



Smith Reynolds Airport is reflected in Goldwater spectacles.

Goldwater Jet Makes Airport History Here

By ED ROBINS
Staff Reporter

When American Airlines Boeing 727 Astrojet N1982 touched down at Smith Reynolds Airport at 8:58½ a.m. today, it was making local aviation history.

It was the first commercial airlines pure jet ever to land here.

It came on a special mission, bringing Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the Republican candidate for President, and his entourage into the South.

The big 72-passenger craft glided to a smooth, almost effortless landing using little more than half of the 6,654-foot instrument runway.

Capt. Ralph Long of New York, pilot of the 727, said he did not use his brakes at all in the landing, using the reverse thrust of the three jet engines to bring the 135,000-pound aircraft to a controlled stop.

Larger aircraft have landed at Smith Reynolds Airport but they have been military or cargo craft and they have all been propeller-driven or prop-jet powered.

The appearance of 727 was extreme, even to veteran airport watchers here. Its shapely swept-back wings, the high flat-

topped tail and the three tail-mounted engines gave the craft an air of speed even while motionless on the ground.

The cruising speed of the 727, as advertised by its manufacturer, is in excess of 600 miles per hour.

The interior of N1982 underwent certain modifications before it was leased to Sen. Goldwater for the campaign special.

A rear section of the aircraft was fitted with equipment for the traveling Goldwater press corps. Halfway up the aisle the galley separated the press section from that of the Goldwater staff and the senator and his wife.

Two large tables had been placed in the staff compartment so that they provided work space for Denison Kitchell, Goldwater campaign director, and other members of the entourage.

Special telephones were installed, four to a table, and a small television set was suspended from the ceiling just in front of Goldwater's seat.

A teletype was busily clicking away just inside the forward door of the 727 and two comfortable-looking bunks were in a compartment immediately ahead of the staff area.