

By Angie Mayes

In 1972, very few people imagined that 25 years later La Vergne would be as big as it is.

“The growth was slow, no one was thinking 25 years into the future,” former mayor and commissioner A.C. Puckett said. “We were worried about the immediate need, We never imagined that it would be like it is now.”

The growth came to all of Middle Tennessee, however, and La Vergne benefited from the increase.

“We were just across the county line from Nashville, the airport was near, and I-24 ran through the city,” she said. “We were 13 miles from I-40 and I-65. There was no way we could keep from growing.”

During Puckett’s administration, the city made major improvements.

“We were given an entrance to the Interstate,” he said, noting that before his term, 1980 - 1984, there was no exit on I-24 from Waldron Road.

The city built and paid cash for the City Hall building during Puckett’s administration and the twinning with their sister city of La Vergne France began. The first zoning regulations for subdivisions also took place during Puckett’s term.

Puckett believes La Vergne has a lot to offer potential residents. From the school system, to the police department to the city council who “listens to the needs of the people,” Puckett believes that La Vergne will be attractive to quite a few others in the coming years.

“La Vergne has grown quickly the past two decades,” he noted. “The sewer availability helped that.”

By the year 2010, Puckett sees the city’s population at 25,000. The growth will come in the Holigan Homes area, but will center around the two new schools -- Cedar Grove near La Vergne High School and the one to be built on the Batey Property.

Industry will also be a major factor in La Vergne’s future, according to Puckett. They pay a higher tax rate than residents and area benefit to the city.

Having quite a few of the city’s “founding fathers” still alive is a plus for the city, Puckett believes.

“It’s a benefit to have the fathers available,” he said. “It allows the city to be able to look into the past and see why something was done while they are continuously looking ahead to foresee what is going on down the road.”

Puckett said the present administration is doing an “excellent job” in keeping up with the needs of the city.

“During the next few years, I’d like to see them look into the possibility of providing their own sewage facility for the citizens,” he said. “We need a sewer plant. The water system is adequate and we have the best phone system anywhere for a small city.”