of the Universe.

Huntsville is served by two railroads, a bus line, three major airlines, motor freight lines, and claims the title of "port city" because of its modern State Docks system.

When fully utilized, the state docks, with its warehouse and other facilities, will provide water freight rates for Huntsville industry, and provide a slack water route for freight from Knoxville to points in Ohio, Kentucky, and other inland cities and the coast.

Huntsville is served by the South's two largest rail systems, the Louisville and Nashville and the Southern. These two rail lines serve directly every state in the South and a number of the border states. With their affiliated and related lines, they operate 20,519 miles of railroad and provide Huntsville with direct rail service to every state in the union and Canada and Mexico and Cuba.

More than 75 Huntsville industries have private rail sidings on one or both of these rail lines. An additional 63 industries are served by team tracks. The

two railroads provide service to Redstone Arsenal through connections with the government-owned terminal railroad.

The Southern Railway serves Huntsville with two of its crack trains, the Southerner and the Tennessean, with daily service. A number of local passenger trains also serve the area daily. The L. & N. provides fast freight service.

Trailways Bus Lines has a modern station near the downtown area.

It once more was a year of expansion for the Airport, where Eastern Airlines, Southern Airways and Capital Airlines serve. John Alford, airport manager, said approximately 100,000 persons flew out of Huntsville by scheduled airlines during the year. A large number came by private plane and charter service.

The airport modernization program continued, with a new baggage service wing being added.

Approximately 125,000 aircraft landed or took off from the airport during 1959, Airport Chairman J. E. Mitchell reported. A \$60,781 wing was added to the administration building during the year, providing a restaurant and baggage space.



Interior view of the new baggage room addition to the Huntsville air terminal made during the year.



Huntsville has daily rail service to all points in the nation. 27

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capital of the Universe"

Names:

Alford, John

Mitchell, J. E.

Types:

booklet

Health

The health needs of a city growing at the rate shown by Huntsville requires adequate hospital facilities and an efficient health department.

Dr. Otis F. Gay, county health officer, saw new records set in his department during 1959, and Larry C. Rigsby, administrator of the Huntsville Hospital also reported a new high in all categories.

During the year, 17,623 patients were admitted to the hospital. Approximately 5,000 major and minor surgical operations were performed.

Highlight of the year was when the hospital was accredited for the first time by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

The City of Huntsville and Madison County have appropriated \$12,500 each which will be matched by Hill-Burton funds to expand the present site of the City-County health center, Dr. Gay reported.

The health center has three regularly-scheduled clinic treatment schedules. Immunizations, blood tests, VD treatments, and examinations of bar-

bers, beauty parlor operators and food handlers are held on Wednesdays. Chest X-rays, and case contacts are on Friday's schedule. Saturday's schedule is similar to Wednesday with the addition of examinations for school lunchroom workers, bus drivers and school teachers.

During the year, some 20,988 inoculations were given. X-rays came to 5,530; eye examinations, 1,711; ear examinations, 4,450, and food handling tests, 2,088.

The department is proud of its program for home care of TB patients.

Department personnel includes the county health officer, eight public health nurses, seven sanitation officers, a part-time veterinarian, a PBX operator and a file clerk, a psychiatric social worker, three clinical psychologists, and a part-time psychologist in the mental health program.

Some 235 patients were treated in the dental clinic.

Outside of Huntsville Hospital, now fully accredited.



SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Gay, Otis F., Dr.

Huntsville Hospital

Rigsby, Larry C.

Types:

booklet

photograph

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

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Names:

Gay, Otis F., Dr.

Rigsby, Larry C.

Types:

photograph

Civil Defense

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"Huntsville, Space Capitol of the Universe"



Civil Defense Coordinator Ransom Crawford with a batch of police helmets he will issue to his special policemen.

Civil Defense Coordinator Ransom E. Crawford worked throughout 1959 to get his department ready for a task he prays it will never have to perform. . .

"But we must be ready for any eventuality," Crawford declared, as he recounted the gains of the year and looked ahead to plans for 1960.

The urgency of Crawford's work is seen by the proximity of nearby Redstone Arsenal and the vital related industries of the Huntsville area.

Fighting fires, handling crowds, organizing evacuation programs, preparing emergency hospital facilities, and even taking over or helping state and local government agencies resume work are but part of the overall Civil Defense program.

Seven more CD units were effected in the county during the past year. Personnel are trained in fire fighting and equipped with trucks and other needed equipment.

Last year's 100-man CD police force was doubled during 1959.

Schools are held in communications, fire fighting, police work, radiology, and even a special school for housewives. Some 25,000 persons are now associated with the county-wide Civil Defense program.

Mr. Crawford operates under a \$10,000 annual budget, which is shared equally by the City of Huntsville and the county.

With cooperation of the Red Cross, first aide workers have been recruited and trained. A local radio station has installed CONELRAD facilities and acquired an emergency generator to continue operations in the event of a power failure. Three large warning sirens also are part of the alert system.

Names:

Crawford, Ransom E.

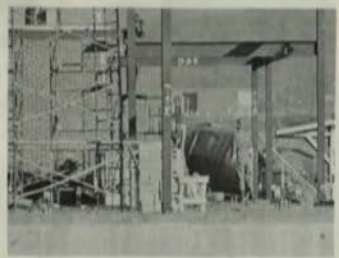
Types:

photograph

New Construction and Inspection

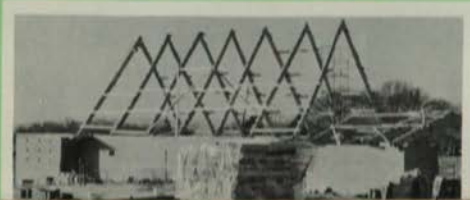


Handling inspections for the city are (left to right) W. R. Byrom, housing inspector; Richard Reynolds, assistant building inspector; S. J. Petree, electrical inspector, and Jim McKee, building inspector. Not shown is Plumbing Inspector W. E. Ewing.



An addition to an existing plant is part of the growth picture.

One of the many new churches under construction in the city.



Records fell right and left in the construction field during 1959, keeping pace with the rate of the decade, which saw Huntsville erupt to a city of some 70,000 citizens.

Three new industries with a total investment of nearly \$3 million are establishing plants in the city. More than \$9 million was invested in sewers and utility expansion during the year.

Building permits calling for construction valued at \$21 million were issued during the year. A total of 3,450 individual permits was issued. This compared with 657 permits for a valuation of \$2,330,803 in 1951.

Ground was broken for a University of Alabama Extension Center on Highway 72 West. The building will cost \$750,000.

A vast school construction program, approximating \$900,000 also is underway. Subdivisions continued to blossom up, and new public housing projects were built and others underway.

A regional coliseum, costing approximately \$130,000 was started.

Existing industry and business establishments expanded and modernized during the year.

Construction contracts topping \$30 million were initiated or completed during the year at Redstone Arsenal.

A gas peak shaving plant costing \$234,000 was started, and work neared completion on the city's modern new sewage disposal plant.

The building program kept the city's inspection department busy throughout the year.

More than 7,000 inspections were made in connection with the building permits issued, according to Jim McKee, building inspector. He is assisted by Richard Reynolds.

W. E. Ewing is plumbing inspector; S. J. Petree is electrical inspector, and W. R. Byrom is housing inspector.

Electrical permits during the year came to 5,294, which involved 5,885 inspections.

Plumbing permits totalled 2,984, bringing about 3,279 inspections.

A typical subdivision under construction.



SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITAL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Byrom, W. R.
Ewing, W. E.

McKee, Jim
Petree, S. J.

Reynold, Richard

Types:

booklet

photograph

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITOL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Library and Museum

Continuing to grow, the Huntsville Library added 4,800 new members during 1959. This brings the total membership to 28,727, it was reported by Mrs. James L. Murphy, Jr., Librarian.

Governing the Huntsville Public Library is a board appointed by the City Council. Members of the Board are Mrs. Claude H. Davis, Chairman; Mrs. Robert J. Lowe, Mrs. Thomas S. Dark, Mrs. E. T. Terry, and Mrs. Reese T. Amis. During 1959, the Library Board hired Hoyt R. Galvin, library consultant, Charlotte, N. C., to draw up a library program for a projected new public library building. When this library program was completed, the board presented it to the City and County and petitioned for \$750,000 to have a new library building constructed on the site purchased the previous year by the city for a new library.

The City of Huntsville appropriated additional funds to the library to provide for continuing growth and several special services. The most outstanding of these were: the microfilming of the library's collection of local newspapers which dates back to pre-Civil War days; a phonographic record collection; an enlarged business section of the reference collection through purchase of Moody's Reference and Investment publications; purchase of "The Interpreter's Bible," for both the main library and the DeBerry Branch, and many other essential reference works. Also a new bookmobile was given to the library by the Madison County Commissioners. More than 250 memorial books were given to the library along with cash gifts from various organizations including the Civitan Club, the Lions Club, and the Study Circle. A \$1,000 bequest was left the library in the will of Mrs. Henry B. Chase. It will be used for the Children's Department of the planned new library building.



Outside view of the Huntsville Public Library.



Mrs. Claude H. Davis, chairman of the library board.



Mrs. James L. Murphy, Jr., librarian.

Front view of Burritt Museum.



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One of Huntsville's popular tourist attractions is stately Burritt Museum, located high atop Monte Sano Mountain.

Construction of new space for exhibits was started during 1959 as thousands of visitors flocked to the area.

The Alabama Historical Society placed a historical marker at the highway turn-off to the unusual house, shaped like a maltese cross.

The home and 162 acre grounds were willed to the city by the late Dr. W. H. Burritt, who also left a maintenance fund of \$10,000 a year divided into three parts to care for a caretaker, ground expenses, and upkeep of the home.

Contrasting with the stately old mansion as a tourist attraction will be the proposed multi-million dollar Space Museum, which has been conceived to call attention to Huntsville's contribution to the conquest of space.

Originally conceived as a space exhibit on Redstone Arsenal property, the idea grew to the proportions of a world's fair of space and missiles. Backers say it would attract millions of visitors each year.

Names:

Amis, Reese T., Mrs.
Burritt Museum
Burritt, W. H., Dr.

Chase, Henry B.,
Mrs.
Dark, Thomas S.,
Mrs.

Davis, Claude H.,
Mrs.
Galvin, Hoyt R.
Lowe, Robert J., Mrs.

Murphy, James L., Jr.,
Mrs.
Terry, E. T., Mrs.

Types:

booklet

photograph



Judge Horace E. Garth presides over Recorder's Court. Shown with Judge Garth are City Prosecutor W. H. Griffin, Police Chief Grover Pylant and Sgt. C. M. Cornelison.

RECORDER'S COURT

Huntsville's Recorder's Court, which meets six days a week at 8:30 a.m. upstairs in the City Hall, handles all offenses which occur under city ordinances, and also misdemeanors arising under the State Statutes. It is the court in which traffic violations are handled and its officials receive parking violation and other fines.

Judge Horace E. Garth is presiding judge of the Recorder's court. Judge Garth, a graduate of the University of Alabama Law School and a practicing attorney in Huntsville for 10 years, was appointed by the City Council in 1959.

Other court officials include attorney W. H. Griffin, city prosecutor; Police Sergeant C. M. Cornelison, who acts as clerk of Recorder's Court, and Police Chief Grover Pylant.

Mr. Garth and Mr. Griffin also are engaged in the general practice of law.

Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1
"HUNTSVILLE, SPACE CAPITAL OF THE UNIVERSE"

Names:

Cornelison, C. M.

Garth, Horace E.,
Judge

Griffin, W. H.
Pylant, Grover A.

Types:

photograph

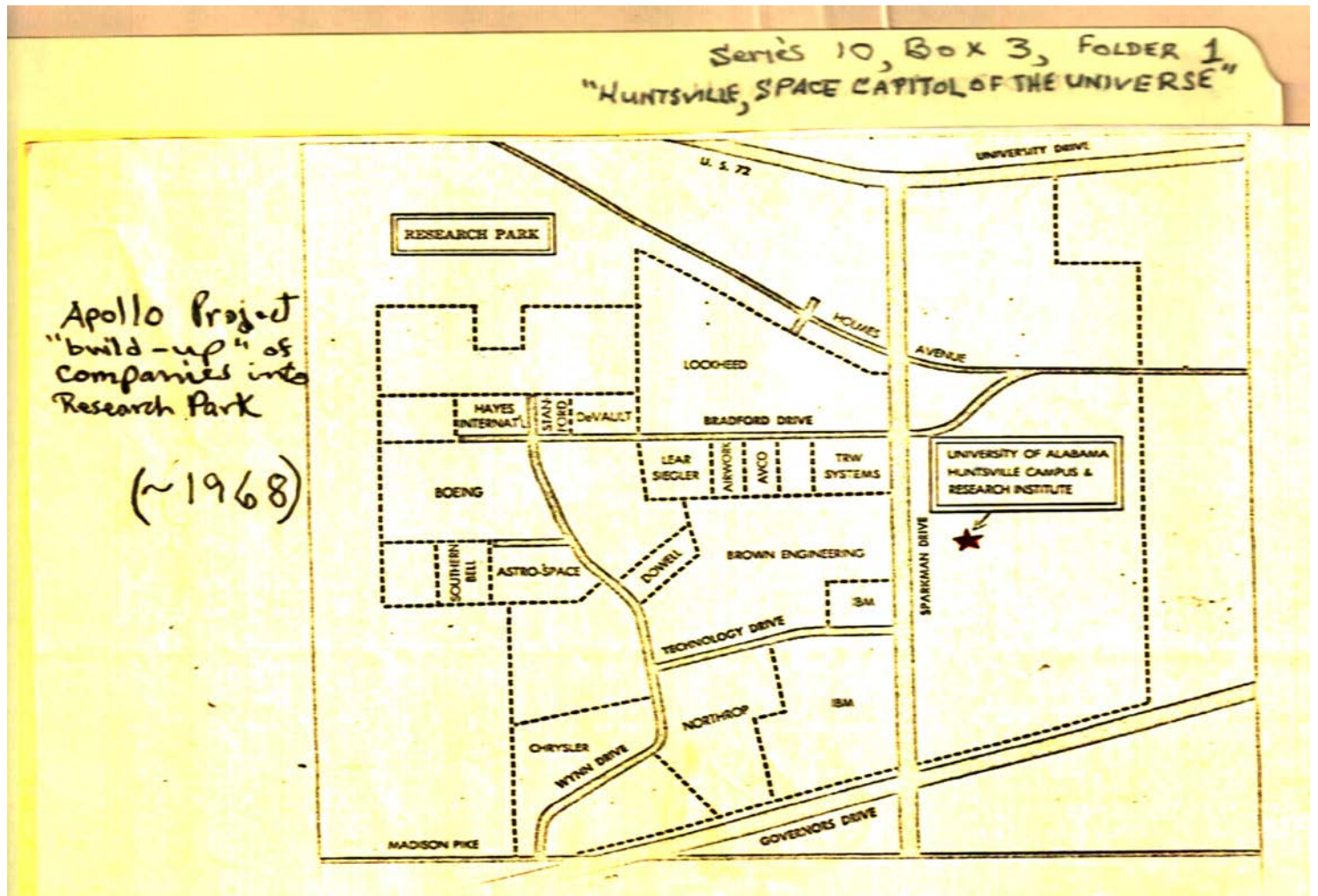
Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 1

"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

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Types:
booklet



Names:

Research Park Apollo
Project Companies

Types:

map

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"Space Capitol of the Universe," Huntsville, 1959

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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M. Louis Salmon Library**