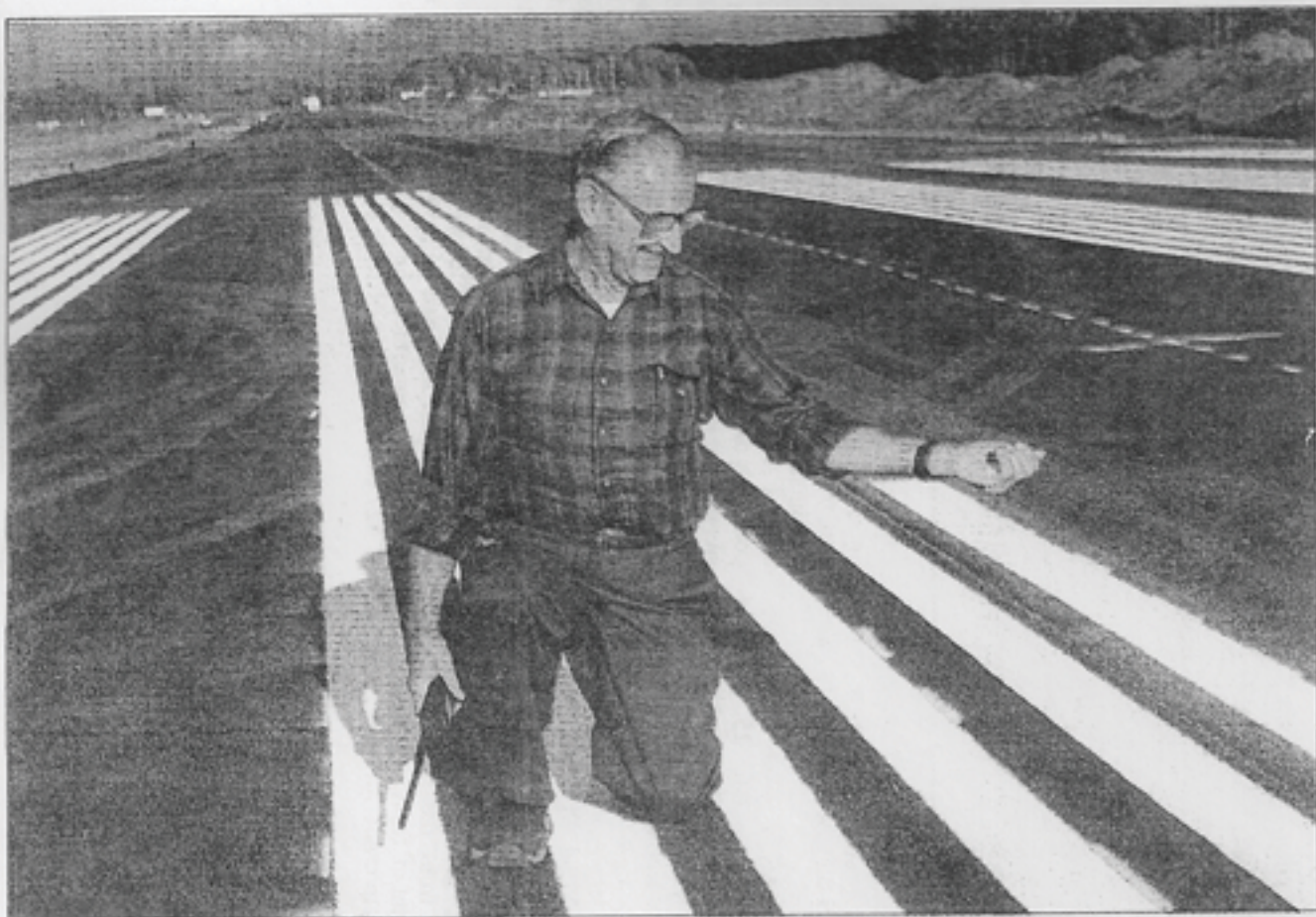


THE DAILY NEWS

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AKRON AIRPORT



Virginia Kropf/Daily News

RUNWAY EXPANSION: John Jesson, manager of Akron Airport, examines some of the glass beads with which the new runway markings were painted. The longer, wider runway was completed with grant funds from the FAA, which will also fund other major improvements to the airport. A ribbon-cutting is planning at noon Saturday to celebrate the opening.

More than a wing and a prayer

Christian Airmen celebrate 25 years of ownership

By Virginia Kropf
Daily News Staff Writer

AKRON — The management at Akron Airport gives new meaning to the phrase, "Coming in on a wing and a prayer."

A group called the Christian Airmen is celebrating its 25th year of owning the airport. The group took over operations of the facility in 1973 and bought it three years later.

The Airmen was formed in 1973 when a group of friends, all of whom

a manager was needed. Three years later, they agreed to buy it.

Jesson's wife Nancy, 68, is treasurer of Christian Airmen and assistant manager of the airport. Although the couple each has their pilot's licenses, none of their nine children expressed a desire to learn to fly.

The airport has 60 planes based there, a full maintenance shop, limited avionics shop, an active Civil Air Patrol squadron and a flight school with five part-time instructors.

