

### Big Job for Larry.

In a recent issue Time magazine gives quite a bit of attention to Larry Bell, 48, Mentone native and plane manufacturer, who's "building one of the biggest things that man has ever made," the Bell Aircraft's Marietta Aircraft assembly plant at Atlanta, Ga., which rivals and may even exceed Ford's famed but fumbling Willow Run." The plant will turn out bombers but the type is a military secret. The building, vast, flat-topped, and windowless—designed and built by "Chip" Robert under watchful eye of army engineers—is about done after 11 months of work, although tooling up is months away. Time magazine thinks Bell will go to town where Ford found only pitfalls because he "is no automobileman turned aviation enthusiast. He is a triple-threat aviation production man who has risen with the industry and is still on his way up." Bell's meteoric rise in the aircraft industrial world is sketched in the article. How, born at Mentone, he was so aviation-crazy he went from high school to the Glenn L. Martin plant, rose to shop foreman at 18, then to vice president and general manager.

### Rings the Bell Again.

Bell switched to Consolidated Aircraft, Buffalo, N. Y., in 1928 and stayed until 1935 when that firm decided to move to San Diego and make flying boats. He gathered up some leftover Consolidated men, pushed doorbells to get \$400,000 to rent a plant and get going. His first plane, the Airacuda, brought out in 1937, "freakish-looking, poor-flying bomber-fighter," got little but publicity, but later Airacobra, 400 m.p.h. single place fighter with a cannon in the nose zoomed Bell to overnight success. The army and foreign governments bought a few, then thousands, while Bell continued to turn out plane parts. Expansion after expansion followed, his staff swelling from 60 to 10,000. Now squadrons of his Airacobras are giving the axis the works. Net profits, \$9,000 in '39, were \$1,970,000 in '41, more in '42. Sales in '36 were \$336,000 and 120 million dollars last year. Recently the company borrowed \$60,000,000 to finance "ever-increasing" volume of business.