

Riverfront

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1996

Get a buzz at Owens' ceremony

Jesse Owens Memorial Park Coordinator James Pinion is trying to get four jet fighters to buzz the park at the precise moment Owens' widow, Ruth, unveils a bronze statute of the 1936 Olympic great.



You Don't Say

Ken Retherford

"We want the world to know where Oakville is," James said of the ceremony to open the park June 29 — when the Olympic torch comes through Owens' 1913 birthplace.

But he's finding it's not

easy to get approval to borrow the winged things. He said the Air National Guard in Montgomery supports his request but it must get approval from the Pentagon.

Although he doesn't foresee any problems getting clearance for the four-jet flyover, James has a reserve plan that might motivate officials to hurry up and meet his request.

Pinion, an Auburn Extension Agent for Lawrence County, said there's another kind of airplane he could get without any trouble.

"If they don't come, I could have four crop-dusters," he said with a laugh. "I could get them and I wouldn't have to go through the Pentagon."

Now that would give the crowds a real taste of North Alabama.