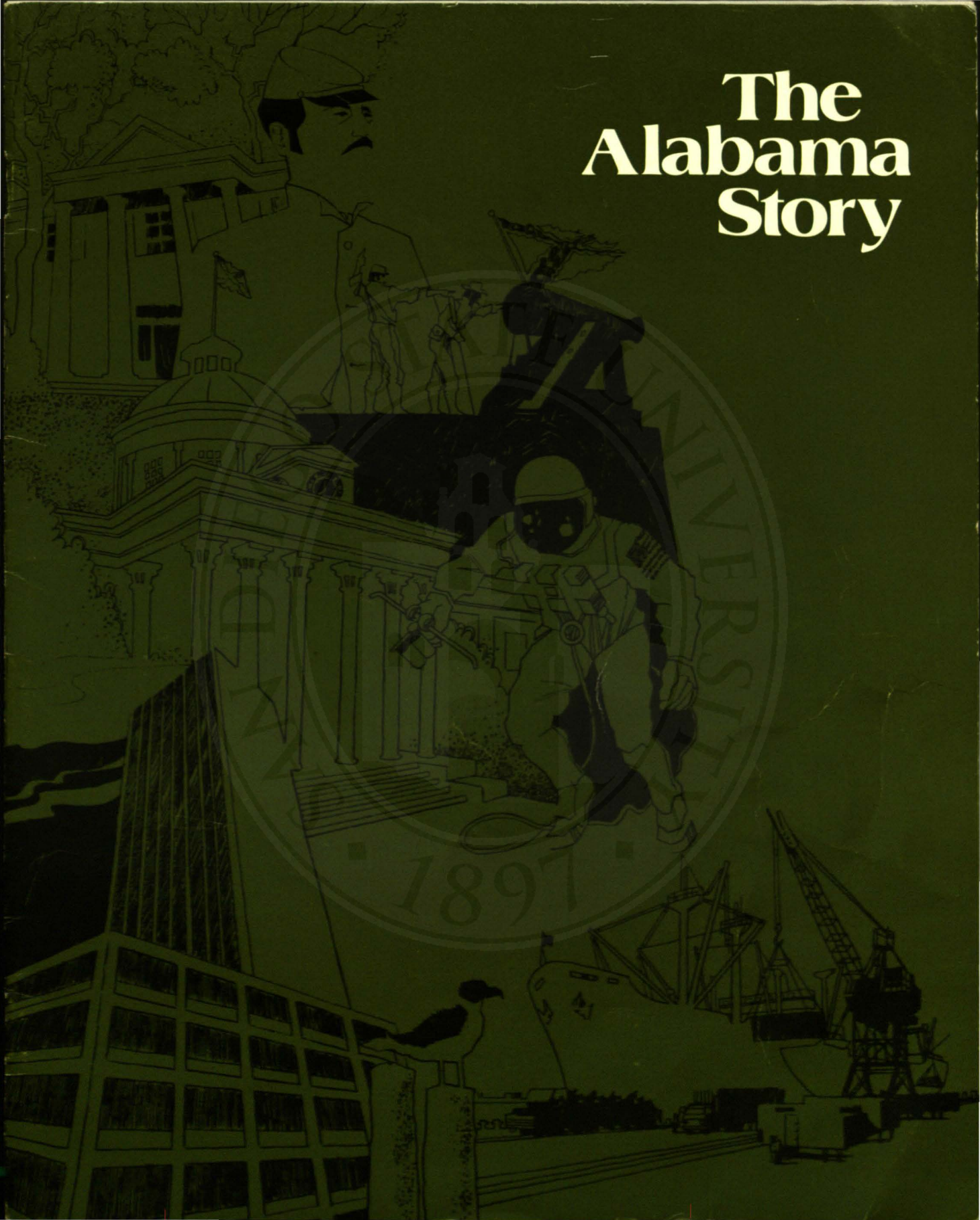
The Alabama Story



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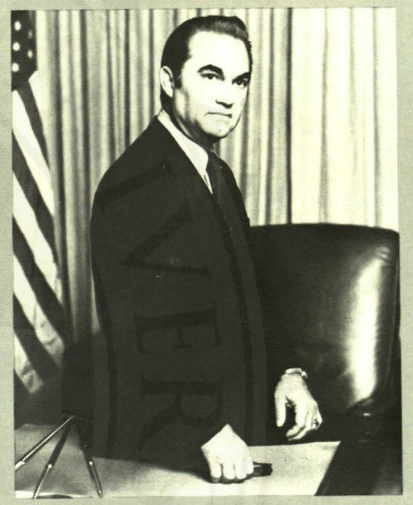
Alabama Facts

CAPITAL	Montgomery (since 1846) — Earlier Capitals — St. Stephens (territorial) (1817-1818); Huntsville (1819 temp.); Cahaba (1820-1826); Tuscaloosa (1826-1846).
GOVERNMENT	Congress — U.S. Senators 2, Senator James Allen and Senator John Sparkman. U.S. Representatives, 8, Jack Edwards, William Dickinson, George Andrews, Bill Nichols, Walter Flowers, John H. Buchanan, Jr., Tom Bevill, Robert E. Jones. Electoral Votes 10. State Legislature — Senators 35, Representatives 106. Counties 67. *Voting Age:* 18 in federal elections, 21 in state elections.
AREA	32,690,000 acres (983,000 acres of inland water — 628,000 fresh, 355,000 brackish). 29th in size. Greatest distance (E&W) 200 miles, (N&S) 330 miles. Coastline 53 miles.
ELEVATION	Highest point, Cheaha Mountain, 2407 feet above sea level; lowest point sea level along the Gulf Coast.
POPULATION	3,444,165 — distribution, 58.4% in urban, 41.6% in rural.
CHIEF PRODUCTS	Manufacturing and processing fertilizers and nitrates, iron, steel, meat products, textile, lumber, paper and pulp, chemicals, aluminum. Agriculture: pecans, cotton, cattle, hogs, berries, melons, peanuts, sweet potatoes, soybeans, poultry, Irish potatoes, truck crops, dairy products. Mining: coal, gravel, marble, limestone, salt, oil, iron. Seafoods: shrimp, crabs, flounder, mullet, oysters, red snapper.
STATEHOOD	December 14, 1819 — 22nd State.
STATE SEAL	A circled map showing the boundaries and rivers of the State served as the official seal from 1819 to 1860 and was redesigned in 1939. From 1868 to 1939 the seal pictured an American Eagle on the shield of the U.S. with the words "Here We Rest."
STATE FLAG	Red St. Andrew's cross on a white field. Patterned after the Confederate flag, was adopted in 1895.
STATE MOTTO	Audemus jura nostra defendere (We dare defend our rights).
STATE FISH	Tarpon.
STATE SONG	"Alabama" — words by Julia Tutwiler; music by Edna Gussen.
STATE BIRD	The Yellowhammer. Adopted in 1927.
STATE FLOWER	The Camellia. Adopted in 1959. Prior to this the State Flower was the goldenrod.
STATE TREE	The Southern Pine.



...a message from the governor

It is a great pleasure for me to represent the people of Alabama and extend a personal invitation to each of you to view this copy of "The Alabama Story." We have planned this brochure to better acquaint you with our state and its people—"our greatest assets."

Alabama is changing rapidly. The opening of the interstates, population movement from farm to cities, influx of new industry, a thriving agricultural economy and monumental dams on the great rivers—all have changed the face of the state.

Rich in heritage and blessed with abundant natural resources, Alabama—The Space Capital of the World—is a land of fascinating contrasts combining the old and the new. Here you will find rugged mountains, rolling Gulf surf, wide lakes, quiet streams, ante-bellum homes, space age cities and unspoiled countryside.

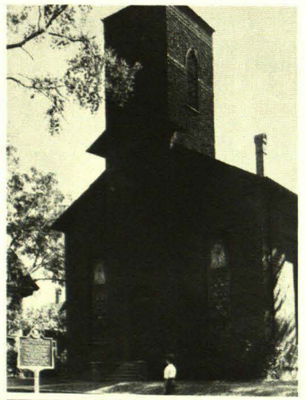
Alabama has it all! Travel our state and see for yourself. You will be glad you did.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

George C. Wallace

George C. Wallace
Governor



alabama in the past

"Alba Amo!" According to historians, this was the cry of Indians when first viewing the land that is today Alabama. It means, "This is a goodly land—clear the thickets—plant the seed—here we rest!"

Spain And France

Archaeological excavations in Alabama show that this bountiful land has been occupied by man for more than 8,000 years. Artifacts reveal the primitive life of cave-dwelling hunters . . . of the temple mound-builders' highly developed culture.

And history itself begins with the first white man to explore our beautiful country—Hernando De Soto, who with his Spanish Legions pierced the northeast corner of Alabama in 1540 and claimed the land for Spain.

He found the area populated by well proportioned and graceful Indians with full storehouses and rich, colorful clothing. De Soto was met with friendliness, but the single-minded explorer was in search of gold, silver and jewels. He took hostages, made war and left white man's disease in his wake. Disappointed in his search for treasure here, De Soto pushed west, leaving Alabama devastated by the death toll.

Many years later the powerful Muscogees, in Ohio after a remarkable migration eastward, heard of the beautiful but desolate land. Moving south, they occupied Alabama. By accepting dwindled tribes into their confederacy, the Muscogees gained strength and lands.

They became the great Creek nation, who with the Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw occupied Alabama in the 18th century.

These Indians were known as the Civilized Tribes. Their homes were sturdy log huts. They hunted and fished for food, but they farmed also, growing maize (corn), beans, squashes, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, tobacco, gourds and sunflowers.

For a century and a half Spain claimed the territory, and Spanish conquistadores periodically put ashore around Mobile Bay.

It remained for the French to establish a successful colony. In 1702 a group under Sieur de Bienville established the first permanent settlement in Alabama, and the French flag was hoisted at Mobile Bay.

Britain And United States

Great Britain came into possession of this territory following her victory in the French and Indian War of 1763. In 1783, with the end of the Revolutionary War, Britain ceded all territory east of the Mississippi (except the Floridas) to the United States. In 1798, the Mississippi Territory was established. The area, largely wilderness, was centered about fur trading at St. Stephens, the Capital of the Territory, on the Tombigbee River.

With defeat of the Creek Confederacy by Andrew Jackson at Horseshoe Bend in 1814, and with growing demand for cotton from England, immigration began in force.

Cotton flourished in the fertile bottom lands of the great plantations. The seaports of Mobile and New Orleans flourished with this growth. The population grew so rapidly that the Alabama Territory was established in 1817 with William W. Bibb as Governor. The Territorial Capital was located at St. Stephens; the second Legislature met at Huntsville. Two years later, 1819, Alabama became the twenty-second state of the United States. The Legislature met at Huntsville in 1819, and chose Cahaba as the State Capital. Following a flood at Cahaba in 1825, the Capital was moved to Tuscaloosa in 1826 where it remained until 1846. In that year the Capital was moved to its present location in Montgomery.

Confederacy

On January 11, 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union, becoming the Republic of Alabama. On February 8, 1861, Alabama joined the Confederacy. Montgomery became the first Capital of the Confederacy, and Jefferson Davis was inaugurated President on the portico of the fine old Capitol.

Federal troops held the Tennessee Valley after 1862, and in 1864 Admiral D. G. Farragut was the victor in the great Battle of Mobile Bay.

This was the occasion of Farragut's historic command, "Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead."

In spite of these decisive defeats, most of Alabama was not occupied by Federal troops until 1865.

During Reconstruction, the State was ruled by a regime of carpetbaggers and scalawags. The agricultural economy was ruined and little progress was made other than a meager expansion of coal and iron mining. This, however, marked the beginning of industrial growth in Alabama.

Agriculture continued as the major economy of the State, but the fortunes of the farmer rose and fell with the demand for cotton. The day of diversified farming was hastened by the rampages of the boll weevil, and the increased demand for food brought by the first World War.

In the late 30's and early 40's the State's vast natural resources gained new notice and industrial development began to boom.

alabama today

Area

Twenty-ninth in size of states, 32,690,000 acres of land lie within Alabama's borders. The State is divided into 67 counties, ranging in size from Baldwin County with 1,032,000 acres to Etowah County with 355,200 acres.

Terrain

Terrain is quite varied ranging from the semi-tropical Gulf Coast through the Black Belt and rolling prairie to old and rugged mountains.

Foothills of the Appalachian Mountains extend into northern Alabama, terminating mid-state in long mineral-rich ridges. One of Alabama's nine major state parks and the highest point in the state is Cheaha Mountain, which soars 2,407 feet above sea level. Soils are also extremely varied, being divided into four major soil areas.

Climate

The average temperature of 65.8 degrees and average rainfall of 53.3 inches create an excellent climate for plant growth. The long growing season ranges from 190 days in the north to 298 days annually in the south.

Agriculture

Alabama—with her favorable climate, high annual rainfall, good soils and modern production methods—is one of the Nation's outstanding agricultural states. Cash receipts from crops, livestock, poultry and forestry exceed $850 million. Principal crops are cotton, corn, peanuts, soybeans, potatoes, hay and truck crops.

An important cattle state with the largest cattlemen's association in the Nation, Alabama ranks 17th in number of beef cattle (1,722,000 head) and 16th in number of brood cows (929,000 head).

A major center for poultry and poultry products, this industry produces about $250 million annually for Alabama. The State usually rates second or third in broiler production, which brings in over $150 million each year.

Production of truck crops, such as tomatoes, watermelons and sweet corn, is on the increase. Peaches, apples and other fruits are also important crops in the State.

Natural Resources

Minerals and Petroleum

The vast natural resources of Alabama are estimated to be ten per cent of the Nation's total. In addition to coal, iron ore, limestone, marble and building stone, oil has recently been discovered in quantities sufficient to start a small boom. Other minerals, including salt, are found in abundance.

The Forest

The forests, termed by some the "Green Gold of Alabama," occupy more than two of every three acres—about 22,000,000 acres—and provide raw material for the employment of approximately one out of every five industrially employed Alabamians.

In spite of this great consumption the forests of Alabama are currently growing some 40% more wood than is being used.

Wildlife

Wild game flourishes in Alabama. Deer and wild turkey are on the increase over much of the State's forest lands. Quail, rabbit, squirrel, fox, racoon, opossum, and mourning doves are all plentiful throughout the State.

Water

The Rivers

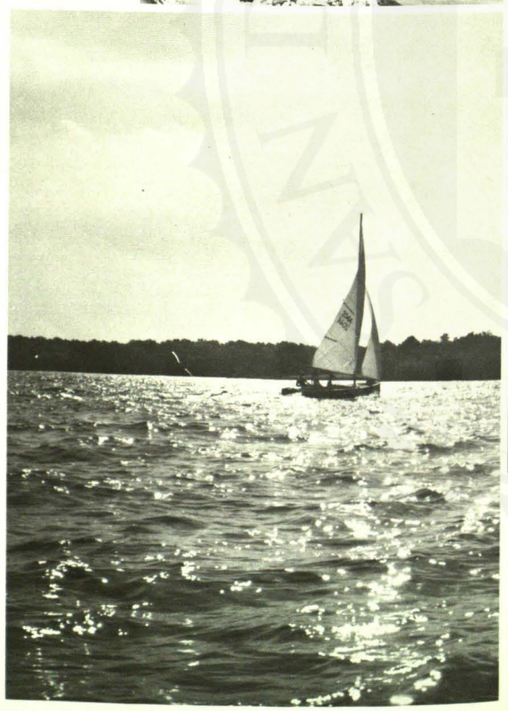
Alabama is blessed with an extensive river system, leading the Nation with 2092 miles of navigable waterways. The heaviest tonnage is now carried on the Warrior-Tombigbee and Tennessee River Systems. Work underway will make the Alabama-Coosa System navigable. Development of the Chattahoochee for navigation has been completed to Phenix City.

Lakes
Of major importance are the State's numerous lakes, varying in size from small ponds to huge reservoirs. The mighty dams of the Alabama Power Company and the Tennessee Valley Authority impound 467,881 water acres. These sweeping lakes, located throughout Alabama, are popular recreation areas. The multipurpose dams have made many river miles navigable, and they create abundant electricity to power rapidly expanding industry so important to Alabama's economy.

Gulf Coast
The fifty-three mile Gulf of Mexico coast provides Alabama with excellent recreational opportunities, an important seaport and a commercial fishing industry.

The Port of Mobile
The Port of Mobile is the only seaport in Alabama and ranks as the largest Port in the Southeast in tons handled annually. The Alabama State Docks at Mobile are among the most modern in the Nation and facilities include grain elevators, cold storage facilities, bulk loading facilities, warehouses and docks capable of handling twenty-five ocean-going vessels at one time. Approximately 20,300,000 tons of cargo are handled by the great ocean terminal annually.

Fisheries
Fish abound in the inland waterways, lakes and coastal waters. Bass, bream, blue gill, catfish and many others are common in the fresh waters of the State while the Gulf produces an abundance of both game fish and seafoods—ranging from the regal tarpon, marlin, sailfish and king mackerel to the delectable shrimp.



Transportation

At present there are 5,009 miles of railways in Alabama. Major cities also enjoy excellent commercial air transit service. There are 170 airfields in the state not including airfields owned by the Air Force, Army and Navy. 118 of these are licensed by the Department of Aeronautics. Others will be licensed as soon as final construction is completed. There are 50 personal fields in the state. These are not required by law to be licensed. The 170 airfields are classified as follows: Publicly-owned—89; Privately-owned—31; Personally-owned—50.
Scheduled airline services offer convenient transportation to points in Alabama. Five airlines operate on nine airports in Alabama: Anniston, Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Gadsden, Mobile, Montgomery, Muscle Shoals and Tuscaloosa.

The State has one of the finest highway systems in the South. There are currently 77,278 miles of roads and highways in Alabama. Of this number 43,388 miles are surfaced roads—ranging from farm-to-market roads to the interstate highway systems.

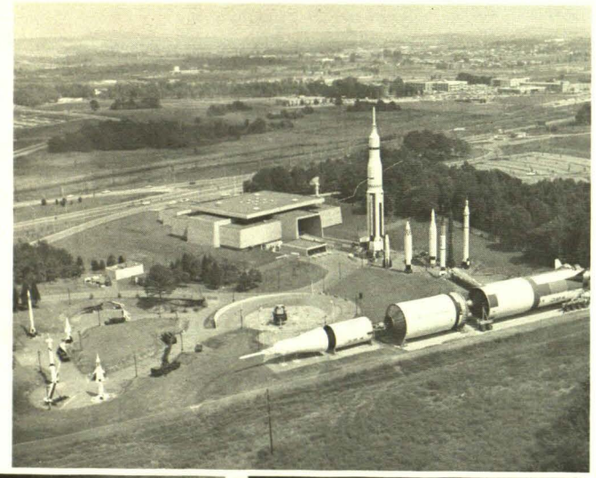
Population

Of the more than 3,444,165 residents of Alabama, 41.6% reside in rural Alabama and 58.4% in the urban areas.

Cities

Birmingham is the largest city of the State with over 739,274 residents in the metropolitan area (300,910 within the corporate limits). Next in corporate size is Mobile, Alabama's Port City, with a population in excess of 190,026. Huntsville, major rocket production center of the free world is the third largest with a population of 137,802 people. The State Capital, Montgomery, is fourth with 133,386.

Other major cities include Tuscaloosa (65,773), Gadsden (53,928), Decatur (38,044) and Dothan (36,733).



The Rocket City

Huntsville, once under consideration for Capital of the State, has in recent years become known as the Rocket Capital of the Nation. The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center and the Army Missile Command are located at Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal. The rocket which carried man to the moon was researched and developed here. The Alabama Space and Rocket Center—with specially developed exhibits—gives visitors a sense of participation in development of rocketry.

Industry

Early industrial development of the State was in three fields: primary metals, specifically mining and the production of pig iron; the wood-using industry, primarily lumber; the textile industry, based on the vast cotton crop of the area.

Though industry in Alabama dates back to territorial days, it is only in recent decades that it has approached its great potential, having grown at a tremendous rate in the past twenty years. Today, there are over 4,500 manufacturing facilities in the State employing more than 305,000 people with an annual payroll of over one and a half billion dollars, and producing goods valued in excess of three billion dollars.

Iron and Steel

The first iron was produced in the State in 1818. The first steel was rolled in 1899. Today the annual capacity of pig iron production is 4.4 million net tons. Annual steel capacity is even greater. Birmingham, the center of the industry, is often called "The Pittsburgh of the South."

Lumber—Pulp and Paper

Wood has been important to the State's economy for 200 years. Pine and cypress were being exported from Alabama as early as 1772. The State's forest industries, including lumber, pulp and paper, use 1,200,000,000 board feet of lumber and almost 5,000,000 cords of pulpwood each year. In total, the wood-using industries contribute more than $600 million to the State economy annually, and employ over 70,000 people.

Cotton—Textiles and Apparel

In 1817, two years before Alabama was admitted to the Sisterhood of the States, the first cotton mill was established in the Territory. However, it was not until the 1880's that this industry really began to grow in the State. Today, the industry provides employment for 41,600 Alabamians. The closely related apparel industry employs another 43,400.

New Industry

Today, the industrial community of the State is highly diversified and produces a wide variety of products. Among the more important of these are: converted metal, cements, pulp and paper, building material, aluminum products, limestone, feeds, wearing apparel, chemicals, fertilizer, marble, tires, rubber products, processed foods, processing of aluminum ore.

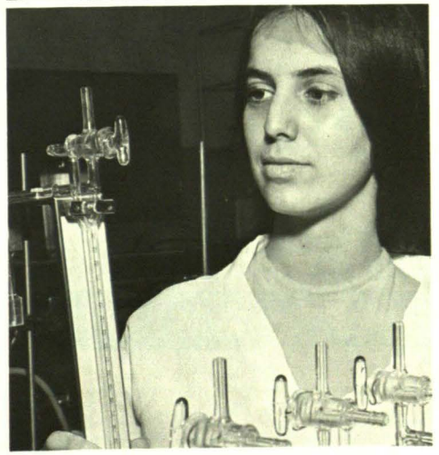
Research And Education

The 20th Century has seen an industrial revolution taking place throughout the South . . . and few states have developed more rapidly than Alabama.

Industrial development is inevitably accompanied by an increase in education and research. The training of skilled and semi-skilled workers and professional personnel is required to supply the needs of industry. Research is required to support and improve the efficiency of these industries. The great centers of education-research have traditionally been in the densely populated industrial areas.

Nothing is more indicative of the dynamic economic changes taking place in Alabama than the upsurge of research and educational facilities.

The Alabama of the last century—as an agricultural state with a comparatively sparse population—was a minor market for finished goods. This fact did not inspire the local production of finished goods for local consumption. Local manufacture of finished goods for distribution to other states was confined to a few agriculture-related industries.



Consumer goods were largely produced in other regions and these regions reaped the benefits in profits, increased employment—benefits which in turn contributed to better schools, social programs and living standards.

With the coming of industrialization Alabama has become a bigger market —and this encourages still other industries to locate here in order to provide them goods and services. Alabama is a *growing market.* The end result of this economic cycle is the steady improvement in standard of living for Alabama citizens through employment opportunities and good wages.

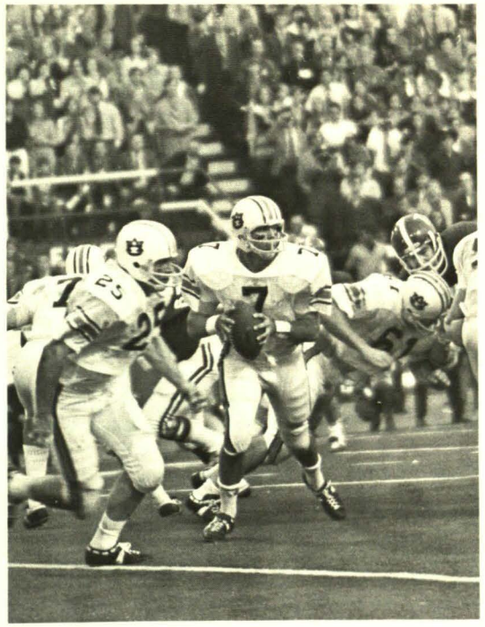
Accompanying industrialization is the boom in Alabama of education and research.

The activities of Huntsville's Army Missile Command and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center require the support of many different engineering, industrial and research capabilities. To supply them new companies have flocked to North Alabama. In Birmingham the Medical Complex, a fine health-teaching-research facility, has grown into a giant and is still growing at a staggering rate. At Southern Research, Birmingham, experts are studying (among diverse projects) new and better uses for raw materials and manufacturing by-products. Sophisticated research studies in electronics, aero-space, chemicals and other highly specialized fields are in progress across the State—millions of dollars being expended on these activities.

A vast pool of highly-trained personnel is required to man these new research facilities and industries. Alabama has responded with a dramatic expansion of existing educational institutions and the creation of new ones. Today in Alabama there are:

Public 4-year colleges and universities	13
Public 4-year college and university branch campuses or centers	3
Private 4-year colleges and universities	15
Public junior colleges	18
Private junior colleges	7
Public post secondary vocational schools	27
Public school systems	124*

A late-comer to industrialization, Alabama is only approaching her potential. As (1) a rapidly growing market with (2) abundant water for industry, (3) a wealth of natural resources, (4) outstanding research facilities, (5) excellent educational institutions, Alabama now stands at the threshold of fully realizing this potential. The next decades will see Alabama continue to flourish . . . her people prosper.



Alabama's People

As if reflecting the State's sunny climate, its people are smiling, friendly, hospitable. Hospitality is, in fact, an old and cherished Alabama tradition.

In this era of economic change Alabamians have repeatedly shown themselves to have other important characteristics, as well. Adaptability. A native intelligence—which enables them to quickly grasp highly technical work. A capability of executing the most precise tasks. An abiding pride in their work—a quality which reveals itself in initiative and diligence.

Perhaps even more than the exceptional recreational opportunities, the extraordinary scenic beauties, Alabama's *people,* make this progressive State a good place to work and play.

People—Alabama's greatest resource.

*For detailed information concerning educational institutions in Alabama, write the State Department of Education, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

alabama vacationland

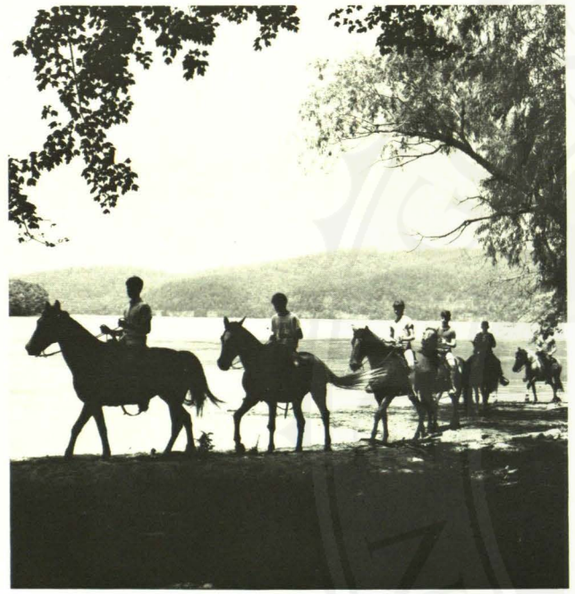
Nature has bestowed a peerless array of scenic wonders on Alabama. Spectacular caverns, canyons, craggy mountains. Lush wild gardens. Sandy seashores. Rolling surf and silver rivers.

And to this natural panorama man has added his own wonders. Brilliant formal gardens. Immense lakes. Historic forts. Ante-bellum homes, unsurpassed in nobility and harmony of design.

All under friendly skies, enveloped in a gentle climate!

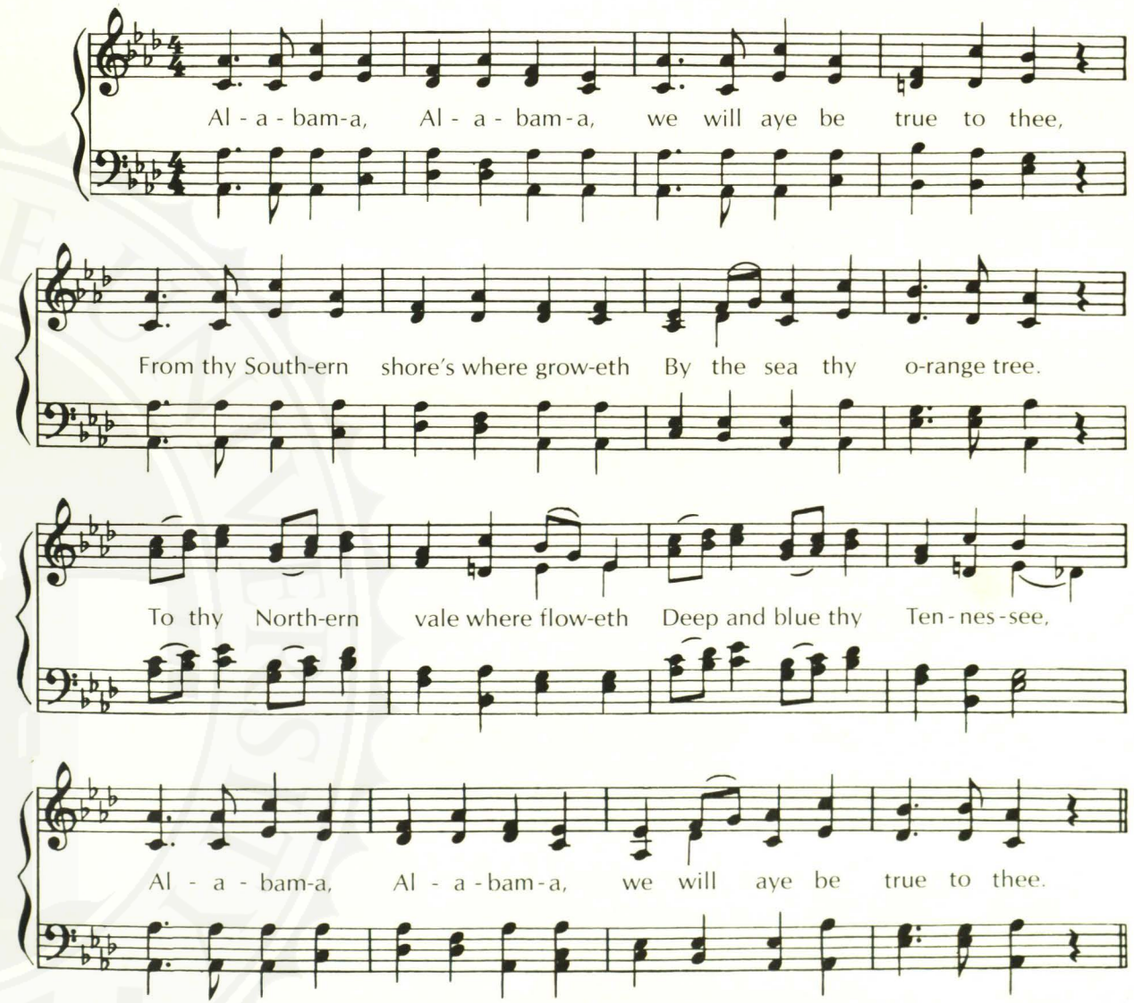
It is not surprising that travel is one of the fastest growing industries in Alabama. Visitors like the wide variety of things to see . . . of things to do! The Alabama calendar is full of festive events and colorful pageants. Visitors like, too, the moderate prices and hospitality in this lovely and interesting State.

State and local governments are working with private enterprise to encourage more and more travellers to share the pleasures that are Alabama's.



For Further Information Write:
The Department of Publicity
and Information
State Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Alabama State Song



Alabama, Alabama, we will aye be true
to thee,
From thy Southern shores where groweth
By the sea thy orange tree.
To thy Northern vale where floweth
Deep and blue thy Tennessee,
Alabama, Alabama, we will aye be true
to thee.

Little, little can I give thee,
Alabama, mother mine,
But that little—hand, brain, spirit,
All I have and am are thine.
Take, O take, the gift and giver,
Take and serve thyself with me.
Alabama, Alabama, we will aye be true
to thee.

This setting of "Alabama" won the prize offered by the Alabama Federation of Music Clubs at their annual Convention in Gadsden 1917—Adopted as State Song by Act of Legislature March 4, 1931.
(REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF THE ALABAMA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS.)

ALABAMA STATE FLAG
adopted 1895

THE FIGHTING TARPON
Alabama State Fish

THE CAMELLIA
Alabama State Flower

THE YELLOWHAMMER
Alabama State Bird

THE LONG LEAF PINE
Alabama State Tree

ALABAMA COAT OF ARMS
"We Dare Defend Our Rights"

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SAN DIEGO UNIVERSITY
1897

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