

Y - Settlement is located about 15 miles southeast of Bay a thick forest of timberland in the fork of Hollinger's Creek River. It is said to be named after one of the officials with a mill built on Hollinger's Creek. Trees were cut and hauled to Hollinger's Creek where they were stored in a pond for heavy rains to float logs down to Perdido Bay. Little of homesteaders. A bridge called the "Reb Bridge," crosses ver," where young Brady residents used to find favorite ng holes. A graveyard bears names of early settlers with as such as Duck. Homesteaders gathered for church services urge magnolia trees near the tiny graveyard until a small log ; was built. The church also doubled as a school. At the turn entury and early 1900s, Brady was at its peak of prosperity. erland decline, people moved elsewhere.

MLEY - Located in southwest part of the county on Sibley ear fork of Whitehouse Creek and Bay Minette Creek, it ted in census of 1890, had a post office until late 1930s ; was discontinued. In May 1909, it was noted in the news: d Mrs. Charles Lambert and sons traveled from Bromley re in Carpenter as guests at the Burnett home. Irish pote- are still high in price and corn fields were looking good, as ready to cut with promise of a good yield. Mrs. C.E. and Miss Emma France from this community were in on shopping. A Mr. Farmer took 17 bushels of string beans le and received 90 cents a bushel for them. The little babe Henrietta Davis was very sick with Dr. McLeod of Bay called to attend. Three days later the baby was reported stter.

DN - A settlement located northeast of Rabun in northeast county. Early in year of 1916, it was news when Mr. and Mrs. moved into this section from Greenville, Alabama, when bought half interest in the turpentine business formerly oper- S.F. McKenzie. Appointed to compile the county land book at nette from the area was J.W. Roberts. A benefit for the school en by ladies of the community at Clayton Hadleys and several were made to help equip the school room. C.J. Matthews a grocery store in Byron and as business improved expected general supply and merchandise business.

EY BROOK - In September 1936, Ed Lyrene returned from Chicago while Mrs. J.F. Smart made a business trip to A group of young people from Robertsedale, Silverhill and gave a surprise party at the Smarts home honoring Nell and 7 who were leaving for school. Also leaving for University in osa were Lucier Rockwell, son of Reuben Rockwell.

NEY - Area located northeast of Bay Minette, listed in census with population of 100 and was location of an express office.

PENTER - A community located north of Hurricane with ice established in 1898, later discontinued, was named for is M. Carpenter who was killed while serving in the army Spanish-American War. Julius E. Howell remembers a trip 'm in Carpenter's Station when he drove to a nice-looking Not seeing anyone, he blew his vehicle horn. The house was ks about three feet off the ground. After a short time, the r's wife came crawling out from under the house! She was ased because someone had seen her under the house. Said l some hens running loose and was looking for a hen nest, g the hens had laid some eggs under the house.

WELL - Located on Bear Point in southern part of county, f the oldest post office in the county, located there January . It is also home of the Walkers, who own some of best fish- ts with knowledge of best fishing areas. On June 6, 1911, a om Caswell went to the Gulf beach for a turtle hunt with supper on the beach. One large turtle was found, towed in f by boat and taken home for pictures, then released. Short- Carson, his son and some friends found a turtle with 143 ee Walker was running the mail while Rufus Walker was g a boat.

ptember 1919, Little Rufus Walker, boatman, had honor of t Tarpon of the season hung on the spoon of a Mr. Cook of gham. On account of bad roads between Foley and Caswell, cars of pleasure seekers from Pensacola and Montgomery park their cars at Josephine and come across in boats. ly 1934, folks were proud of the 68th wedding anniversary and Mrs. Lemuel Walker of the Caswell post office. They ed 54 years in same house. Forty years prior, they had harge of the Caswell post office.

ANAC - A settlement located near Mullet Point in western county; was discontinued as post office prior to 1903.

CLARE - A Community located between Rabon and Perdido in northeastern part of the county. In 1912, newsworthy from Clare included J.C. Calhoun, an engineer on the Morriston log road, who bought land with plans to build. It was noted at that time the farmers were hauling guano and preparing for the season's crop of cotton to be planted. Due to a spring storm, turpentine operators suffered a loss when twenty percent of the trees were broken off, trees boxed for turpentine were scattered. Ethel Weekley was teaching school at Muscogee, Florida. In April of that year, the post office was to be moved to L.B. Weekley's store with Laura Weekley appointed postmaster. Also newsworthy during that time was Mattie Chofin lost a good mule by accident and Theodore Weekley had a horse die. The McKenzie Turpentine Company were preparing to start up their stilling operations.

CLAY CITY - An early settlement in area east of Fairhope, it is known for the largest deposit of natural clay south of Ohio River and is documented as far back as 1711. French settlers wrote of the Indians living along the clay banks of Fish River. Almost a century later, the clay was used for bricks to rebuild Fort Morgan. The Gable family established a thriving pottery business on the clay site in 1860s selling jugs, churns, and Clay pots used to transport molasses, whiskey, beer and vinegar.

CLEAR SPRINGS - In late March 1912, Mr. and Mrs. R. Cobb were proud parents of a fine boy while friends of Julia Waters were delighted at her recovering after attack of Lagrippe. The Will Lambers were getting ready to move into their new home.

CROSSROADS - Settlement located south of Hurricane. Julius E. Howell tells of a Mr. Ruple and a Mr. Boutwell who were farmers near Crossroads, both from upstate, Alabama, both good farmers and good men to work with. Mr. Boutwell had a son that started raising and sell fish bait in early 1940s and was still selling in 1989.

DAPHNE - Located on Mobile Bay north of Montrose and Fairhope, the settlement had its beginning in 1888 founded by Alexandro Mastro-Valerio who felt his fellow Italian immigrants could live a better life in rural environment. Known as Hollywood, it became an incorporated town with post office during 1850s. It was following the Civil War the name change to Daphne occurred named probably for type of laurel shrub growing there. Daphne post office was established in 1874 and boasted of a rural route by 1916. Listed in census of 1890 with population of 549, Daphne was county seat from 1868-1901. The town was incorporated in 1927. Some of the family names Julius E. Howell recalls in Daphne and Bell Forest are Corte, Allegri, Lazzari, Boni, Bertolla. In Howell's opinion, the people in this area are some of the best farmers in the county.

DAVIES - A settlement listed with post office in postal guide of December 31, 1916, but not listed in cities, towns, villages and communities of 1928.

DOUGLASVILLE - Located in Bay Minette, it was at one time the largest Negro settlement of the county with population of over



Bay Minette Intermediate formerly Douglasville School.

March 1937, they had collected 5,000 bricks to build their house to God. Early in 1941, with the exception of few projects, the major building of the church was completed.

Leroy Bryant founded the all black school of Douglasville High School and its legendary athletic program and was its principal until segregation ended when Douglasville was turned into a middle school. Bryant became vice principal of Baldwin County High School retiring in 1981 as supervisor for the Baldwin County Board of Education and serving the educational system for 34 years.

In December 1966, the name "Blue Devils" of Douglasville would "strike a note of terror to any opponent" so claimed reporter Ben Watson in *The Baldwin Times*. In 1963, the Blue Devils mustered a 7 win, 1 lost, 1 tie record. By 1965-66 season, the team won 8

games, tied 1 and erased the tie with a spectacular 2 over their arch rival, the Wolverines of Dauphin. In 1966, the Douglasville Blue Devil team won the double 'A' Championship Coach Herbert Ellis as 'Coach of the Year' for 1966 received the title in 1965 also. This was the third championship for the team. Team members were J. A. Ezell, C. Knight, M. McReynolds, L. Pruitt, J. Hede, W. Winston, J.B. Smith, E. Goodlett, J. Mallory, L. Hede, M. Lamar, J. Crooks, C. Stevenson, G. Lambert, N. Boykins, J. Martin, K. Crook, S. Seals, J. Davis, J. Williams, F. Anderson, S. Bracy, J. Crook, E. Martin, A. Green, R. Anderson, W. McAdams, H. Edwards. Co Herbert Ellis as head coach, offensive coach was B defensive coach Shedrick Hardy and line coach James

DUNLAP - Settlement was listed in village census of 1916. DYAS CREEK - Settlement was listed in census of post office listed in 1916.

DYAS - Located in northeast part of county between and Perdido, it's post office was established in 1898 ne and Nashville Railroad and now discontinued. The Ba newspaper reported in January, 1911, Otto H. Gaebel each purchased a DeLaval cream separator which was entirely new in that neck of the woods but an "indispem in the dairy business." A Farmers Union had been Dyas to more successfully push truck growing and ma Home Gardens Colony Inn was completed and opened March 1911 with credit due contractor Babcock. Early the Colony Inn who also purchased land in area were F Iowa and Mr. Nicolson from northern Alabama. O moved from Dyas to become the distiller for the Weel who had a turpentine business. That same month, Garbe's announced the birth of a son.

In early 1900s, Dyas had a settlement of about 11 Jugoslav families farming an average of forty acre Children attended school in nearby Perdido. Dyas luy ny operated a large sawmill here at one time. Julius recalls a large store stocked with just about everyt sawmill here at one time. Julius E. Howell recalls stocked with just about everything, a large depot o Railroad, a hotel, turpentine operation and the post company known as the "Home Garden Land Compan operated by a Mr. Lawrence, sold a lot of land in lots and up to people from the north. Some of this land is descendants of the owners who bought from this comp

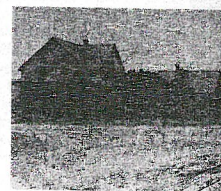
Howell tells of working for J.D. Crosby who in 19 pine timber from widow of Mr. Lawrence and started business. Crosby was a fair and good man to worl says, never forgetting Crosby giving him work dur early 1930s.

ELBERTA - A town founded in 1903 by group of t nessmen from Chicago. With post office established town was named for Elberta peaches grown in N. orchard. It became incorporated in 1952.

Julius E. Howell, crop reporter for AAA, recalls the German residents as wanting to be independent and work their own farms as they saw fit. He says they were and are some of the hardest working people he had ever known; over the years clearing

and putting into cultivation large acres of land. Dur of the AAA and other control programs, "a lot of them fact the Government set limits on number of acre crops they could plant and sell without any restricti ties." Because of this, some, but not all of them, were with says Howell.

Alfred Neumann operated a bank in Elberta. H that over the years Neumann had acquired and ope land in the area. In the 1950s, the Government offer to farmers whereby a farmer could plant his crop la nent cover such as grasses, or pines getting help to



Elberta street looking north home in foreground

Joseph tells what's for
the 1900s clay deposits as brick

P
41
Baldwin
and carried to a still where it was cooked
ing seven or more barrels each cooking.
o products; one being rosin (roughly 250
turpentine) which when cooled set up in a
p. Rosin was used in making different
a paint, varnish, lacquer, adhesives and

about 10 gallons of spirit of turpentine to
ine. The spirit of turpentine was used in
er things.

s a popular home remedy. It was rubbed
for colds, on sores and fresh cuts. When
it burned like the dickens.

production of turpentine, we used a bark
ugh the bark and sap of the trees once
eak made by the bark hack was sprayed
ade the sap run longer, and used about
rees as when using the wood hack. The
six to 12 inches across, depending on the

seasonal job. The flow dwindled to almost
eather which meant the season usually
to November, with more flow in the hot

BC
e harvested in this area was finally
le and Pensacola.

and hot way to earn money to feed our
the meager income kept us from having
ask for handouts during the depression
ife, Annie M. Walker Howell, Phillipsville
7 and Written by: Julius Elvin Howell

ld a meeting to that effect last
ree. There is strong opposition."

to the black readers, provided local,
news, train schedules for the L & N
e, the notes and personals and columns
boykin, a self-educated editor, teacher,
outspoken, controversial, but his wit
. In item of October 19, 1901, he wrote

debt to this paper must settle up at
too, if you owe anything," and, "Hal
g at the county seat."

means of inspiring the black people and
e founding of a 'normal school' in Bay
principal.
r Flashes" in newspaper of October 14,

school session, with S.J. Boykin as
the first Monday and the only one
has commenced in the county."

historian, Samuel Crosby found in his
manage a turpentine and pine oil plant
ior to Newport Division of Reichold

ykin, remembers his father as always
ng that happened, "a born newspaper
ied in 1927. Submitted by: Baldwin
tee

ner newspaper, Jackie Byrd, Baldwin

Baldwin Times

fatter July 27, 1909, at the Post Office
ption price for *The Baldwin Times*
r year on March 2, 1911, its twenty-
e field of journalism in the County.
ed at Daphne by George H. Hoyle,
hne Times, and continued for several

years under his management. During the first few years of its exis-
tence, the *Times* was a patent sheet, published by one of the news-
paper unions and had, as all such publication have, limited space
to devote to exploiting the advantages of the country.

After a period, its founder, Mr. Hoyle, became so engrossed in
his private business that he sold the *Times* to Abner J. Smith of
Kentucky, who decided to locate in Baldwin County and in short
time, installed a plant and began printing of the paper at home.
Many of agencies have contributed to development of Baldwin
County but no one agency was more potent when Baldwin County
was its embryo, so to speak, along the agricultural line, than was
the *Baldwin Times* under the management of Mr. Smith. Smith
severed his connection with the paper about 1904.

The newspaper's move to Bay Minette from Daphne coincided
with the courthouse removal from Daphne to Bay Minette in Octo-
ber of 1901 and continues today as one of the country's leading
newspapers. Submitted by: Baldwin County Heritage Book Committee
Source: *The Baldwin Times*.

Clay City

Rich clay deposits at least 30 feet deep line the banks of Fish
River upstream where there has been a brickyard for over 160
years. Located about eight miles east of Fairhope on Fish River,
Fairhope Clay Products is better known as "Clay City" because of
the largest clay resources south of Ohio River. Clay deposits pro-
vide fine clay for bricks, ceramics and pottery. When Fort Morgan
under construction at Mobile Point during years 1819-1834, one of
the largest brickyards supplying brick for the fortress was at this
location. In 1824, fifty blacks were employed with the brickyard.

A large pottery had been established at the clay deposits by
the Gable Family from 1860-1906 where butter churns, clay
pots, jugs and survey markers were made. Confederate troops
were supplied with jugs for molasses, whiskey, rum, beer and
vinegar during the Civil War.

A Chicago industrialist, Frank Brown came to Baldwin County
on invitation of Fairhope Single Tax Colony. In 1916, Frank Brown
formed Fairhope Clay Products, Inc., with several friends,
bringing machinery
to the location of
the clay by river or by
oxen-pulled wagons
through the woods.
The men who worked
at the brick plant
lived on the site. Soon
the name, Clay City.

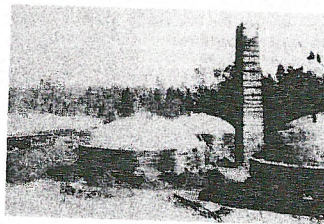
The first clay was
dug with a hand
shovel and bricks
were made four at a
time in a wooden
mold, dried in the
sun and burned in a
small kiln fired with
pine knots. Beehive kilns were built in 1926, fired with coal and
later with gas. Four foot thick walls held the heat but it took about
ten days to fire the bricks. The beehive kilns, still standing, are
used only for special jobs now because of the cost of fuel.

Brick which once took six weeks to dry in open air sheds are
now dried in two days in main kiln. It takes 48 hours to burn
200,000 brick at 2200 degrees in kiln with its sophisticated con-
trols. The brick go through automatic strapping machine and come
out in neat square packages of 525 bricks each. The modern brick
with its many patterns is far different than sharp edged, shiny
brick made by Frank Brown in 1916.

For 65 years, five generations of one family have been making
bricks. Bart Jennings, Jr., and his wife, Beverly and family mem-
bers are carrying on the thriving business started by Beverly's
father, Frank Brown. "What grandfather use to throw away is
what we get a premium price for, edges off, shine off and not
squared," Beverly Jennings says.

A list of local structures built with Clay City products include,
First National Bank of Fairhope, Thomas Hospital, Fairhope Mid-
dle School, Fairhope United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Lutheran
Church in Foley and the reconstruction of Fort Conde in Mobile.

In January, 1976, Clay City Pottery was renamed A & D Pottery
by Ralph Brown Jennings, great-grandson of founder. Traditional



Clay City brick ovens (photo courtesy of
Cecelia Bornholt)

type wares are produced using same clays as were used 100 years
ago. Submitted by: Baldwin County Heritage Book Committee
Sources: Foley Public Library Baldwin County History Files, Clay City
brochure.

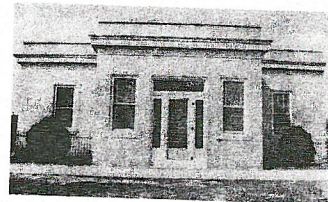
Early Elberta Businesses

Henry Burmeister of Dalton, Illinois, brought first excursion of
homeseekers in 1904 to Elberta, in the charge of George Hilmier, a
building contractor. These men erected first hotel known as Pine
Grove Hotel located opposite today's Baptist Church. Number of
years later, the hotel would become home of Fred and Dora Ohls.
Following excursions brought Philip Saxman of Wisconsin, Her-
man Koehler from Nebraska, E.A. Vogelgesang who was contract-
ed to conduct the hotel when it was completed. Gustav Koch and
family managed the hotel til Volgegesang could arrive and thus
Gustave Koch was considered first settler of new colony.

Because of the hardship of having to trade at Marlow on Fish
River, sixteen miles away, or at Bon Secour, ten miles away, L.A.
Rinke was induced to leave Chicago and establish a store in the
hotel til he could build on southwest corner in center of town.

The Elberta Hotel was built on what is today the athletic field
on block north of State Highway 98 and County Road 83. Built by
La Mont who drowned in the Gulf on an excursion, Philip Ikler
bought the hotel. When Ikler became disgruntled with Elberta, he
dismantled the hotel piece by piece and put it up at Lillian Beach.

Another hotel was
constructed in two
parts with the second
part finished in
1920s. It was later
called Elberta Ranch
Hotel and was known
for the two-toned
tongue and groove
pine parquet floor
installed in the hotel
by Adam Bretz who
had come to Elberta
from Germany. In
order to achieve the



State Bank of Elberta (c1924)

two color effect of brown and blond, half of the pine boards were
boiled in linseed oil, the remainder in creosote. Four generations
lived in the hotel until 1946 when it was purchased by J.A. Pilgrim
and made into apartments. An early photograph of the hotel shows
Mrs. Anna Bretz, her mother, Mrs. Lindofer and Mrs. Bretz's
daughter, Mrs. Schultz standing on the veranda of the hotel.

A progressive farming community, between 1920 and 1929, The
Elberta Farmers & Truckers Association was organized and a
shipping platform built. A packing plant was built by Elberta Cit-
rus Association to ship satsuma oranges grown in the many
orchards. In 1922, Herman Lawrenz built a Retort Plant to manu-
facture pine oil, tar and charcoal. Since 1922, the State Bank of
Elberta began providing full range of banking services so strong as
to even during the depression it never closed its doors.

A real estate office was run by L. Lindofer; Rhodorrockcroft
Poultry Yards by Zimmern & Biedermann; Fine Shoe Repairing by
John Felbinger; Groceries store by George Haag; Elberta Pastime
Theater, proprietor Emil Duerks; Horseshoeing and machine
repair by August Hinkelmann, blacksmith; Coffins, caskets and
undertakers' supplies, Hermann Schroeder, dealer. The grand
opening of the Elberta Pastime Theatre was held 1/29/1920 with
Emil Duerks, proprietor; and Lenz Motor Service operated by Bill
and Carl Lenz. Submitted by: Jeannette Frank Bornholt, 26697 Frank
Road, Elberta, AL 36530

Sources: Elberta Golden Jubilee, 1965; *The Onlooker*

Fairhope's Busy Bee Garage

Originally owned by an Ohio corporation, Sherrill Oil Compa-
ny, during late 1929, the Busy Bee Garage was later transferred
to the Pure Oil Company. The garage/service station was located
on the northwest corner of intersection of Fairhope Avenue and
Greeno Road in Fairhope. Raymond W. Klein and his brother,
Vincent J. Klein became partners in ownership of the Busy Bee
with Raymond as the mechanic in the back and Vincent operat-
ing the front of the service station. Originally from Iowa, the
Klein Brothers also farmed together near Fairhope with John
Dunn as the farm foreman.

KINDS OF CERAMIC ITEMS HIS MAIN EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED TOWARD MAKING BRICK AND TILE WHICH WERE IN DEMAND IN THE LOCAL MARKET.

IT IS FAIR TO STATE THAT THE BROWNS, AS A FAMILY, HAVE BEEN MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING A GOOD PRODUCT THAN IN MAKING MONEY HENCE IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT DAPHNE BROWN ANDERSON AND HER HUSBAND BIRON C. ANDERSON SHOULD RESCUE THE BUSINESS DURING THE DEPRESSION. THUS THE THIRD GENERATION OF BROWNS BECAME INVOLVED IN OPERATION OF THE BRICK COMPANY WITH RALPH BROWN (SON OF FRANK BROWN) AS MANAGER.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF DAPHNE BROWN ANDERSON AND RALPH BROWN THE BUSINESS GREW AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND KILNS WERE INSTALLED. ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH HELPED THE COMPANY INVOLVED THE USE OF BARGES AND TUGBOATS FOR TRANSPORTING THE HEAVY BRICK AND TILE TO THE MARKET IN MOBILE. THIS WAS ESSENTIAL BEFORE OPENING OF THE MOBILE BAY CAUSEWAY.

AFTER THE PASSING OF FIRST RALPH, THEN DAPHNE, THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY WAS TAKEN OVER BY BEVERLY BROWN JENNINGS AND HER HUSBAND BART JENNINGS JR. WHO OPERATED THE BUSINESS WITH THE HELP OF TWO SONS, BART JENNINGS III AND RALPH BROWN JENNINGS. THIS "SET UP" BROUGHT TWO MORE GENERATIONS OF BROWNS INTO THE SEQUENCE OF MANAGEMENT AND THEN FINALLY (UP TO THE PRESENT TIME) A GRANDSON OF BART AND BEVERLY, BART JENNINGS IV, CAME WITH THE COMPANY, MAKING THE SIXTH GENERATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS.

IT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT ALL KEY POSITIONS IN THE COMPANY HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN ASSUMED BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND ALSO, THE UNIQUE SITUATION OF SIX GENERATIONS DILIGENTLY WORKING IN AN ENTERPRISE THAT IS NOT YET A CENTURY OLD.

THERE ARE MANY STRUCTURES IN THIS AREA BUILT WITH FAIRHOPE CLAY PRODUCTS BRICK AND TILE SUCH AS THOMAS HOSPITAL, THE MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE FIRST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND THE MCKEAN BUILDING. FORT CONDE IN MOBILE IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE OF FAIRHOPE BRICK.

MEMBERS OF THE BROWN FAMILY WERE AMONG THE LEADERS IN MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEVOTED MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES IN SUCH ACTIVITIES. MINNIE BROWN WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIC SCHOOL AND SHE WAS ALSO TREASURER OF THE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION, A POSITION WHICH PAID ONLY A SMALL FEE. MR. BROWN BUILT POTTERY WHEELS FOR THE SCHOOL AND CONTRIBUTED HIS TIME AS A TEACHER OF CERAMICS. THE BRICK COMPANY HAS GIVEN CLAY FOR CERAMICS CLASSES AT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS.

RALPH BROWN WAS IN THE MERCHANT MARINE SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II AND WAS A TWO TERM MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIC SCHOOL.

AS A YOUNG LADY, DAPHNE BROWN TAUGHT AT THE SCHOOL AND LATER AS DAPHNE BROWN ANDERSON SHE FILLED THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION. BART JENNINGS JR. IS CURRENTLY A TRUSTEE OF THE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION AND BEVERLY BROWN JENNINGS IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ORGANIC SCHOOL EDUCATION FUND.

THE BROWNS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ACTIVE IN MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND CONCERN AND HAVE ASSUMED THEIR SHARE OF THE BURDENS (AND THE JOYS) OF HELPING WITH THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY. SINCE FAIRHOPE HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A CENTER OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, WE ARE ALL INDEBTED TO THE EARLY SETTLERS WHO HELPED TO MAKE LIFE IN FAIRHOPE INTERESTING AND APPEALING.

THE MERSHON FAMILY STORY

MERSHON FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PROMINENT IN FAIRHOPE SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE SINGLE TAX COLONY AND THE COMMUNITY OF FAIRHOPE. AMONG THOSE WHO CAME HERE IN THE EARLY DAYS WERE MR. & MRS. ARTHUR H. MERSHON, (UNCLE ARTHUR) DR. G. A. MERSHON AND FAMILY, NATHANIEL MERSHON AND DR. AND MRS. C. L. MERSHON.

Dyson

fractured union with

Community involvement	clerk	Highest office
Ck Brown Mike Brown Ralph Brown Daphne Brown Beverly Brown Jennings Bart Jennings Bart Jennings Ralph Jennings Bart H & Saus.	2 terms	Highest office

the 1986?

Service
to
Country
Mark devoted Vietnam Vet

Ralph Artell

Frank designed Stambast "Fairhope"
watch repair dntsky

Fairhope Udy Products ~~gave the~~
became what is known today a clay city
better known locally as clay city.

~~A day tip~~
A day tip and the railroad road in the 1930's was
the thing to do. my photos and
"we would ride and see bluff and watch the
brickwork operations." McCandly & Wadberg.

Born 1914
|

for their homes and fortifications from their first days on the Gulf coast, at settlements such as Old Mobile and Port Dauphin. Colonial households during the French, British, and Spanish periods relied not only on imported European and Spanish Mexican ceramics, such as lead-glazed and tin-glazed vessels, but also purchased pottery made by local Indians, including the Apalachees, Creeks, and Choctaws. Some colonial-era Indians fashioned pottery vessels in the shapes of European plates and bowls, copies known to archaeologists as "Colono" wares. With abundant imported and Native American pottery available to colonial households, there was not yet a need for local glazed pottery production.

A few early eighteenth-century documents refer to French potters in the Louisiana colony along the Gulf coast (Figure 6). A potter named Guillaume Maufroy was a passenger on the *Loire*, which sailed in 1720 from Lorient, France, bound for the Ste. Reine concession on the Mississippi River above New Orleans (Conrad 1970 (I):110). Another potter, Jean Chanfaily, age 23, was a soldier sent to serve the Company of the Indies aboard the *Marie*, which sailed from France on July 15, 1720 (De Ville 1963:47). A 1729 document written in New Orleans relates that two "makers of faience" named Caussy and Boissier,

both of whom had arrived the previous year, dissolved their partnership because they could not get along with each other. Boissier planned to continue making pottery and roof tiles if the Company of the Indies would furnish him with nine black slaves (Rowland and Sanders 1929:672). He estimated that he could produce 60,000 tiles per year worth 60 livres per thousand. Unfortunately, little else is known of this early colonial enterprise, such as what kinds and how much pottery, bricks, and tiles were produced.

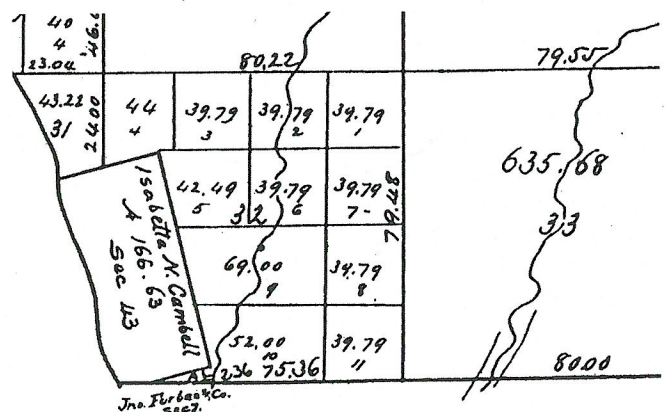
A possible reference to early production of pottery on Mobile Bay appears in Bernard Romans' 1775 account entitled *A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida*. He wrote "through all the above species of land we find a distribution of very fine clay, fit for manufacturing; the finest I ever saw is at the village on Mobile Bay, where I have seen the inhabitants, in imitation of the Savages, have several rough made vessels thereof" (Romans 1962:33). Based on maps of the British colonial period (1765-1780), "the village" Romans refers to is the small settlement known formally as "The Village" located on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, just south of Yancey Branch in the present city limits of Daphne. Romans may have been describing Indian-made pottery or Colono ware that was commonly traded to the colonists (Waselkov and Gums 2000:46, 60), or possibly pottery made by African slaves; but he apparently did not witness the actual production of pottery.

On the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, brickmaking preceded pottery production. In the first decade of the nineteenth century, during the Spanish colonial period, a Frenchman named Pierre Trouillet operated a brickyard at Red Bluff. In 1810 Isabella Narbonne Campbell of Mobile obtained land immediately north of Trouillet's brickyard where she planned to put her own slaves to work making bricks and roof tiles (Figure 7) (Works Progress Administration [WPA] 1937:291-292, 305-306). Slaves also worked as brickmakers on the D'Olive plantation (now in the city of Daphne). An 1815 inventory of property destroyed during

Figure 6. Woodcut of a potter in medieval Europe, published in Jost Amman's *Ständebuch* (Book of Trades) in 1568 (Amman and Sachs 1973; courtesy of Dover Books).



Figure 7. Detail of an 1822 map illustrating Isabella Narbonne Campbell's tract at Red Bluff (Baldwin County Courthouse, Bay Minette, AL).



the Creek War lists a 40-year-old slave of Louis D'Olive's named Michel, a "brick maker, hewer & Sawyer" (valued at \$400), who was killed in an Indian attack on the plantation (Lackey and Guice 1977:41). Bricks undoubtedly were made by slaves on many early colonial plantations, particularly at those concessions located far from the major settlement of Mobile. Another brickyard is illustrated on the south side of Fly Creek on a map drawn by Curtis Lewis in 1820 (Figure 8). Some of the 30,600,000 bricks used in the 1819-1832 construction of Fort Morgan at the entrance of Mobile Bay were made in kilns on Red Bluff.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, an enclave of craft potters lived and worked at their shops on the Eastern Shore. These potteries were scattered along Mobile Bay for about six miles, within or near the modern limits of Daphne, Montrose, and Fairhope (Figure 9). Several other potters lived and worked around Clay City and Marlow on Fish River, a short distance inland and southeast of the towns on the bay. Across the bay was the thriving city of Mobile, which no doubt provided the largest market for locally-made pottery, and also served as a major port. Eastern Shore pottery, as well as agricultural products and other goods, was shipped by flatboats, schooners, and steamers across the bay to Mobile and beyond to more distant markets such as New Orleans. The ten-mile excursion across Mobile Bay would have taken about 1.5 hours on the *Bay Queen*, *Manatee*, *Apollo*, *Josie*, *Junior*, *Annie*, *Cora*, *Ocean Wave*, *Heroine*, *Relief*, *Caloosa*, *Pleasure Bay*, and *Crescent City* (Scott 1959:114), just some of the boats that traversed the bay in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Figure 10). A photograph shows Albany-slipped stoneware

churns and earthenware flue thimbles being unloaded at the Mobile docks from the *New Daphne* around 1920 (Figure 11).

The earliest known wharf at Red Bluff, dating to the late 1840s, was Steadman's (sometimes written "Stedman") Landing on the northern end of the bluff (Figure 12). Florence Dolive Scott described it in detail in her history of Montrose.

The wharf began at the foot of Sibley Street, where the bluff was about fifty feet high, and this gave the wharf a gradual slope downward as it went on out in the bay. This slope allowed the freight car to go down the wharf by its own momentum on the wooden tracks. For general use, this was a flat car with no sides but, for certain commodities such as

Figure 9. Towns on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay where potteries once operated.

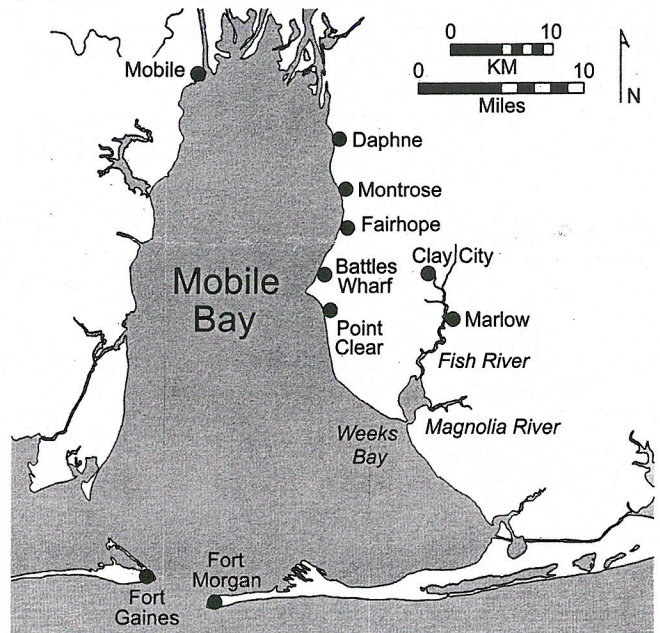


Figure 8. Detail of a map by Curtis Lewis illustrating a "Brickery" south of Fly Creek in 1820 (courtesy of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Collection, Washington, DC).

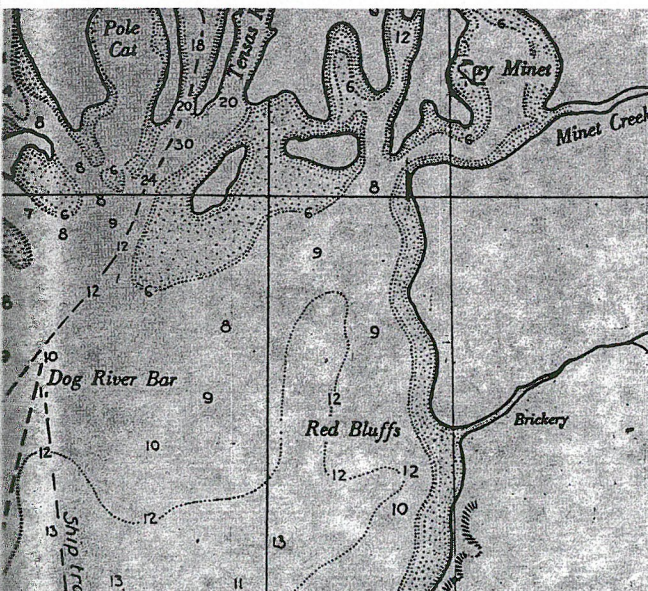
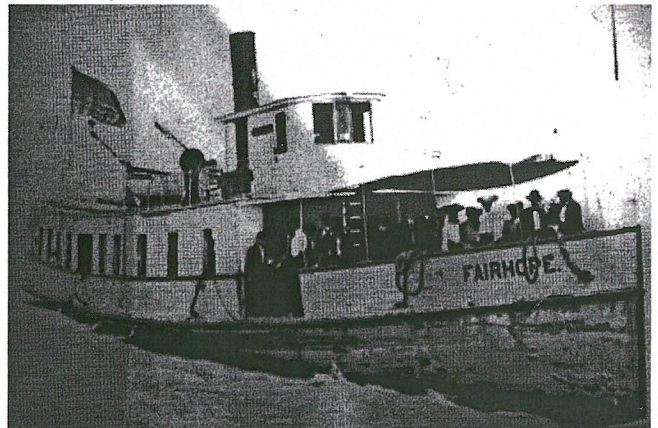


Figure 10. Passengers aboard the *Fairhope* (courtesy of the University of South Alabama Archives, Mobile).



JUG MAKING
12-13

Prohibition 1919 Stoneware jugs no longer needed.
only Daphne Pottery and Gasel Pottery on FR
survived past the 1920s

39

Fish River Potters

Edmond Brown 1947 CC

Frank L Brown 1897-1916 F hope
1916-1940 CC

Joseph Gasel 1882-86 CC 4 families

Harmer ^{Howard} ~~Hubbard~~ 1880-1900 Cowper creek

Jacob Wingerder 1896-1910 Marlow

Tile Sizes 1940 $5 \times 8 \times 12$
 $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 8$

Joseph Gabel died November 30, 1896, leaving behind seven children. In his will he requested that his oldest daughter Laura continue the pottery business to support the family until his youngest daughter, 11-year-old Olive, came of age (BCC Will Record B:48-49). His wish apparently was fulfilled and beyond. Joseph's granddaughter Isabelle "Belle" Gabel (born in 1873), a third-generation potter, reportedly was not only the most beautiful girl in Baldwin County but she "had no equal in the County when it came to turning a jug on the pottery-wheel" (Scott 1959:120). Joseph Gabel, his wife Susan (who preceded him in death by ten years), and two of their newborns are buried in the Timney South River Park Community Cemetery on Fish River, less than one mile from their Clay City pottery.

Gabel Pottery Site

What remains of the Clay City pottery (1BA526) owned by the Gabel family lies on the bank of Fish River near its confluence with Polecat Creek. Local informants recall that the rectangular Gabel kiln was filled in during the early 1980s, and that the waster dump lining Fish River was quite large at one time. Nearly two-thirds of the site has been disturbed or destroyed by house construction over the last few decades. However, a small portion of it remains in an undeveloped wooded lot that is currently for sale. A moderate scatter of artifacts, measuring about 20 by 40 meters (65 by 130 ft), was found on the surface and contained sherds from Albany-slipped vessels, glazed kiln bricks, and kiln furniture, such as wads, props, and fragments of stilts and shelving.

Frank L. Brown

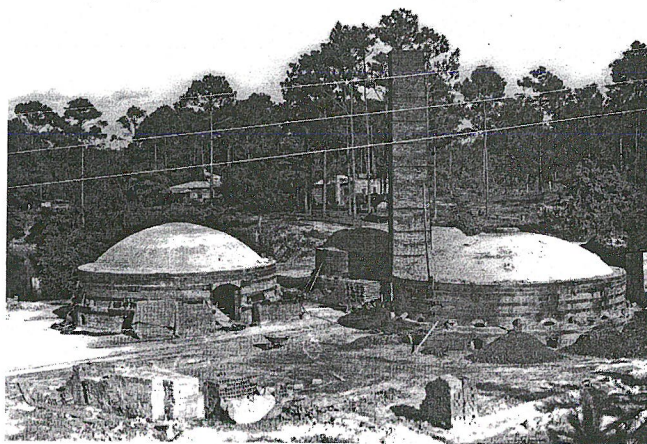
Potter and brickmaker Frank L. Brown moved from Iowa to Fairhope around 1897 (Anderson 1984:1). He began making bricks around the turn of the twentieth century, and his shop, as well as a sawmill, were located at the corner of what is now Greeno and Morphy Streets, where the Brown home still stands, now used as a restaurant. The May 18, 1906 issue of the *Fairhope Courier* briefly described daily activities:

Mr. Frank Brown had completed burning his kiln of brick and it is the best he has burned. He also burned quite a quantity of excellent tile in the kiln.... In Mr. Brown's kiln just burned were placed a couple of pieces of decorative work in the fine pinkish clay found outcropping out of the gullies here and in well digging, one the work of Miss Lyon, and one made by Mr. Littlefield and they burned beautifully, taking on a light cream color.

His letterhead states that he was a "Dealer in Lumber, Brick, Drain Tile, Pottery, Wood-Turning, Rice Hulling and Corn Grinding" (Nuzum 1971:1B). Due to the rapid recent expansion of Fairhope, little evidence of Brown's operation at this location was found during our survey.

By 1916 Brown moved to Clay City and built two beehive kilns, but this brick plant closed after only two years; the kilns later became part of the Clay City Brick Works run by the Anderson and later the Jennings families; one still stands today, inoperable (Figure 84) (Anderson 1984:2). Little is known about Brown's pottery production. One small pitcher of his is displayed at the Fairhope Historical Museum.

Figure 84. Brickworks at Clay City in the 1940s (courtesy of the University of South Alabama Archives, Mobile).



Jacob Wingender's Pottery in Marlow

Potter Jacob (later changed to John) Wingender was born about 1861 in France of German and French parents. Sometime during the 1880s he left his family's pottery operation in Hadonfield, New Jersey, and relocated near Fish River (Ketchum 1991:119). In June 1886 Wingender married Elizabeth Pierce in the village of Battles Wharf (Morris 1989:46). She apparently died several years later, since he married Lillie M. Cook, an Alabama native, in February 1893 (Morris 1990:19). By 1900, according to the census, the couple had five daughters and two sons. In 1896 Wingender was making bricks. As reported in the *Fairhope Courier*,

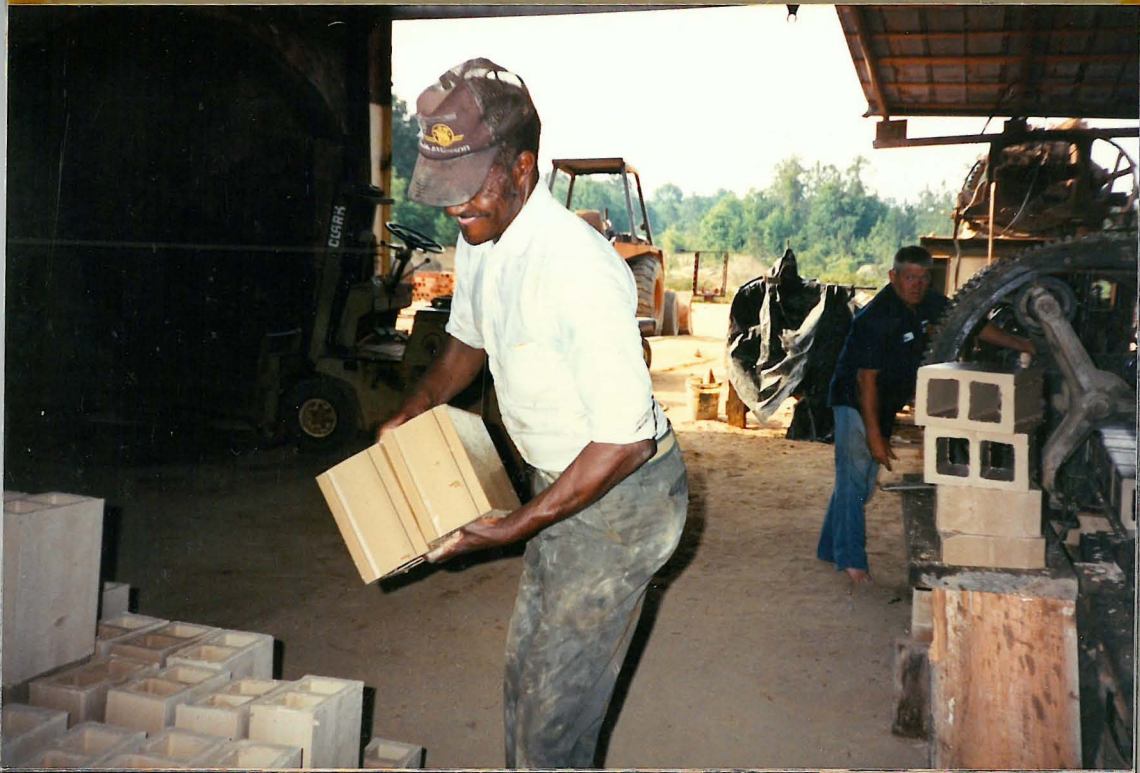
Mr. John Wingender, a brick maker on Fish River, pronounces the clay which we have a large deposit lying beneath the surfaces on high ground within less than a hundred yards of the Post Office to be a fine quality of brick clay. He took a sample of it home to test at his next burning.

He was in business at least until 1910 (Ketchum 1991:119). Land records concerning his pottery and brick-

Photo
Galaxy®







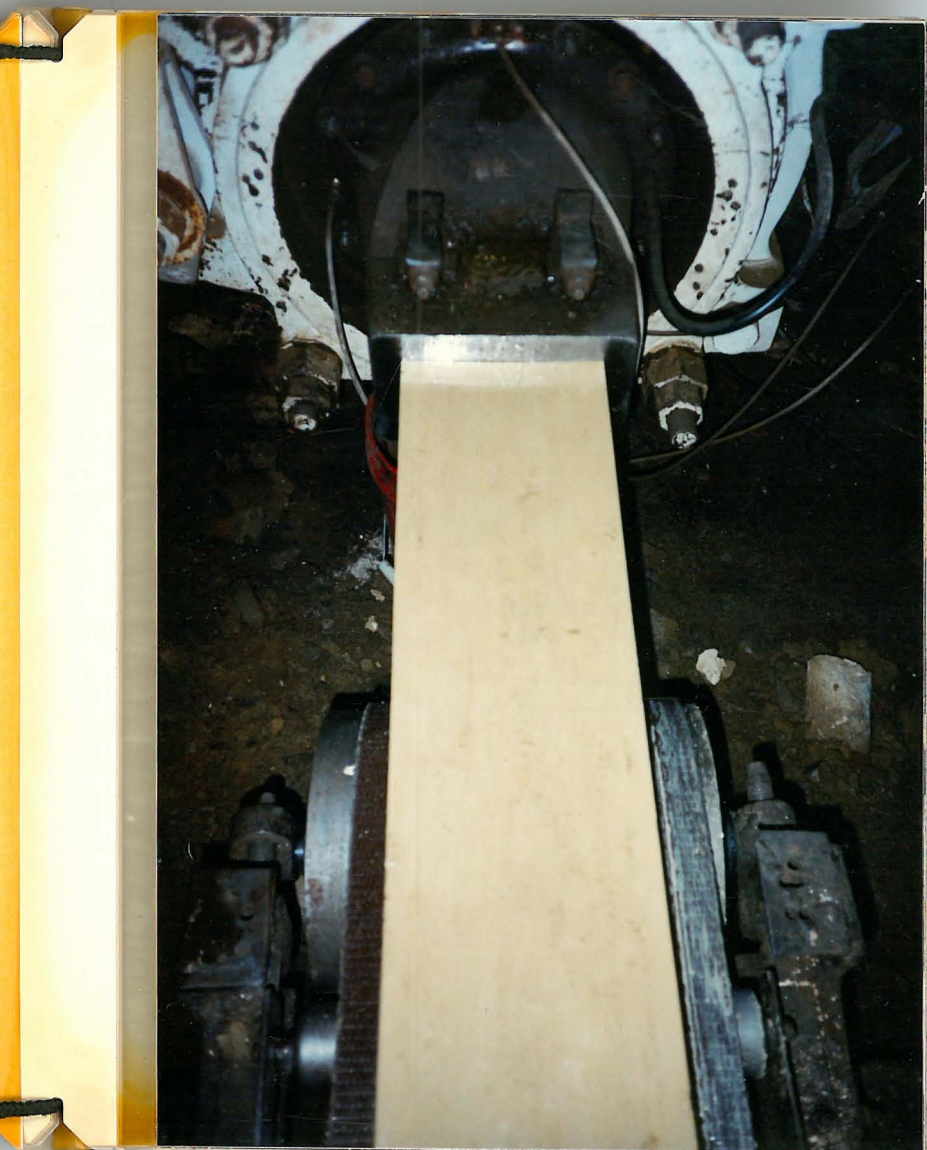






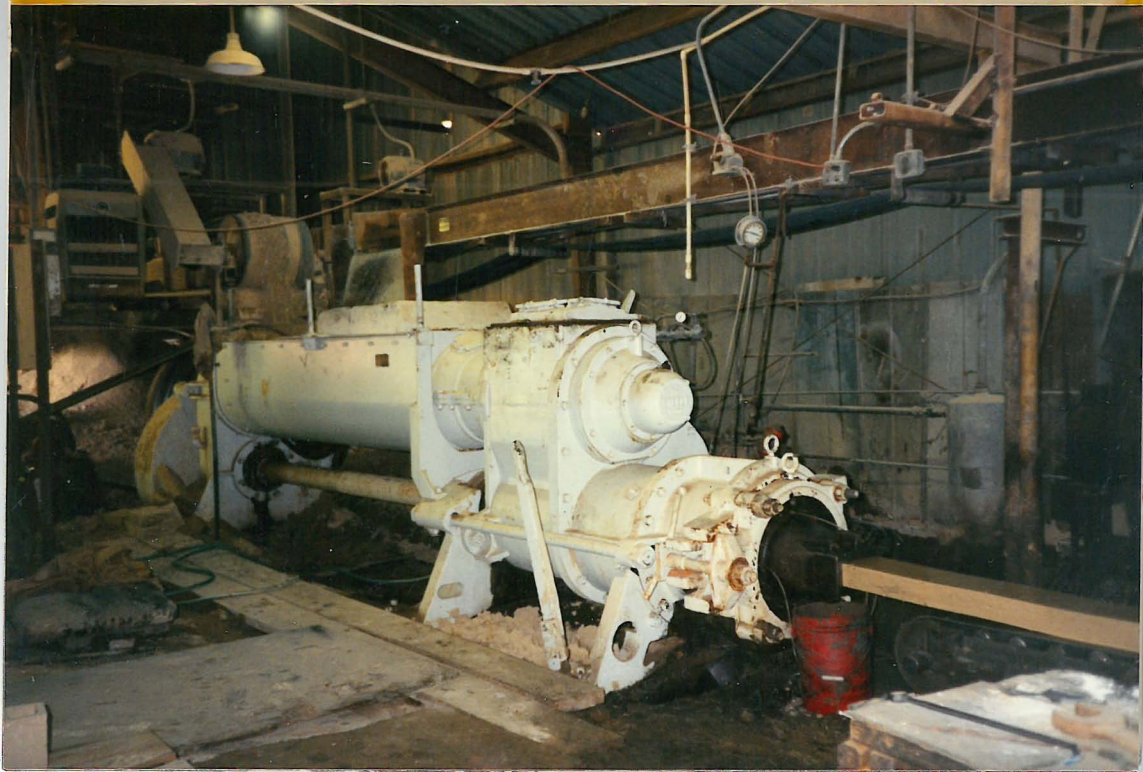


















CERTIFICATE

FOR

SHARES

OF THE
Capital Stock

Clay Products Company, Inc.

Fairhope, Ala.

ISSUED TO

DATED

*For Value Received, hereby sell, assign and transfer
unto
Shares of the Capital Stock represented by the within
Certificate, and do hereby irrevocably constitute and appoint
to transfer the said Stock on the books of the within named
Corporation with full power of substitution in the premises.*

Dated 3-23-1930

In presence of

Geo F Martin

W. H. Stiles

NOTICE: THE SIGNATURE OF THIS ASSIGNMENT
MUST CORRESPOND WITH THE NAME AS WRITTEN UPON THE
FACE OF THE CERTIFICATE IN EVERY PARTICULAR WITHOUT
ALTERATION OR ENLARGEMENT OR ANY CHANGE WHATSOEVER.

Duplicate issued in place of No 9. lost

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA

NUMBER

SHARES

Five

Clay Products Company, Inc.

FAIRHOPE, ALA.

This Certifies that *William Mc Intosh* is the owner of
Five Shares of the Capital Stock of
Clay Products Company, Inc.

transferable only in the books of the Corporation by the holder
hereof in person or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate
properly endorsed.

In Witness Whereof

the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be
signed by its duly authorized officers and is sealed with the Seal of the Corporation
this *15th* day of *Nov* AD 1916

F. L. Brown

William B. Brown
SECRETARY

SHARES

\$25.00

EACH

OFFICE OF
STATE TAX COMMISSION

Montgomery, Ala., May 22, 1931 193

TO TAX ASSESSOR,

BALDWIN County,
BAY MINETTE Alabama.

RE: CLAY PRODUCTS CO. INC.

Dear Sir:

The State Tax Commission has fixed a final value on the shares of stock of the above corporation for taxation for the tax year 1931, as follows:

Total value of all shares of stock \$
Assessed value of real and personal property in other states to be de-
ducted from above \$
Deduction for motor vehicles which are otherwise assessed (100%
value) \$ \$
Total value of all shares of stock remaining for assessment \$ 32,550
60% of the above total value of shares of stock for assessment \$ 19,530
Deduction allowed Insurance Companies only, 60% values \$
Total assessed value of real estate and personal property to be de-
ducted from 60% of the total value of shares for assessment \$ 22,690
(Final values as fixed by Board of Review on real and personal property to be inserted if any change from above)
Residue of total value of stock for assessment \$ None
Shares of stock outstanding --
Assessed value of each share of stock \$

This assessment having been completed and determined, you will enter same in the book of assessments as provided for other assessments made by this Commission in Sec. 165, Page 330, Acts of Alabama for 1919.

STATE TAX COMMISSION,

By _____
State Tax Commissioner.

NOTE: Changes recommended in the tangible property assessment, as follows:

	As Assessed.	Recommended.
Real Estate	\$	\$
Improvements	\$	\$
Merchandise	\$	\$
Machinery and Equipment	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

List of Property Returned by

Beat No

P. O. Address.

Occupation

To G. W. ROBERTSON, Tax Assessor, Baldwin County, Alabama, for the Year 1931

Section 54. (Rev. Act 1919). It shall be a misdemeanor for any taxpayer, or attorney, or agent, of any taxpayer having authority to make tax returns, to fail, neglect, or refuse on demand of the tax assessor to fill out or have filled out the schedule or list herein provided for, or to fail to cause the information herein provided for, or to fail, refuse, or neglect to take and subscribe to the oath or affirmation required to such schedules or to fail to return the same to the assessor as prescribed by law. Any taxpayer who fails or neglects to perform such duty, if there is no other punishment provided for such failure or neglect must, on conviction, be fined not less than twenty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars.

REAL ESTATE—DESCRIPTION	S.	T.	R.	No. Acres	Preceding Year's Valuation	Taxpayer's Estimate of Value (60%)	Tax Assessor's Value for Assessment	Valuation by Board of Review
of whether mineral right, surface right, timber right, turpentineright, or other right)								
of NE 1/4 sec 31-6-3 NW 1/4 sec 31-6-3				186.3	140			
52 acres of the W 1/2 of NW 1/4 sec.				86.3	50			
at part of NE 1/4 sec 31-6-3 NW 1/4 sec 31-6-3								
of Fish River Dry east the small lot								
in the NW cor. of each eight,								
of the south to Fish River				79				
so that other tract of land lies								
the W bank of Fish River at								
intersection with the sec. line								
sec 30 & 31 in said tp.								
& thence run N 10° W to NW corner								
sec 30 thence N 63° E to								
etc. thence S to the NW bank								
Fish River thence South the								
course of the river to the								
back of NW 1/4 sec 30				31.63	10			
of NW 1/4 sec 31				186.3	20			
Improvements					222	6000		
						6300		
rate or special interests in real estate such as mineral rights, the right to mine minerals,								
nights, timber rights, the right to cut timber, etc., should be separately described and								
other real estate interests are listed.								
of acres improved.								
of acres unimproved.								

rate or special interests in real estate such as mineral rights, the right to mine minerals, the rights, timber rights, the right to cut timber, etc., should be separately described and other real estate interests are listed.

of acres improved

of acres unimproved

[illegible]

APPROVED:
STATE TAX COMMISSION
By W. H. HAWKINS, Tax Agent

10% Penalty

7ED ALL IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED ON THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY? Answer yes or no

from whom?

Price paid \$

whom:

Price paid \$

to Taxpayer.—"I do solemnly swear that the foregoing list of property returned by me.

11 the property owned by _____ (if not his own property, here state the capacity in which he returns such property for assessment)

If the property owned by _____ (if not his own property, here state the capacity in which he returns such property for assessment)
here state "me" if the property returned is his own property, and if not his own property, state the name of the person, corporation or estate for whom the property is returned

_____ had any interest whatever, the situs of which for taxation, or exemption from taxation, is _____
 Here designate the owner for whom return is made)
 of October of the present tax year, and that the statement of the amount of fire insurance carried thereon is correct, to my personal knowledge, and
 ed in the foregoing schedule, so help me God."

ore me this the 11 day of Dec 1930

(Person giving in return)

taking the foregoing assessment list, I administered the oath required in 304, Revenue Act 1923, to taxpayer or agent making this return on behalf of the taxpayer as the law directs in regard to the same.

(Officer will sign here)

(Give name and title of office here)

Tax Assessor.

1931 TAX RETURN LIST

All questions on this return must be asked and answers noted hereon.
Were you on the first day of October of the present year an executor, administrator, curator, guardian, committee, assignee, commissioner, receiver or trustee of any person?

Give name _____
Have you in your possession or under your control any property or other thing of value belonging to any other person or corporation? _____ Give name of owner _____

Do you have an infant son or daughter who is a member of your family and who owns property?

Does your wife own property? _____ Has it been assessed for taxation?

Does any other member of your family who resides with you own property?

Give name _____

Real Estate	\$	Dollars	Cts
Personal Property	\$		
Total	\$		
Assessor's Fee	\$		
School District No.		Tax	
School District No.		Tax	
School District No.		Tax	

Insurance	PERSONAL PROPERTY—DESCRIPTION	EXEMPT Based on 100% Value		No.	Next Pre- ceding Year's Valuation	Taxpay- er's Es- timate of Value 60%	Tax Assessor's Value for Assess- ment	Valuation by Board of Review	Insurance
		No.	Value						
\$	1. Household and kitchen furniture			1					\$ 9
	2. Hogs			2					
	3. Sheep			3					
	4. Cows and calves			4					
	5. Sewing machines			5					
	6. Farming tools, mechanical tools			6					
	7. Poultry			7					
	8. Cattle No. _____ Goats No. _____			8					
	9. Cotton and other agricultural products			9					
	10. Printing presses, equipment and materials			10					
	11. Docks, wharves, wharf-boats, landings and warehouses, private or community ferries, canals, ditches, channels, tramroads, pole roads			11					
	12. Steamboats, vessels and water-craft of every name or kind			12					
	13. Stocks of goods, wares and merchandise, based on average amount carried during the 12 months preceding Oct. 1st. Amount to be not less than capital employed in the business.			13					
	14. Libraries			14					
	15. Pianos and other musical instruments			15					
	16. Paintings			16					
	17. Precious stones, jewelry, plate, silverware, ornaments and articles of taste			17					
	18. Watches, clocks			18					
	19. Wagons, buggies, bicycles and all other vehicles except motor vehicles			19					
	20. Typewriters, adding machines, cash registers, iron safes, office and store furniture and fixtures			20					
	21. Guns, pistols, canes			21					
	22. Horses and mares			22					
	23. Mules			23					
	24. Studs, jacks, jennets			24					
	25. Machinery and equipment of furnaces, rolling mills, mines, quarries, etc.			25					
	26. Machinery and equipment of cotton gins, oil mills, cotton compresses, grain elevators, flour and grist mills, saw mills and other manufacturing establishments not included in Item No. 25			26					
	27. Supplies, raw materials and manufactured articles of manufacturers, not including finished manufactured products, and twelve months stored at point of manufacture			27					
	28. Money hoarded, whether in custody of the owner or in safety deposit vault or elsewhere (but not including money on deposit in banks)			28					
	29. Shares of stock in any incorporated company (including banks other than national banks) not incorporated under the laws of this State unless listed and recorded and tax thereon paid as provided for in Sections 43 to 51, inclusive, of Revenue Act of 1927			29					
	30. All investments in bonds not exempt from taxation			30					
	31. On the gross amount of commissions or sums charged and received during each year by any auctioneer, provided, nothing herein contained shall be construed as levying a tax on commissions received for the sale or rental of real estate, or brokerage on loans on real estate or the underwriting of insurance			31					
	32. All other property, real, personal and mixed not hereinbefore specified			32					
	33. On gross sales of goods, wares, merchandise, and fruit by cargo at auction during preceding years (to be taxed to auctioneers at one-eighth of one per cent.)			33					
	34. Gross sales at auction of goods, wares, and merchandise except cargo sales by cargo (item 33) during preceding twelve months to be taxed to auctioneers at one-quarter of one per cent.			34					

INSURANCE ON IMPROVEMENTS MUST BE SHOWN

S
tarpe
listed
Num
Num

Assessor's Fee, \$

HAVE YOU L
Real Estate bo
Real Estate sol

10% Penalty

Total

REMARKS

Oath to be Administer

is a full and complete return

or in which

in this county, on the first d
of the improvements on lands

Subscribed and sworn to

I hereby certify that bef
to be administered under Se
and that I interrogated the s

GILL PTO. & STA. CO. MOBILE

CLAY
CITY



Historic places are just sections of our country where people have lived and left a written record for other people to read, remember and enjoy.

That is why we feel Clay City deserves a place in history.

1711

What later became "Clay City" is first mentioned when the French people settled Mobile. They were treated kindly by the friendly Indians on Fish River. The Indians gave them food and a home away from the disease of Yellow Fever then rampant in the Mobile area.

1818 - 1834

Brick and clay were sent down-river to Fort Bowyer and Fort Morgan. Fort Morgan contains 8,000,000 brick. It is said to be modeled after a plan drawn up by Michael Angelo.

1860 - 1906

There was a large pottery here, run by the Gable family. They made jugs, butter churns, surveyor's markers and clay pots. During the Civil War they made jugs for the Confederate troops. The jugs were used for molasses, whiskey, rum, beer and vinegar. They were hauled by sailing schooners to Mobile and New Orleans.

1865

40,000 Union troops camped here for nine days before marching on to capture Spanish Fort across the bay from Mobile.

1902

Mr. Frank Brown from Chicago and Fairhope was fishing on Fish River and noticed the beautiful gray potter's clay on the river bank. He formed a company with some friends and bought the land in 1913.

1916

Fairhope Clay Products was organized. The machinery was brought in by oxen over trails as there were no roads. The best way to get here was by riverboat. That is why the men who worked here lived at the brick plant. Soon it became known as "Clay City."

At first clay was dug with a hand shovel and brick were made four at a time in a wooden mold. The brick dried in the sun, and they were burned in a small kiln fired with pine lighter knots.

1926

New, larger round kilns were built and a new engine was installed. It is still in service. It has a capacity of 30,000 brick a day. The kilns were fired with coal.

1967

A complete new brick plant was built right next to the old one. Now the clay is dug with a drag-line. The brick are made by a machine that cuts 18 brick at a time. They are dried and the kilns are fired with natural gas. Instead of handling the brick by wheelbarrow one at a time, the forklift picks up 350 brick. They go through an automatic strapping machine and come in neat, square packages of 525 brick.

The forklift loads 10,000 at a time on a trailer-truck and a boom-unloader takes them off at the job-site.

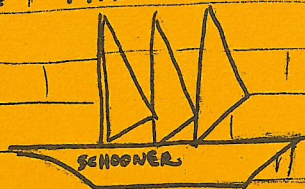
1974

For 58 years Fairhope Clay Products has been expanding until today it has the potential capacity of 60,000 brick per day.

CLAY CITY SINCE 1916



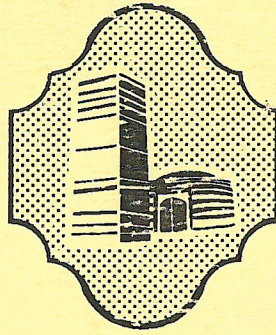
WHEEL BARROW



FORK LIFT



TRUCK



FAIRHOPE
CLAY PRODUCTS, INC.

Fine Clayworks Since 1902

A Complete Line
of Quality
Brick & Tile
for Home, Commercial
and Custom use.

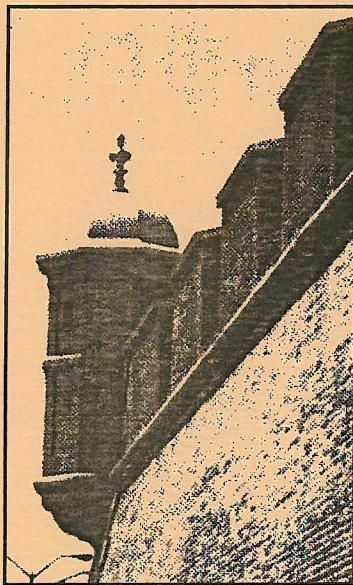


"Lighting of the first Kiln" ceremonies in 1916. Frank Brown, (the creator of Clay City), stands near the center of the group.

A Family Tradition Since 1902

Fairhope Clay Products, Inc. is a family-owned business. Our location has been used to produce high quality clay products since the 1700's when local Indians first used the clay to produce pots and assorted accessories. A lot of our products still require hands-on workmanship to maintain our high standard of quality. Many of our products are custom made here from our own clay and cannot be duplicated from other sources.

Fairhope Clay Products is located about eight miles east of Fairhope, Alabama on Fish River in Baldwin County. The plant and its environs are known as "Clay City", because of the vast clay resources in the area, the largest south of the Ohio River. Through the years, extensive modernization has taken place, and the plant now produces a wide variety of standard and custom bricks as well as specialized paving and patio bricks.



Historic French Fort Conde in Mobile, AL reconstructed in 1975 with Fairhope Clay Products, Inc. custom hand made brick

Craftsmanship

Fort Conde is a French fort originally designed in the early 1700's and rebuilt with brick and mortar between the years 1724 - 1735. Recognizing the fort as a historical landmark, the City of Mobile reconstructed and furnished the fort from 1975 - 1976. All the custom brick was handmade to match the original brick by Fairhope Clay Products.

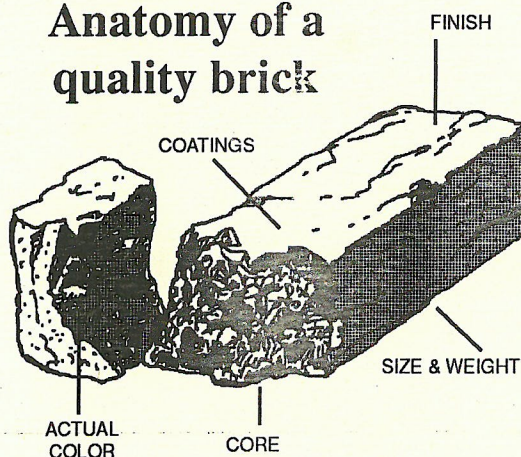
Our dedication to quality and craftsmanship played a major role in the authentic reproduction of the brick used in the original fort. All of the brick used in the fort was hand-cut to exact sizes in advance of delivery. We apply the same care and craftsmanship to your needs also and can design or create custom brick or patio tile to your specifications.

Important brick buying points:

NOT ALL BRICK IS THE SAME! regardless of appearance or price. When purchasing brick for residential, commercial or special purposes consider these important points when talking to your supplier.

1. Actual quantity square foot. A half a brick per square foot can add up to substantial savings
2. Consider the colors, textures and sealer applied to your brick choice. Longevity is primarily affected by the type of sealer that is applied.
3. What grade of clay is the brick made from.
4. What is the actual cost of the brick alone. When you buy compare only the price of the brick alone.
5. Quality should be considered. A good quality brick requires less maintenance, and is stronger.
6. Avoid clay products that contain heavy lime deposits.

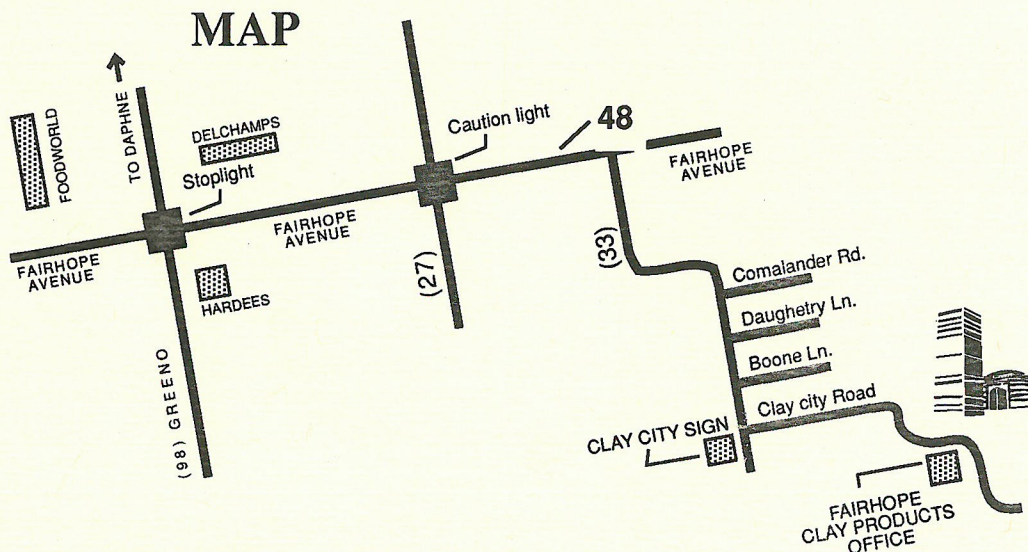
Anatomy of a quality brick



CUSTOM MATCHING:

When matching brick to your sample remember that it is very difficult to achieve an exact match because clay in its natural form is always very slightly different from area to area. In some instances though, you can achieve an almost exact match as demonstrated by the Methodist church in Fairhope, Alabama in the enclosed photo, which was supplied with brick across three generations of additions by Fairhope Clay Products.

Professional installation is available on some items. Please ask your Clay Works representative for details.



COMMERCIAL BRICK . . . The right look plus value

How your business looks says a lot about you. The building is the first visual sign a customer sees when visiting you. Just as you carefully plan the interior decorations of your establishment to reflect the image you want to project, so should you select the right kind of brick to complement your overall design scheme.

Fairhope Clay Products has a variety of brick in the design and color to best suit your needs. We can also provide custom brick for that one-of-a kind look. All of our products meet the strictest guidelines for quality and endurance.

Our representative will be happy to talk with you about extra values incurred from large quantity orders.

BRICK FOR YOUR HOME . . . A personal choice

When it comes time to pick the right brick for your home remember to plan carefully. Not only is the style and quality of the brick you choose important, but also the color and finish. Bring samples of the colors you are using in your new home with you to help you match against the sometimes bewildering number of styles and colors to choose from. Consider using special patio brick or quarry tiles to enhance your home with the special warmth and elegance only they can provide.

CUSTOM BRICK / FLOOR TILE

What you should consider before you buy

Before you decide on floor or patio covering consider what area it is to be used for and what kind of wear and tear it will have. For example, kitchens are hard-wear areas and should have correspondingly tough flooring. Patios should be very weather resistant with easy care and maintenance. Our tiles are made from the same clay that is suitable for pottery and fine artwork. They are usually square, rectangular or custom in shape and are available in various sizes, smooth to rough finish and various colors.

There are also special tile/brick that have an imperfect earthy look and are actually hand made. They can come in blended colors which look pleasingly mellow. They are impervious to grease and liquids when sealed correctly and are therefore both practical and hard wearing for kitchens, halls and country rooms. Tiles should be laid on a screeded sub-floor and sealed like slate. They wash easily. Special types of hard-wearing brick (or pavers) are also available for use indoors and lend a rustic homey look to a room. They should be laid on concrete.

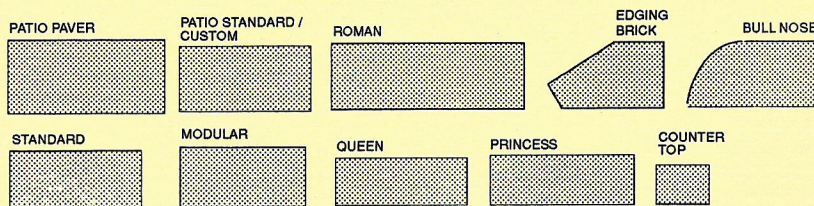
How much brick do you need?

To estimate the volume of brick required for your project multiply the width times the height of 1 section of wall or floor. This number is the square feet in that area. do this for every surface area you need to cover and then add them up. Find the closest total on the square feet side of the chart below. Look at the bottom of the chart for the kind of brick you are considering purchasing and go up the chart until you hit your square feet level. This is the approx. number of brick you will need. If the number of square feet you originally calculate is larger than a number on the chart below, simply double one of the available numbers to reach your number.

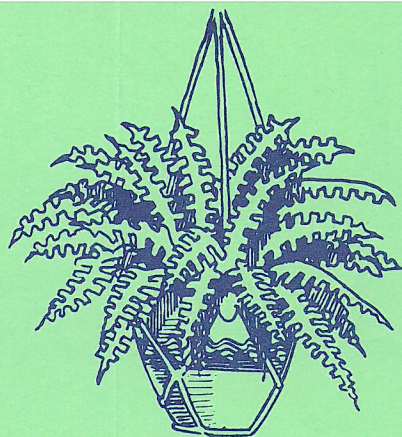
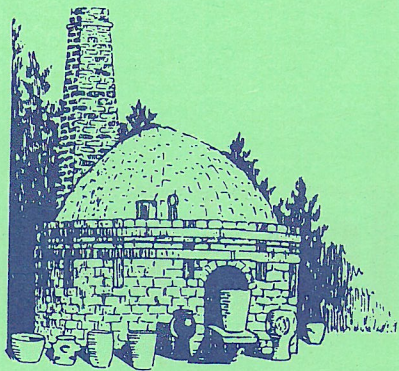
EXAMPLE: 10ft. X 20ft = 200 Square feet X 4.5 Patio Brick = 900 brick needed

Number of Brick Required

Square Feet	2400	16,800	15,600	13,200	12,480	10,800	10,800	8,400	7,200
	2300	16,100	14,950	12,650	11,960	10,350	10,350	8,050	6,900
	2200	15,400	14,300	12,100	11,440	9,900	9,900	7,700	6,600
	2100	14,700	13,650	11,550	10,920	9,450	9,450	7,350	6,300
	2000	14,000	13,000	11,000	10,400	9,000	9,000	7,000	6,000
	1900	13,300	12,350	10,450	9,880	8,550	8,550	6,650	5,700
	1800	12,600	11,700	9,900	9,360	8,100	8,100	6,300	5,400
	1700	11,900	11,050	9,350	8,840	7,650	7,650	5,950	5,100
	1600	11,200	10,400	8,800	8,320	7,200	7,200	5,600	4,800
	1500	10,500	9,750	8,250	7,800	6,750	6,750	5,250	4,500
	1400	9,800	9,100	7,700	7,280	6,300	6,300	4,900	4,200
	1300	9,100	8,450	7,150	6,760	5,850	5,850	4,550	3,900
	1200	8,400	7,800	6,600	6,240	5,400	5,400	4,200	3,600
	1100	7,700	7,150	6,050	5,720	4,950	4,950	3,850	3,300
	1000	7,000	6,500	5,500	5,200	4,500	4,500	3,500	3,000
	900	6,300	5,850	4,950	4,680	4,050	4,050	3,150	2,700
	800	5,600	5,200	4,400	4,160	3,600	3,600	2,800	2,400
	700	4,900	4,550	3,850	3,640	3,150	3,150	2,450	2,100
	600	4,200	3,900	3,300	3,120	2,700	2,700	2,100	1,800
	500	3,500	3,250	2,750	2,600	2,250	2,250	1,750	1,500
	400	2,800	2,600	2,200	2,080	1,800	1,800	1,400	1,200
	300	2,100	1,950	1,650	1,560	1,350	1,350	1,050	900
	200	1,400	1,300	1,100	1,040	900	900	700	600
	50	350	325	275	260	225	225	175	150
	25	175	162.5	137.5	130	112.5	112.5	87.5	75
<div>MODULAR 2.25 X 3.5 X 7.58 7 BRK. SQR. FT.</div> <div>STANDARD 2.5 X 3.5 X 8 6.5 BRK. SQR. FT.</div> <div>QUEEN 2.5/8 X 2.7/8 X 8 5.5 BRK. SQR. FT.</div> <div>PRINCESS 2.75 X 3 X 8.75 5.2 BRK. SQR. FT.</div> <div>PATIO STNDRD. 2.25 X 4 X 8 4.5 BRK. SQR. FT.</div> <div>PATIO CUSTOM 1/2 X 4 X 8 4.5 BRK. SQR. FT.</div> <div>PATIO PAVER 1.5 X 4.5 X 9.5 3.5 BRK. SQR. FT.</div> <div>ROMAN BRICK 1.5 X 4 X 12 3 BRK. SQR. FT.</div>									

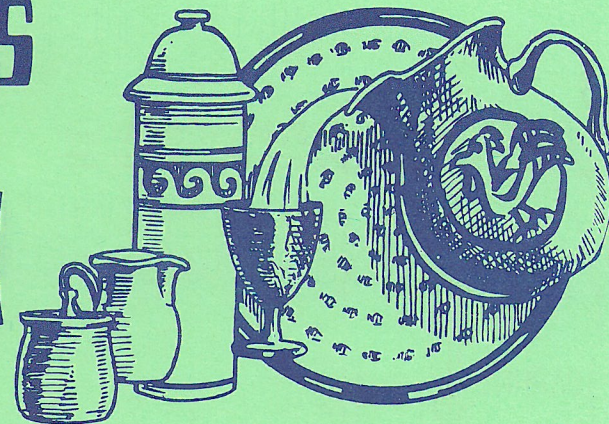


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Tom Jones grew up in Fairhope and became interested in pottery in high school when he studied under master potter Edith Harwell. After graduating he was offered a scholarship from Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi. Later he returned to Fairhope where he taught pottery and folk dancing at his alma mater, Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education.

In 1980, Tom and his wife Pam, opened their first shop in Daphne, Alabama. The pottery was manufactured from their home until more space was needed. In 1983, Tom moved all of his equipment and tools to the site of the present location of the pottery at Clay City.

Ann, Tom's mother, joined the business in 1982 as bookkeeper and managing the retail area. She is the official greeter of the pottery, explains the function of different pieces and helps customers with their purchases.

Tom Jones Pottery is located off Baldwin County Highway 33, in an area known as Clay City appropriately named for its rich clay deposits and long time manufacturing of brick and tile. The first Clay City pottery works was located on the banks of Fish River around 1850. After being flooded several times plus the increased popularity of glass and tin cans that pottery was closed around 1900. In 1940 a new pottery building was located further from the river, yet close enough to receive coal shipments brought up river on barges. The coal fed the Bee Hive Kiln which remains intact at the present pottery but is no longer used. Some of Tom's handmade products are created from the same clays that were used in the earlier pottery endeavors but now the pottery is fired in a modern "fiber" kiln fueled by natural gas to a temperature of 2400 degrees. All of the ware is lead free, most is oven, microwave and dishwasher safe. **The pottery studio is located approximately 8 miles from Point Clear, 7 miles from Fairhope, 23 miles from the tunnels in Mobile and 50 miles from Pensacola, Florida. Visitors are always welcome!**

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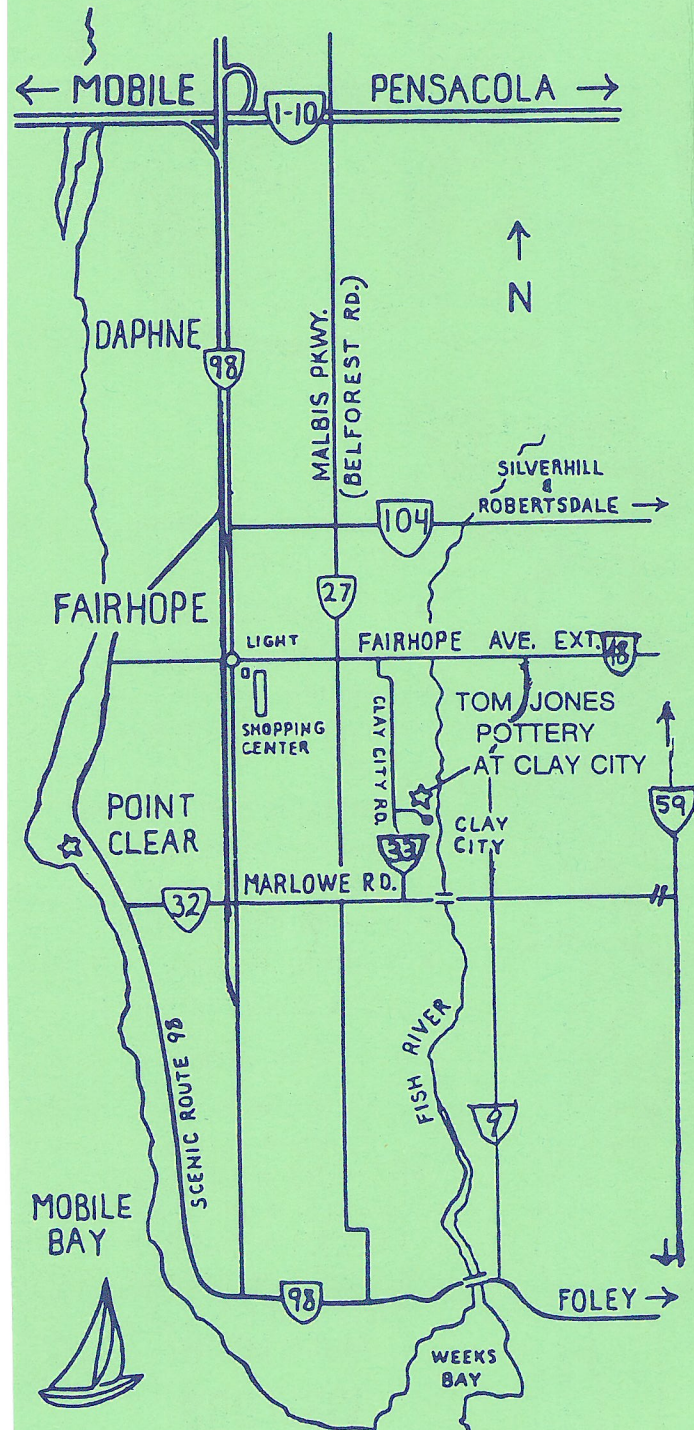
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The pottery works had to be rebuilt twice after hurricanes, but a third fatal hurricane destroyed the operation in 1890.

A fresh start was made in 1943 with a new building and small beehive kiln built farther back from the river's edge. Production was again stopped, this time to concentrate on Clay City's thriving brick and tile business. Clay City Pottery was reopened in 1976 under the name of A&D Pottery by Ralph Brown Jennings, great grandson of the founder of Clay City.

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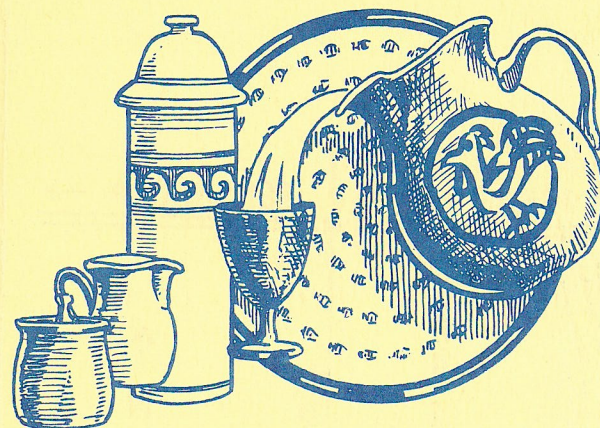
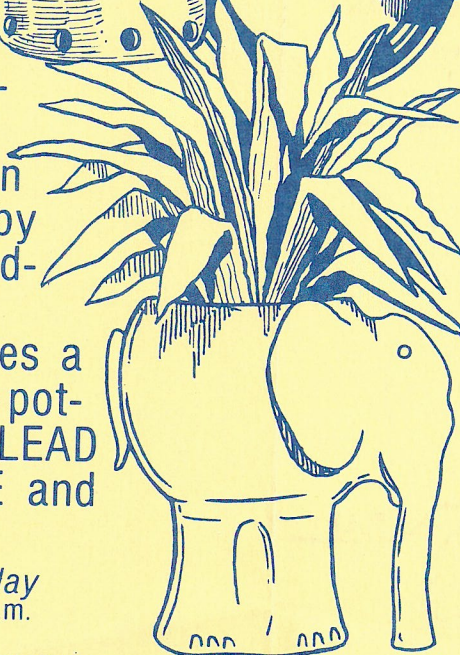
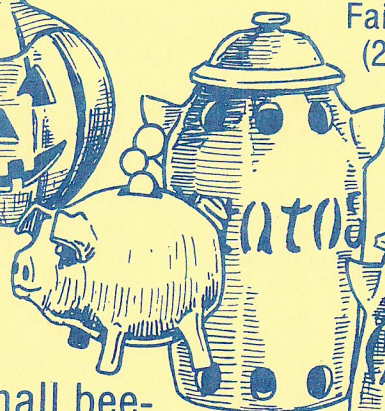
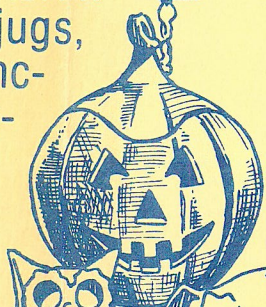
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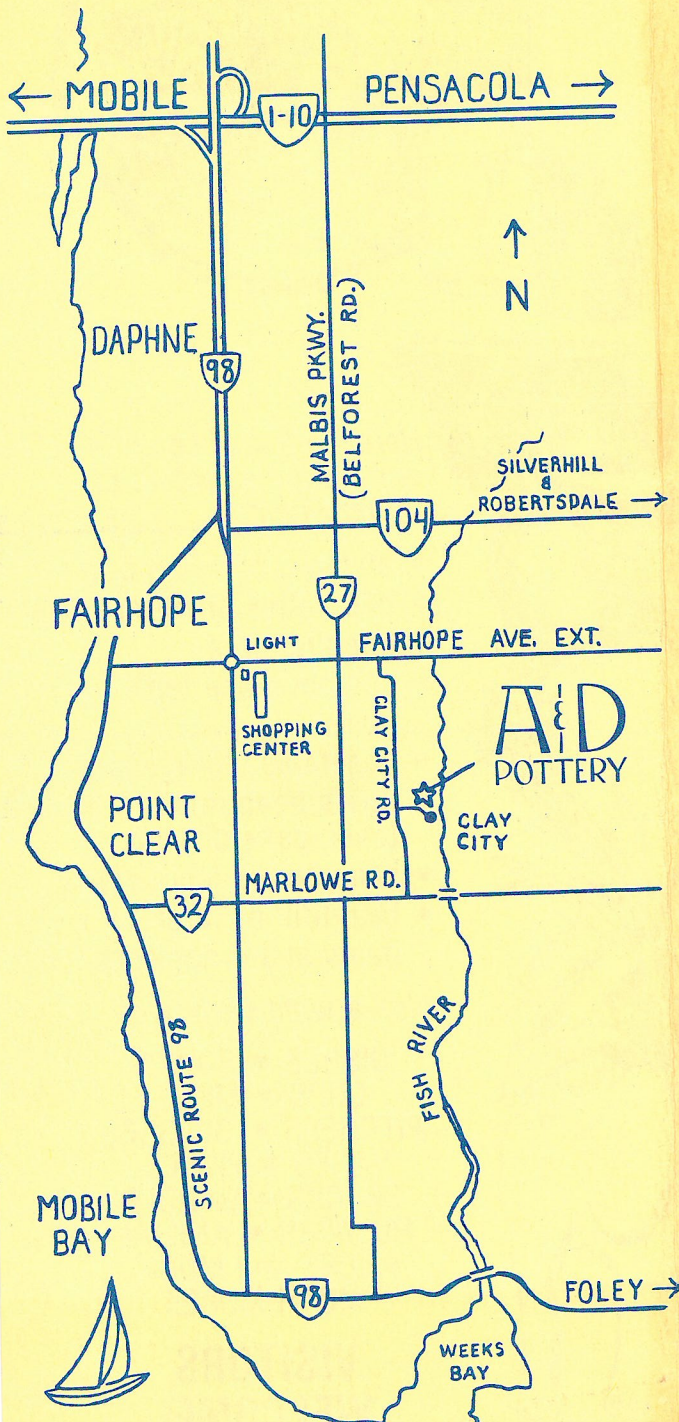
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A&D POTTERY

AT CLAY CITY

SITE OF FINE
POTTERIES
FOR OVER A
CENTURY



Jeddy Henson's life: From Southern belle to disgraced convict

Continued from Page 30A

the home environment being nearly as violent, although she acknowledged she is about five years younger than her sister and perhaps does not recall the worst of it.

Meyer said she recalls her mother striking her only once: It was when she was 4, or 5, before the family moved to Alabama. She said she was awakened in the middle of the night by her mother hitting her with a belt.

"The belt incident is the only one that I can remember," Meyer said.

John Henson said his mother was strict, not abusive.

"She was never like that toward me," he said.

At least one outsider, though, saw evidence of abuse — at least toward Riley.

Owens recalled one evening when Riley, then about 12 or 13, came running to her house. Henson had chained her to a bed and beaten her, Owens said, and she was bleeding.

Owens said she cleaned the girl up and let her spend the night. Then she delivered a stern warning to Henson, although she said it did not occur to her at the time to call the police.

"There was no need for the police. I handled it myself," she said. "I thought that I had gotten through to her."

■ ■ ■

Riley, who now works at a psychiatric center for children, said she recognizes her mother's actions in the behavior of many of her young charges.

"I have come to believe she always had mental illness. That's apparent as I look back," she said. "I see a lot of things. She needed help many, many years ago ... Maybe things would have turned out differently."

Meyer agreed mental illness explains much of her mother's problems. While on probation after she served her prison sentence, Henson received treatment from therapists for the first time and was prescribed medication.

John Henson said his mother hid her bouts of depression from her children during his childhood. It was only toward the end of her life that she revealed to others — and possibly even to herself — the difficulties she faced. He said she told him in prison that she wished she had sought help sooner.

"She did tell me she didn't realize how depressed she was un-

til she went to prison and started talking to people," he said.

Despite all that Henson did, her children remain sympathetic.

Meyer fondly remembers the family taking trips to the beach and staying at a cabin in Gulf Shores, where they enjoyed fishing and crabbing.

Henson had a gold lamé hostess gown when Meyer was very young, she recalled. "I can remember sitting on her lap, being rocked to sleep, and thinking how pretty my mommy was in her gold gown," she said.

Despite all that Jeddy Henson went through — including prison — Meyer said her mother maintained an upbeat demeanor to the world.

"She was always able to find something to laugh about in any situation," Meyer said.

"There were a lot of good memories there," she said, before adding: "There was some bad mixed in there."

John Henson, who stayed in closest contact with his mother after she went to prison, said the two talked by phone and exchanged letters.

They spoke of mutual interests, like bicycle races, which the son had participated in as a child. He said the two talked about the Tour de France.

"I miss that type of talking back and forth," he said.

■ ■ ■

Olive Dry's death devastated the family and distanced Henson's children from one another.

Both daughters said they now believe Henson tried to keep them apart from the time they were children.

After a certain point, Riley said, she learned to accept that she would never find the answers she was looking for. She said she left behind all of that baggage at the funeral home.

Still, she said it hurts that she never spoke to her mother after her conviction.

"In the last few years, I made peace with her and I made peace with myself," she said. "The worst thing is that I did not get to tell her I forgave her."

Meyer had better luck. She said she reached out to her mother about two years ago. She said she had a good visit and stayed in touch by letters for the rest of Henson's life. John Henson and Meyer said their mother turned to Catholicism after she entered prison.

"I think she had made some sort of peace with herself and



Photo courtesy of Tanya Riley

From left, Kori Meyer, Tanya Riley and John Henson sit down together in Fairhope in July, having been reunited by their mother's death. It was the first time the three children of Jeddy Henson had been together in 10 years. Meyer now lives in Spain, Riley lives in Dothan and Henson lives in Guntersville, Ala.

with God. For her, that was enough," Meyer said.

But Henson kept her secrets right up until the end. Meyer said her mother weighed less than 100 pounds when she was admitted to the hospital at the end of her life.

She had hidden a giant tumor in her stomach from even the medical staff.

John Henson said he was in the area about two weeks before his mother's death. She rebuffed his attempts to visit her both on the Friday he came and the Sunday he left.

"She just told me she wasn't feeling good and didn't want any company," he said. "I just went on back to Guntersville. Two weeks later, I get this call that she's in the hospital with cancer."

Meyer said that despite the pain she felt after her mother's death, she appreciated the kindness shown by staff members at the hospital and funeral home.

It wasn't just her health problems that Henson did not share, Meyer said. She said her mother never spoke of Dry.

John Henson said he tried unsuccessfully to get his mother to talk about his grandmother.

"I tried to get her to open up, but basically what came up in the paper is what she told me," he said.

Those looking for a window into Jeddy Henson likely will not find comfort from her defense attorney, either. Simon, a Bay Minette lawyer, said his client's private conversations with him did not differ substantially from her public statements.

"She did seem to care about her status in the world, and that made it all the more sad for her that her circumstances had been so reduced," he said. "God knows, I hope she's at rest ... because she certainly wasn't during her life."

Meyer said she sat down many times to write her mother letters about the incident. But Henson's doctors told her it would not be good for her health to talk about it, Meyer said.

So Meyer waited patiently, hoping her mother would volunteer some insight. "We had hoped that maybe she would leave us a letter. But at this point, I guess she didn't," Meyer said.

John Henson said he does remain convinced that whatever his mother did, she did not murder his grandmother, at least not in the classic sense.

"When you talk about murder people think someone was killed with a gun or knife," he said. "That's not what happened."

Reporter Brendan Kirby may be reached by calling 580-2082 or by e-mailing him at kirby@mobileregister.com.

Castro blasts U.S. candidates

► Castro warns Bush that if he wins, he should not try to use the Central Intelligence Agency to assassinate Cuban leaders

By ANITA SNOW
Associated Press Writer

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba — President Fidel Castro celebrated the communist revolution he began more than 40 years ago by offering his analysis Saturday of the American presidential race, saying both George W. Bush and Al Gore are "boring and insipid" candidates.

Speaking to 200,000 people massed for a speech in this western tobacco-growing province, Castro focused his remarks on the Texas governor. If Bush reaches the White House, Castro said, he should not waste his time becoming the 10th American president to try to change Cuba's political system.

"Cuba, yes! Yankees, no!" the crowd chanted in the provincial capital of Pinar del Rio, located about 90 miles west of Havana.

Forty-seven years after his attack on a military barracks that launched the Cuban Revolution, Castro's mission is getting the United States to ease off this communist island.

On Saturday, the Cuban leader focused mostly on Bush, who accepted the Republican presidential

nomination Thursday, and on the GOP.

Castro warned Bush that if he wins, it would be pointless to try to use the Central Intelligence Agency to assassinate Cuban leaders — as was done in the 1960s.

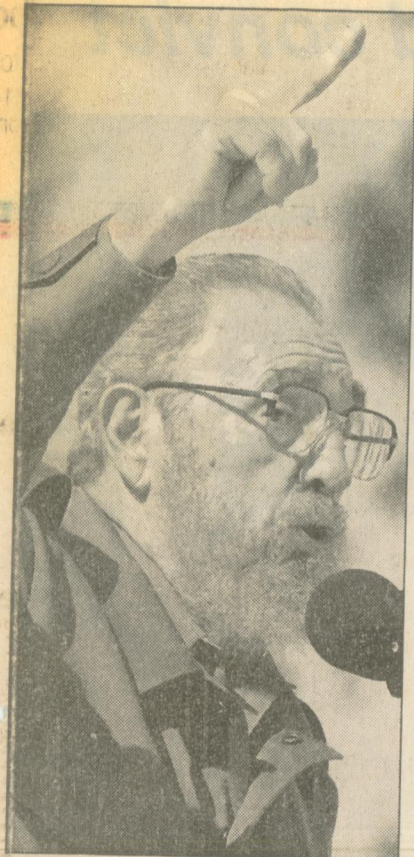
"I exhort you to not forget that for each one of those revolutionary leaders you decide to eliminate in that way, there will remain in Cuba millions of men capable of occupying their place," he said.

Castro, who turns 74 later this month, blasted a stance the Republican party adopted during its national convention in Philadelphia this week, saying it catered to the "terrorist and annexationist mafia of Miami" — a reference to Cuban-American exiles.

Castro also said Bush's support for a missile defense system could take the world on a "new, dangerous and extremely costly arms buildup." Americans who are unaware of the possible risks involved will simply think that Bush is "a strong, forward-looking and tough man who the United States needs in the face of all dangers imagined or real," he said.

Russia and American allies oppose creating the new system, saying it could launch a new nuclear arms race. Vice President Gore, the presumptive Democratic nominee, supports building a limited missile defense system.

The Republican platform's plank on Cuba sets tough conditions at a time when the Clinton administration and some lawmakers are trying to ease sanctions.



Fidel Castro
... calls U.S. candidates boring

Opposition

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"In my next life, I'm not going to be Scarlett O'Hara. This time, I'm going to be Melanie Wilkes."

From a note written by Jeddy Henson

The secret life of Jeddy Henson

She was a beautiful, poised and popular Eastern Shore mother. Then she confessed to dumping her mother's body off the I-10 Bayway. What happened to the woman who likened herself to Scarlett O'Hara?



Jeddy Henson, then Jeddy Dry, appears to have a movie-star glow in this 1951 photographic portrait taken in her late teens. Friends and relatives say Henson had mesmerizing blue eyes, bright red lips and fine brown hair.

By **BRENDAN KIRBY**

Staff Reporter

As much as anything, a single phrase, scribbled on a piece of yellow legal paper, may explain the bizarre life of Jeddy Henson.

It is but one clue among many left behind by Henson, who went from Southern belle and Eastern Shore socialite to disgraced convict — an admitted thief who dumped her 88-year-old mother's body off of the Interstate 10 Bayway in 1989.

Henson's oldest child, Tanya Riley, found the note among dozens of papers, half-written letters, notes and random thoughts in the small group home where Henson spent the last years of her life:

"In my next life, I'm not going to be Scarlett O'Hara. This time, I'm going to be Melanie Wilkes."

Henson died June 29 of cancer, a disease she hid even from her caregivers.

There was no obituary. Had there been, it would have read that Henson died at a hospice facility in Mobile at age 66.

Her death did little to cast light on a remarkably complex and, by most accounts, sad life. Nearly a decade after the eerie revelations about their mother and grandmother, Henson's children say they are left with questions that may never be answered.



Photos courtesy of Tanya Riley

Jeddy Henson, left, beams a smile as she poses at the home of a Texas relative with her mother, Olive Dry, in this 1950s photograph. In the early 1990s, Henson would be accused of hiding her mother's death, then cashing checks made out to her mother.

What happened to Henson to make her capable of disposing of her mother Olive Dry's body and then cashing more than \$45,000 worth of her Social Security and pension checks for more than two years?

What led Henson to either kill her mother through neglect or cover up her natural death and profit from it?

Why was Henson so preoccupied with appearance that she fell apart when interrogators took away her wig after her arrest? And where, after all these years, is Dry's body?

Henson's daughters believe they have part of the explanation: Their mother drank heavily and battled undiagnosed mental illness, they say.

Millions of alcoholics and

mentally ill people inhabit the planet, however. Few commit such callous crimes.

"We'll never know what happened to her to make her turn out the way she did," Riley said.

The case tore the family apart. Riley, who lives in Dotman, and her sister, Kori Mey-

Please see *Jeddy* Page 30A ▶

Jeddy Henson's life: From Southern belle to disgraced convict

►Continued from Page 1A

er, who lives in Spain, said they did not speak to each other after the court trial until after their mother's death in June. They differed over how to respond to their mother's arrest and have varying memories of key aspects of their childhood.

But they agree that their mother suffered from manic depression that went untreated for too many years.

"I hope people will understand that she was not a monster. Being manic depressive is very serious. If we as a society knew then what we know now, our lives would have been much different," Meyer said via e-mail from her home in Spain. "When we were children, you didn't openly talk about things like depression, alcoholism and possible abuse."

Henson's third child, John Henson, said his mother seemed terrified about ending up destitute and alone.

"She must have panicked. She was unemployed at the time, and she didn't have any money," he said by phone from his home in Guntersville, Ala. "It's still hard for me to understand her, but I've tried to forgive her."

Riley said her mother was much like the "Gone With the Wind" character she so identified with — a real-life Scarlett O'Hara.

Nearly 6 feet tall with mesmerizing blue eyes, bright red lips and fine brown hair, Henson could dominate a crowd, said friends and family.

"She was absolutely movie-star beautiful," Riley said. "She was funny. She was articulate. She was highly intelligent. She was the kind of person who could take over a room."

If anyone had to choose which "Gone With the Wind" character most fit Henson, there's no doubt the answer would be Scarlett, not the meek, caring Wilkes. Like Scarlett, Riley said, Henson could be manipulative and mean, willing to hurt anyone to survive.

For clues to her mother's behavior, Riley keeps returning to the mysterious paper trail Henson left behind.

She found more than a dozen half-written, unaddressed letters. They began in much the same way: Henson's mother was getting sick and feeble. Riley said it seemed the letters were meant to tell family members what happened. But none of them was finished.

Then there's the Scarlett O'Hara remark. Did it merely reflect her love of the film, or did it hold some deeper sorrow?

Or what about the haunting lyrics of "September Song," a standard that Riley said her mother wrote out the lyrics to over and over again.

*Oh, it's a long, long while
From May to December
But the days grow short
When you reach September*

By focusing on the melancholy song, Henson seems to have expressed some regret, but who can know for sure?

Jeddy Henson projected the classic image of confidence and sophistication in the 1970s and '80s. She was active in country and garden clubs in Daphne and Fairhope. She worked with soccer associations on the Eastern Shore and in Mobile and was a force in her children's school.

Baldwin County Circuit Judge James Reid, who served with Henson on the board of the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education in Fairhope, said he remembers an intense dedication.

"Jeddy always seemed to be a nice person, very cooperative, very interested in the school," he said. "She was a person who spoke her mind, but at the same time, she was not an overbearing person."

So it came as utter shock when Henson was charged with murder, Reid said.

"It was very out of character with the Jeddy Henson I knew," he said.

For almost two years, Henson kept Dry's whereabouts secret. Riley said her mother told her that her grandmother had died and was taken to Mississippi to be buried. Although it seemed strange to find out about a close relative's death after the fact, Riley said she accepted it because of a childhood she now considers strange.

Meanwhile, Henson told her relatives in Beaumont, Texas, that her mother was in an area nursing home, according to Riley.

Suspicions mounted.

Riley, 41, said she would notice little things when she visited her mother. Several times, for instance, she saw envelopes from the Social Security Administration and other mail addressed to her grandmother — a woman she had been told was dead.

Every time Henson's cousin and her husband called, Henson always gave an excuse why her mother could not come to the phone.

Finally, Dry's relatives began to worry that something was seriously wrong with Olive Dry. They hired William C. Dear, a Dallas-based private investigator, to find out. The first two times he knocked on the door of Henson's single-story Greeno Road home in Fairhope, he got no answer.

The third time, Dear said, Henson answered the door and told him that her mother had gone to live with her family in Texas.

"I immediately knew she was lying," Dear said. "I knew then that there was

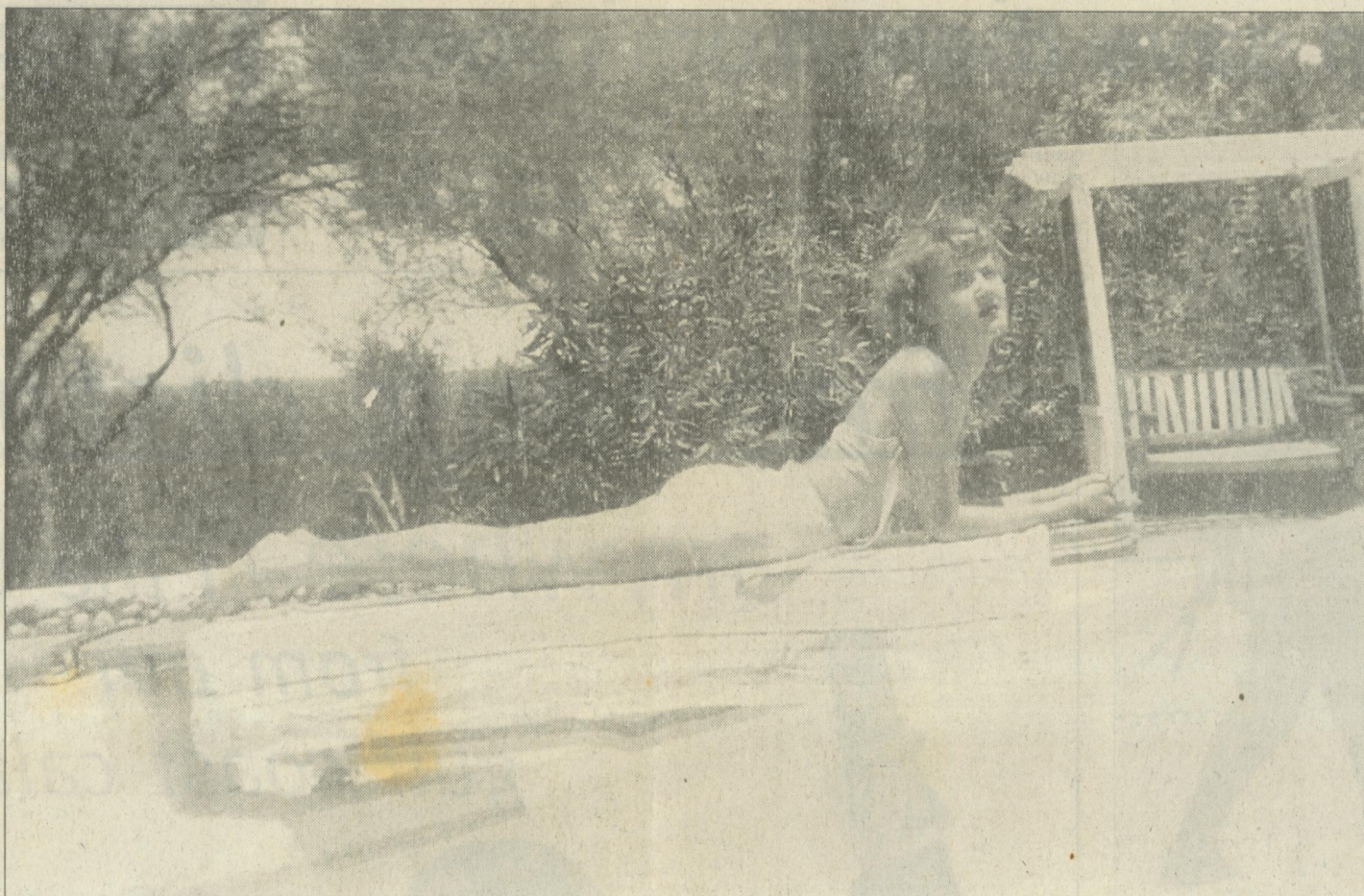


Photo courtesy of Tanya Riley

A teen-age Jeddy Henson sunbathes on a diving board at a Texas ranch in 1948. Henson grew up in Texas, the only child of a respected contractor and a demure English teacher.



Photo courtesy of Tanya Riley

Jeddy Henson, right, and her elderly mother, Olive Dry, sit by the fireplace in this picture taken at Christmas 1987. Just two years later, according to prosecutors and a private investigator, Dry would die and Henson would throw her body off the Interstate 10 Bayway to cover up the death.

something more than meets the eye."

But Dear said he did not confront Henson about the lie. Instead, he set out trying to figure out what prompted it.

Dear said he obtained copies of Dry's Social Security and pension checks, which Henson had been cashing. He found that Dry was not a patient at any area nursing home.

A Federal Express driver told him he had tried unsuccessfully several times to deliver packages to Dry.

"At that point, I was thoroughly convinced that the elderly mother was dead," Dear said.

But he had no real proof.

Then came a gigantic break. Dear said he checked the records at a Baptist church in Fairhope and discovered that Henson had recorded her mother's death the day she died in December 1989. Dear's evidence formed the basis of a search warrant the Fairhope Police Department obtained just before Christmas in 1991.

The house had no signs that Dry had been living there, although investigators found it was loaded with eerie movies about gruesome murders. One film that piqued Dear's interest was "Black Widow," a movie about a woman who systematically marries rich men, then murders them.

While investigators could find no sign of Dry, however, Dear said they could not find anything to indicate she was dead, either.

Authorities searched the home, dug up the backyard, tested the ashes in the fireplace — even checked the septic tank.

Nothing.

Then, just as they were wrapping up, Dear said he found the smoking gun: a pad of paper underneath a lamp on a living room table. He said it contained a dated, hand-written note laying out the crime.

"Can you imagine keeping something like that all those years? It was like a script for a movie," he said.

Baldwin County District Attorney David Whetstone recalled meeting Dear at the Nautilus Restaurant in Daphne shortly after the private investigator had assembled evidence suggesting that Dry was dead.

"I ride over to meet this super-duper investigator from Texas," Whetstone recalled. "He's got a ring on every finger."

Whetstone was skeptical. But after Dear showed him the evidence he had

uncovered, he said he had no doubts about Henson's guilt. The DA said checking the church records was a master stroke — something most people would never have thought to do.

"I didn't. But that investigator did," Whetstone said. "He can do his thing."

■■■

Henson's trial had entered its third day in August 1992 when Whetstone and defense attorney David Simon reached an agreement that allowed her to plead guilty to theft and injuring a person in her care.

Although he rarely accepts plea bargains once trials have begun, Whetstone said he made an exception for Henson. He said he felt he had a "60-40" chance of winning a murder conviction, but acknowledged that it is always difficult to try a murder case without a body.

With federal forgery charges pending, Whetstone said he felt it was unlikely Henson would have received significantly more prison time even if he had obtained a murder conviction.

Simon recalls considering the plea bargain a legal victory. There never was any doubt that Henson forged the retirement checks, he said.

"It was an unusual case. Anyone could see that from afar," he said. "But I was gratified that she was never convicted of murder."

While Henson may have had emotional or mental health problems, Simon said he never tried to press an insanity defense, which places a heavy burden on the accused. In order to prevail, Henson would have had to prove that she could not appreciate the consequences of her actions or understand right from wrong, he said.

"I don't remember her demonstrating any behavior that would fit an insanity defense, or even come close," Simon said.

The family, eager to find Dry's body, urged Whetstone to make the plea bargain, and the district attorney agreed.

As part of the bargain for pleading to a lesser charge, Henson promised to help find her mother's body.

Neil Rucker, who was then an investigator for the Baldwin County district attorney's office, said Henson was given a lie-detector test weeks after the trial because authorities doubted her veracity. She had failed two tests before the trial, he said.

Whetstone said Henson finally came

Authorities searched the Tensaw River, but never found the body. They speculate that it either washed out to the Gulf of Mexico or became lodged at the bottom of Mobile Bay. Either way, they say, it is unlikely Dry's remains will ever be found.

clean about the body when investigators confronted her with new evidence: antique jewelry, expensive hand-blown glass paperweights and other items that Riley had found in her mother's home while Henson was in jail awaiting trial. She said she knew they did not belong to her mother.

When Riley reported her discovery to Fairhope police, authorities traced the items back to one of Henson's former employers whose home had mysteriously burned down several years before.

Whetstone said prosecutors never charged Henson with the early 1980s arson because it was so old at that point and because they already had her on the other charges. Henson's son said he's still not convinced his mother is responsible for the arson: "I don't think she had anything to do with it," he said.

Whetstone, however, said Jeddy Henson admitted burning down the house and taking the items; then described how she got rid of her mother's body.

Even for a man who heard many peculiar things during his career, Rucker said Henson's words blew him away.

"That one definitely stands out. I'll always remember that case," said Rucker, who retired in June from the district attorney's office. "That was one of the most interesting cases I was ever involved in."

Henson told investigators how she got rid of the body after her mother died, although she never admitted to actually killing her. The final hours before ditching the body were pure surrealism, Rucker said:

Henson wrapped Dry's body in two plastic garbage bags and put it in the back seat of her car. Then, a six-pack of beer in hand, she drove aimlessly, stopping in Spanish Fort for another six-pack.

Finally, after several hours on the road, Henson drove out to the middle of the Interstate 10 Bayway between 4 and 5 a.m., and Rucker said he'll never forget her chilling description: "She gets out, rolls her mother over the edge ... just slid her over the edge."

Authorities searched the Tensaw River, but never found the body. They speculate that it either washed out to the Gulf of Mexico or became lodged at the bottom of Mobile Bay. Either way, they say, it is unlikely Dry's remains will ever be found.

Whetstone said Henson maintained

an icy defiance after her arrest.

"She was arrogant even when incarcerated," he said. "Most people, when you catch them in some great wrongdoing, you expect remorse even when they're feigning innocence."

Dear said law enforcement authorities allowed him to interrogate Henson while she was in jail awaiting trial, and after several days of trying, he was finally able to get her to confess.

The key was her wig, which friends and family members said she never went anywhere without. Dear said she used it as psychological armor. Convincing jail officials to take away Henson's hairpiece did the trick, he said.

"If she had her wig on and her hair done, she was steadfast," he said. "Once they took her wig off ... she finally confessed to me."

Dear said he was on the witness stand testifying about the confession when the prosecution abruptly decided to accept a plea bargain.

"We could have gotten her (murder) conviction," Dear said. "We weren't even worried about the trial. ... As far as I'm concerned, she was a cold-blooded murderer."

Henson pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of injuring a person in her care and 20 counts of theft of the Texas State Retirement Fund checks and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. She also received a five-year sentence in federal court on forgery charges.

Henson served the federal sentence and then was released to a halfway house in 1996. Because prisoners serve only a fraction of their sentences in state prisons, Henson's state sentence was satisfied by the time she was released from federal prison.

■■■

Jeddy Henson grew up in Texas, the only child of a respected contractor and demure English teacher.

Dry was descended from Edward Burlson, a former vice president of the Republic of Texas who rode with Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836.

Henson's father was a strict disciplinarian who died in a car crash when she was a teen-ager.

Riley, the oldest of three children, said her mother possessed a trifecta of brains, talent and looks. Henson did some modeling in her youth and Riley was told she had a glorious singing voice, although Riley never got to hear her mother sing. When she went through her belongings after her mother's death, Riley said, she discovered voice awards.

Henson seemed to continue a charmed life as an adult. After an early marriage ended quickly, she remarried and moved to Baldwin County. To her neighbors, Henson seemed perfectly normal.

"When you met her, you couldn't help but just adore her," said Janice Owens, a neighbor when the Hensons lived in the Lake Forest subdivision of Daphne. "You felt like you knew her your entire life."

Owens, whose children car-pooled with Henson's, said Henson was sharp, well-read and immaculately dressed. She remembers her attacking community projects with gusto.

"And when it was done, it was done to perfection," she said.

But Owens said there were small hints that Henson's life was not a 1950s TV sitcom. For instance, she said, Henson never invited her inside her home.

"I never in all the years I knew her went any farther than the front door of her home. She did not want me to come in there," she said. "All of us here felt that was so strange."

Owens recalled another quirk: Henson made a big deal about never accepting phone calls after 5 p.m. She told Owens she wanted to spend her evenings alone with her family, which seemed reasonable enough.

Excited to tell her friend something one evening, however, Owens forgot the rule. The phone rang many times before Henson picked it up.

"She was so drunk, she couldn't even talk," Owens said.

It was Owens' first inkling of Henson's problems. She and Henson's daughters say Henson fought bitterly with her husband. They eventually divorced and he moved to another part of the state.

"It was like Jekyll and Hyde," Owens said. "Come 5 in the afternoon, she would turn into a totally different person."

Henson's children differ in their recollections of their mother's alcoholism. John Henson, the youngest of the three at age 34, said his mother was never "out of control" and Meyer, the middle child, said she remembers only that her mother drank regularly.

"I never saw her really drunk," she said.

Riley's memories are more vivid: She said her mother downed between two six-packs and a case of Miller beer every night. Riley said her boyfriends used to have to bring her mother a six-pack of the beer before she would allow them to take her daughter out.

Abuse often accompanied the drinking, Riley said. She said her mother hit her, yelled and threw things around the room.

Meyer said she does not remember

Please see *Jeddy* Page 31A

Colombian police hope helicopters from U.S. can save them from rebels

► But Washington donated choppers to fight rebels who protect drug crops, not to be used in normal combat

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press Writer

PASCA, Colombia — Standing behind a wall of sandbags amid the rubble of a blown-up police station, officer Jose Borney Trujillo nervously surveys the forested mountains where leftist rebels roam virtually unimpeded.

Word has come to this tiny police outpost that Colombia's biggest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, now executes policemen captured after attacks.

During the first half of this year alone, rebels killed 120 police, many of them in overwhelming attacks on remote outposts manned by only a few officers.

Pasca's police fearful

The dozen police in Pasca, located a two-hour drive southwest of the capital Bogota, fear they will be next. They say that without reinforcements, they'd be overrun and likely killed.

"We are aware that if the guerrillas come in here, they will kill us all. We won't be able to surrender and ask for mercy," Borney said Wednesday.

Whether reinforcements save them could depend on the interpretation of an agreement that sent powerful U.S.-made combat helicopters to Colombia.

Washington donated the helicopters to fight rebels and others who protect drug crops. But they are not supposed to be used in normal combat in Colombia's 36-year guerrilla war.

The rebels have overrun Pasca three times — most recently in July 1994, when they killed a police sergeant and wounded a patrolman, then dynamited the police station and jail.

"It is very dangerous here," said Borney, 25, as he unslung a Galil assault rifle from his shoulder and peered into the mist-shrouded mountains. "We've been hearing more gunfire coming from over there in the last few weeks. The rebels are letting us know they're around."

Crippled by hostility

A trench has been dug in the rubble. A new police station now stands next door. From there, the green-uniformed national police investigate robberies, assaults and other common crimes.

But they are crippled by the hostile environment surrounding them.

"This affects our work 100 percent," admitted patrolman Anderson Smith Certuche.

The policemen never go on patrol or to crime scenes with less than five officers. Their area of responsibility extends several miles outside town, but they don't dare venture out more than a few hundred yards.

Doing otherwise would make them an easy target for ambush, or for a hidden lone gunman.

"It is good to have the police here, but someone really should send more of them," said Meri de Morales, who runs a small general store down the narrow, pitted street from the police station.

Human rights monitors

Human rights monitors critical of the rebels' attacks on police point out that many officers, like those in Pasca, are not involved in anti-guerrilla operations.

The Pasca police spend much of the day hunkered down in their brick building, which is laced with chicken wire to repel hand grenades. A cartoon bird with the message "Say NO to drugs," is painted on the wall outside.

The officers say they could fend off a large assault for several hours, but that reinforcements would have to arrive quickly.

It would take hours for addi-



RICARDO MAZALAN/Associated Press

An officer walks on the roof of the police station in Pasca, a two-hour drive southwest of Bogota, Colombia. Despite ongoing negotiations between the government and rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, rebels continue attacking rural police stations.

tional government forces to reach Pasca on foot. By truck would be faster, but rebels often mine roads leading to besieged towns or set up ambushes.

Rescue from the air is the best hope. Tolemaida military base, where U.S. special forces have been training army counter-narcotics troops, is only about a five-minute flight away.

Cops allegedly executed

U.S.-made Huey and Black Hawk helicopters are often there, but whether they would come is uncertain. Last month, U.S.-supplied helicopters were not used to rescue 13 besieged cops northwest of Bogota, who eventually surrendered and were allegedly executed by the rebels.

In a subsequent rebel assault, the helicopters were used to ferry in reinforcements.

After the killings, U.S. Ambassador Curtis W. Kamman said the helicopters could be used "to defend the police and military forces if they are under attack in a zone where there are anti-narcotics activities."

Deeper U.S. involvement

That is a definition some fear would mean deeper U.S. involvement in Colombia's intractable war, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives since it began in the 1960s.

Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., said recently that the problem is likely to persist.

"It's very unclear what's counter-narcotics and what's counter-insurgency. We're going to have, over and over and over again, many examples like this," he said.

Even if the donated aircraft aren't used, the police in Pasca hope firepower will arrive — Colombia has more than a dozen U.S.-made combat helicopters, including Black Hawks, that it purchased outright and which were not donated. There are no strings attached to the use of these helicopters.

They are frequently at Tolemaida, and the military says it would not hesitate to send them into combat to rescue police.

"Without a doubt, we'll use our helicopters to support them if they ask for help," said Army Col. Paulino Coronado.

Still, foul weather, missions elsewhere, or any number of problems could delay or paralyze their deployment. Borney and his

mates fret about the consequences if reinforcements are slow in coming.

"We have to be prepared mentally to fight for five or six

hours," Borney murmured as he ejected the magazine from his rifle and slapped it back in. "We have to be mentally prepared for what lies ahead."

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ERNEST B. GASTON - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
MARIE HOWLAND - ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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Something About the Courier.

The announcement of Mr. Post in the Public of January fourth, referred to in the COURIER of last week prompts us to briefly review the history and status of the COURIER.

Publication of this paper was begun in 1894 at Des Moines by the Fairhope Industrial Association. Six numbers were issued from Des Moines before the secretary with the small "advance guard" of Colonists came to Alabama to found the Colony.

The first issue from Alabama, was dated "Battles Alabama, December 1894." It and several subsequent issues, were printed in Mobile. In January 1895 type for setting up, the paper was received and the composition done at home, the type being made up into columns and shipped to Mobile where the printing was done.

It is hardly necessary to say that the publication of the paper was a net expense to the Colony Corporation. In November 1898 the present editor made a proposition to purchase the material on hand which was accepted, and since that time he has published the paper on his own responsibility. By dint of hard work, early and late, mastering all the mechanical, as well as other details, teaching his children as they came on, to be printers also, running a job-office in connection and, with the aid of his loyal subscribers in helping to increase the circulation, and some other help in the way of improved equipment, he has kept the paper going—and improving, we think its readers will agree—during the nearly a decade which has passed.

We ought not to omit to mention, in enumerating the factors which have helped to keep the COURIER going, our advertisers. Chief among these has, of course, been the Merston company, whose name has become a household word to all readers of the paper. Other local business interests have manifested proper enterprise in being represented in the paper and many Mobile houses have been generous and steady advertisers.

That the maintenance of a reform paper is an exceedingly difficult financial proposition, is borne out, not only by the experience of the Public, but by the long list of such which have gone to the newspaper graveyard within the ten years and are still going.

We want to say that it is only because of its connection with a "live proposition" like Fairhope that the COURIER has succeeded and we are glad to feel that this help has been mutual. Fairhope has helped the COURIER and the COURIER has been a very great help to Fairhope.

Both are now on a substantial business footing, and it only remains for the friends of the

COURIER to help, to make it the power for good to our great cause, which it would and should be.

The office is now quite well equipped for getting out an edition of several times the present issue. We have a good power press, which will do very nicely for an edition of up to 5,000; a folder which folds, pastes and trims at a rate of 1500 to 2200 an hour, a good two-horse gasoline engine furnishing ample power to drive both at the same time, as well as the job press, which we also have connected, should we desire to use all at once. All are housed in a suitable building.

We issue at present 1300 copies. This circulation ought to be doubled or trebled within the present year.

THE FUTURE OF FAIRHOPE.

Address in Part, of President F. L. Brown, at Anniversary Banquet.

I really intended tonight to talk to you in as much of a jocular strain as I could. I had intended to tell you about a person coming to Fairhope perhaps ten years from now. It is always safest, you know, for a person who is prophesying to put the time away off in the future and not to fix any too definite dates, because the longer the time which intervenes between the prophecy and the time for its fulfillment, the more chances there are that something like that will happen and the prophet be vindicated.

But I do not feel exactly in that strain tonight. I thought a little about telling you about a party living in Mobile and going up on top of one of the sky-scrapers of that city, taking one of Mr. Lancaster's air ships and sailing across the bay in about ten minutes, and then to show you one of the manufactories in which these things were manufactured. Then to take you out and show you the farms, where they raise things unheard of before, where they raise chickens with all white-meat for the people who prefer white-meat, and all dark-meat for those who prefer that kind, and so on.

But I would rather be able to tell you really what the future of Fairhope is going to be.

Now, you all know, or you who know anything about Single Taxers know, that they are as positive a lot of people as are to be found on the face of the earth. In fact, they are just about as sure that their proposition of Single Tax, of freeing the earth, would do away with involuntary poverty, and would make everybody who desired to be, prosperous and happy, as any school teacher is that two and two make four, and they believe that they can demonstrate that thing just as surely though it takes a little more time and a little more thought, to master it. But a few of those people believing these things, believing in the teaching of Henry George, and believing that the application of the principles he taught would make a heaven of this earth, showed their faith by founding this Colony.

Thirteen years have shown something of what can be done. From a cow pasture we have this village as you see it today. What thirteen years more might do if we could have the harmony and the good will of the people who are here tonight! I believe you would see at least 25,000 people in this Colony.

I was just away from here on a little trip up north. I got a little glimpse of the poverty that exists everywhere. I did not see much of it, but I saw enough of it to show me that

there are thousands and thousands of families all over these United States which would be much better off in Fairhope today than they are where they are; and the people of Fairhope would be much better off with them here. But conditions are a little difficult. It is hard for a person coming to Fairhope, without manufacturing, without very much in the way of day labor, and without capital or knowledge of local conditions to come here and get a start. And lots of these people have practically nothing. There are thousands of them today who only a few months ago were as happy as people can be who are only two or three weeks away from starvation; people who were working at jobs on a salary, but spending it all as they made it. The shop closes down, and in a month's time they are penniless, are really out "on the street." I have been in Fairhope ten years and I hardly knew what this meant.

I believe we are doing wrong in not doing more to get people to Fairhope. I would rather have them come here and look the place over and see what it is. I would like to have them know exactly what the place is, not as any body can tell them; but as they can see it for themselves—and I feel a little delicate in that way about advertising the place, and yet I do not know but we are committing a crime in not doing more of it, because I am more firmly convinced every day that we are doing a great work which is helping to demonstrate that this earth can be made a paradise. It is simply the fault of the people, that is all. The earth would support hundreds of times its population. There is no reason why any person who would do one quarter of an ordinary man's labor should not have plenty on this earth today if we had right conditions. Now in Fairhope we cannot give them all these conditions, but we can and are doing much, and we owe it to our work and to the world to let people know about it, and to invite them to come and share our benefits with us.

We have got a magnificent climate, good soil, a pretty bay, probably as healthful a place as there is on the face of this earth to live, and I do not see any reason why we cannot have manufactories here; build up a large town, a fine farming and gardening community all around here, and have the best educated, the most moral and the most happy set of people that can be found in any place on the face of God's footstool.

Cheering Message From Miss Lyon.

Miss Frances H. Lyon our former Arts and Crafts teacher, sends the following kindly message from Brooklyn where she now is:

"I would not miss the COURIER for many reasons—not least among which is the touch with friends in their doings and saying. New York is the most lonesome city in the country and the good words of brotherliness, with which the COURIER rings keeps my heart cheery even in this wilderness. You may be sure I do not pass by any chance I may have of saying a good word for Fairhope and practical Single Tax. God has blessed you wondrously in the past, because of the ideal of brotherhood you have tried to express. May he bless you more abundantly in the future.

I am with you in all your doings.

Yours in fellowship!"

Single Taxers Elect Officers.

The Pittsburg Single Tax Association has elected the following officers for 1908: President, F. Z. Schellenberg; vice presidents, Robert Hardy, William Krutkewitt; treasurer, Nathan Green, secretary, M. McNeill; executive committee, Edmund Yardley and R. E. Smith.

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Optometrist & M.F. Optician
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STENOGRAPHER
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K. B. VANDERSLICE
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WE WELD
CASTINGS ANY
OXY-ACETYLENE PROCESS
MOBILE WELDING AND
MACHINERY CO.
327 North Royal St. Mobile, Ala.

Don't Waste Time
Trying to Fatten
Out Why a Black
Hen Lay White
Egg, But GET THIS
Egg!
P. Purkin Chicken
Chowder is the
greatest con-
cocting feed in
the country. 9c
On Order a 15c
On the corner
line to-day from
D. S. MAGNUSON
dealer in
GROCERIES & FEEDS
Fairhope, Ala.
Phone—Home 119, Bell 4

Personal
and Local

Miss Slaton returned on Friday from a two weeks stay in Tate Springs. Mrs. Louise Shepherd is assisting in the Bell Central while Mrs. George is taking a sort of semi-vacation.

Mrs. Joyce Tyrrell and children and Mrs. Thomas McKinstry and children are spending a short time here.

Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Gjerd rented the Beckner cottage on Fairhope avenue for a year and have moved into it.

On account of storm Judge Foster was unable to meet his appointment to preach at Fairhope on Sunday.

The Carney made a special trip to Battles on Monday to accommodate the summer people moving back to town.

Heavy rains have played havoc with the streets and roads and a lot of work is necessary to put them in condition again.

Mrs. Rucker left on Monday to take the Mallory steamer to New York where she will visit relatives.

The town presents a much better appearance with the weeds all mowed off the main streets.

Since the summer people, most of them left, several families have come over to spend a week or two.

Mrs. D. A. Russell returned on Monday evening from her northern trip.

Fairhope Courier Job Office has laid in several tons of new job type.

Extraordinary high tides have been caused by the recent high south east winds. No damage has been done.

Lloyd Lawrence went to Mobile on Wednesday morning, where he will be employed at his trade.

Will Strimpong lost the misfortune to lose his horse, by its falling into a gully on the north side of its place.

Capt. Jno. A. Welch, late of the bay transportation business, is now located at Punta Gorda, Fla.

Mr. Tyrrell is spending some time here with his wife.

The Ewalds are building a front on the little cottage lately purchased on School street and will have a very nice little bungalow out of it.

Miss Octa Hall who is to teach in the high school and her friend Mrs. Manning, have taken the Melville cottage on Magnolia Ave.

Mr. Mitchell, of the Bell Telephone, has taken the Welch cottage on Fairhope avenue and moved in the first of the week.

Messrs. Wm. Zepp and J. M. Picher attended the Knights of Pythias convention in Mobile this week as delegates from the Local Lodge.

Ralph Constant who is here on account of the machinists' strike in Mobile is making his way fishing and has ordered several hundred feet of gill net.

A new woven wire fence with concrete posts has been put around the Organic School property. J. R. Edmonson was in charge of the work.

Mrs. Steele leaves next week for St. Louis, where she will join her husband. She will be much missed by her friends here.

Walter Bowen left on Saturday morning of last week for Memphis, Tenn., where he will spend the winter with his brother.

Mr. Boam, old friend of Capt John Bowen, is spending a few weeks here and is staying in Capt. Bowen's cottage.

Miss Florence E. Atkins, national lecturer for the W.C.T.U. will speak in the Christian Church on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Reserve that date as it will be a fine lecture.

W. H. Zepp has the contract for pointing all the Organic School buildings and has begun work. When this improvement is completed and the lawns mowed the school property will present a very attractive appearance.

It goes to advertise in the Courier. Robert Ring says so. A week or two ago he advertised a call for sale and sold it. Also he had a number of other inquiries. This week he runs another ad of another call.

Mrs. A. H. Morton and Miss Rotholz, of Birmingham are spending a short vacation at Fairhope and were callers at the Courier office. They are greatly pleased with Fairhope.

Mr. Armstrong, who is living in the Lee cottage, brought a horse and buggy over with him from Mobile on Tuesday evening.

Region Monday, Sept. 22, the Apollo will resume her winter schedule leaving Fairhope at 7:30 a. m. and Mobile at 3 p. m. and on Sundays leaving Fairhope 4 p. m. and Mobile 9 p. m.

P. Y. Albright, Justice of the Peace, held court on last Friday over the alleged theft of a cow by a negro woman. Albright's office could hardly hold all the witnesses. The audience stood outside and listened through the windows.

During the heavy thunderstorm on Monday David Ewald, who was walking on a wire fence, was so badly shocked when the lightning ran down the fence that he was knocked down and quite stunned for a short time.

Mr. Thos. E. Smith, who with his wife returned recently from spending several months at their old home, Minneapolis, Minn., is somewhat improved in health, but Mrs. Smith who has the very arduous task of caring for him is not nearly so well.

On enrolling at State Normal School at Winona, Minn., as from Fairhope, Ala., Miss Hazel Filcher was at once asked about Fairhope by the president and if she would not at some time make a talk upon Fairhope and the Single Tax. Miss Filcher and Miss Maud Barrick, who was here two years ago, are in the senior year there.

The L. C. Horn family returned to Mobile on last Saturday morning after spending the summer here in their cottage on the bay front. Miss Margaret Horn has been one of the most popular summer girls and her many friends will hope to see her back another summer.

A party of Fairhope's composed of the following, have gone on the steamer American to take a trip up the Alabama. Dr. Mrs. C. L. Mershon and children, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Mershon and children and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Sweet. They expected to go as far up as Montgomery, and will not return before next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. F. O. Immler, assistant secretary and educational director of the Mobile Y. M. C. A., is spending a couple of weeks at the Business Women's Club House, with his wife and daughter. He was a pleasant caller at the Courier office.

Mr. Hutchings, of the Beach Hotel, a recent victim of paralysis, is much improved. He is also getting able to move his limbs on the left side again. His speech is not impaired at all and he is glad to see his friends.

In the heavy rain storm of the last week and the big concrete wall in front of the VanHeuvel home near Hoyle's place was washed in two and about thirty or forty feet completely broken down in spite of the fact that it was well anchored. Mr. VanHeuvel will rebuild the wall.

Mrs. Morehead expects a sister, Mrs. Helen Wray, from Paris, France, in a few days to visit to visit her. She will arrive on the Mallory liner Nueces on Saturday and will remain for an indefinite time if she likes our town and location, and Mrs. Morehead is sure she will.

Dr. Slaton and Miss Nellie are expected back from their summer spent in the north in October. The Doctor and his brother Eugene will drive through the country near Verona, Ill., in a Ford car and Miss Nellie will come down with Mrs. Eugene Slaton by rail. Anyone who knows the Slaton brothers can almost picture their delight and enjoyment on such a trip as driving from Illinois to Mobile Bay.

Lloyd Lawrence who has been rebuilding his boat, the Arrow, expects to get her in the water about a month. He has built a knuckle bottom on her and lengthened her on the stern about five feet making her 28 feet over all. She will be equipped with the 12 horse Dyblie motor formerly in the Ray and with her big rosy cockle will make a splendid cruiser.

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES.
REV. G. C. GIBSON, PASTOR.
SUNDAY, SEPT. 14
Sunday School.....9:45 A. M.
Frothing.....11:30 P. M.
Epworth League.....7:00 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, Wed.....8:00 P. M.

BUSINESS LOCALS.
PRVZ CASRA A LUNA
New corsets, Mrs. Call's.
Schnarr's Insecticide for White Fly.
Fairhope Pharmacy.
FOR SALE, a Young Jersey Calves.
Bull and heifer Ring Jersey Farm.
Texas Rust Proof Seed Oats at
Fairhope Feed Store.
Fall Hats soon. Mrs. Call's.
FOR SALE. Good team of mules,
wagon, buggy, harness, plow, also
house and furniture. W. A. Griffin.
Improved forty acres owned land
about 7 miles out on route of Peoples
Railroad. Gaston & Son.
New Fresh Turnip and Rutabaga
Seed at the Fairhope Feed Store.
Baldwin County maps at reduced
rate, 35 cents each, postpaid. Courier.
Get your gasoline, cylinder oil and
batteries for your autos, motorboats or
farm engine at the
Fairhope Pharmacy.
I will give a man with mower a
good shoe to make hay on my place.
4-1-10 E. T. Molyneux Lone Oak.
For Pratts Poultry food
" " Lice Killer
" " Stock Food
go to the Fairhope Feed Store.
FOR SALE—Good Road Horse
Cheap for cash. Inquire Courier Office.
FOR SALE One six months old
female Colt, for price write to
Miss C. L. Marshall
Montrose, Alabama
Stearns' Sure cure for wart head
and sore head on chickens 25c. Your
money back if it fails.
A. L. Stearns, Fairhope
Two acre place in Euclid, 3 room
house, bearing figs, pears, Japanese
walnut, 200 4 year old Satsumas bearing,
near school house. \$500.
Gaston & Son.
FOR SALE very cheap if sold at
once: 3 burner gasoline cook stove,
adjustable pin curtain stretcher, Bis-
sell's carpet a sweeper, double bed
mattress practically new.
11-10 Mrs. K. B. Steele.

BARGAINS FOR CASH: "Racyde"
wheel; Winchester repeating rifle, 22
cal.; 485 camera; One wall telephone
All in good condition.
C. C. Baldwin, Wheelers Store.

HIGH GRADE STALLION
"Prince" Percheron and Clydes-
dale, large boned, sound, weight
1,300 pounds. Will be at Gus
Oberg's barn, Greene Boulevard, every
Thursday and Friday. Terms, \$8
\$3 down. H. Romund.

Fairhope Stationery
and Photo Shop
STEWART, The Picture Man
A complete stock of Stationery
and Ink.
Everything in school supplies.
Photo supplies for amateurs.
Cameras rented to careful peo-
ple.
Mailing, Cigars, Tobacco.
GUNTHER'S Unsurpassed
Gaudies.
Stewart's unrivalled View
Cards.
Largest Depository for State-
admitted School books.

Let Us Print Your
LETTER-HEADS
ENVELOPES
BUSINESS CARDS
STATEMENTS
RECEIPTS
HAND BILLS
PROGRAMMES
WEDDING INVITATIONS
CALLING CARDS, ETC. |
Courier Job Office.

CRAWFORD'S CASH STORE
GOODS OF QUALITY
PRICED RIGHT AND
PROMPTLY DELIVERED
15 VARIETIES OF BEST BREAKFAST FOODS
PURE APPLE CIDER VINEGAR
PURE WHITE WINE PICKLING VINEGAR
BETTER BUTTER IN 1-4 PRINTS AT 40 CTS.
Henry Crawford Fairhope, Ala.

Ring Jersey Farm
Registered Dairy Herd
MILK DELIVERED DAILY
IN ANY QUANTITY
Home Phone 1204 ROBERT RING, Mgr.

THE ROYAL
LUNCH ROOM AND DELICATESSEN
Sandwiches 5c. LUNCHES 15c. UP Coffee 5c.
Special Sunday Dinner 25 Cents
Soft Drinks Cigars and Tobacco Rooms to Rent
Newly Furnished F. ZANDERS, Proprietor

CITY BANK & TRUST CO.
MOBILE ALABAMA
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$100,000 DEPOSITS OVER \$4,000,000
BANKING BY MAIL OUR SPECIALTY.
Under the system used in our Bank you can do your banking busi-
ness with us by mail almost as conveniently as if you were bank-
ing with us in person. We make a specialty of handling all out
of town accounts. Write us regarding your banking business.
No accounts too small for our prompt and careful attention nor
too large for our up-to-date facilities.
Depository for the UNITED STATES, STATE OF ALABAMA,
CITY AND COUNTY OF MOBILE.

Progress and Plenty
by
Jas. S. Paton
Attempts to Unite Social Reformers Upon a Sound Economic
Platform. — Claims that Supply and Demand is the Law of
Distribution.
Advocates: The Single Tax, A Scientific Currency, and work
furnished by the Government at a minimum wage to all unem-
ployed.
Price \$1.25 JAS. S. PATON
Fairhope, Ala.

FAIRHOPE FEED STORE
A. H. MERTSON, MGR.
All Kinds of Feeds, Fertilizers and Seeds
LOWEST CASH PRICES
Famous Don't Leak Rubber Roofing

H. M. PRICE & CO.
MOBILE, ALABAMA
SELLING AGENTS FOR
B. F. Avery and Son's Farming Machinery
McCormick Harvesting Machines
Rex Flintlock Roofing
Lucas Paints—Beaver board
A Complete Stock of Everything a Hardware Store
Should Carry
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

FAIRHOPE LIVERY & BOARDING STABLE
Good Horses and Rigs, Careful Drivers
Service Day or Night
BAGGAGE, FREIGHT TRANSFER AND MOVING
Bell Phone FAIRHOPE, ALA.

Frank Brown Property Offered for Sale.
On account of desire to develop a new industry I offer for sale
my property just outside the town limits of Fairhope, one of the
best improved farm properties in Baldwin county.
Forty-eight acre colony leasehold, nearly all cleared, fenced
and cross fenced; house of eleven rooms, big barn with large mow,
hay fork, corn crib, carriage and tool shed. Running water in
house, house-yard and barn-lot.
Lots of bearing figs, pears, oranges, peaches, Japanese persim-
mons, etc., with many younger set oranges and grape fruit; some
of the best cows in the county, hogs, tools, etc.
Will make good price on whole property, with stock and tools,
or will sell 20 acres with eleven rooms, big barn with large mow,
hay fork, corn crib, carriage and tool shed. Running water in
house, house-yard and barn-lot.
MUST BE SOLD REGARDLESS OF PRICE
FRANK L. BROWN, Fairhope.

Fairhope
Courier 9/19/1913

Advocates deriving public revenue by taxation of land values created by the public, reserving values created by individual effort; public ownership of public utilities, a real democracy through the initiative, referendum and recall.

The

Fairhope

A Progressive Paper for Progressives

Vol. XXI, No. 34

FAIRHOPE, ALA., APRIL 23, 1915.

"Now is the Winter of Our Discontent Made Glorious Summer by the Sun of York."

Huh?
Yep. It's scinch.
Subscriptions for Peoples
Railroad bonds at the
last report amounted to 10,000.00

Socialist Local	100.00
C. H. Casson	100.00
N. J. Johnson	25.00
D. J. Peckham	25.00
Don Littlefield	25.00
C. L. Mershon	100.00
G. R. Cain	25.00
L. Tilson	25.00
C. E. Nichols	25.00
F. D. Troup	50.00
Total	11,400.00

On these subscriptions \$8,150 is payable in money, and \$3,150 is payable in labor or materials.

This total is not large enough, but the rest is in sight and will be announced when contracts are signed up.

North River Park wants a railroad about \$3,000 strong. This is a stronger want per capita and per dollar than Fairhope has so far manifested. To get this however, we must straighten out the route of the P. R. R. and build along a route where the grading will not be as expensive as along the route now secured.

Also, if the route is changed to run straight east from Ring farm

to Fish river, Clay Products Co. will build one lovely bridge and take bonds in payment. Crossing Fish river has been one of the expensive items which has loomed large in the minds of many. It is all arranged for, if the directors will straighten out the route of the road.

We will also get some gifts of land from some of the progressive land owners along the proposed new route.

Also, we have some earnest inquiries from outside Singletaxers who want to help Fairhope help herself, and an explanation of the situation will appear next week, answering questions which have come by mail.

We will not print, as yet, the list of Fairhoppers who have NOT subscribed for the P. R. R.

Yours truly,
E. G. Dougherty,
Asst. Treas. P. R. R.

N. B.—Troyer has handed me one perfectly good check for \$100. We will now proceed to collect that 10 per cent on the cash subscriptions. You may mail me check, or leave cash in envelope at Crawford's store. Thank you. E. G. D.

MAY DAY AT DAPHNE NORMAL.

May Day at Daphne is to be a day of athletic feats. Big things in the line of athletics are being planned for the day. The main features of the program will be base ball games to be played by the Daphne and Bay Minette teams. A game is also being planned with Fort Morgan boys. The Junior boys will play Fairhope in the afternoon.

One of the most interesting things will be a ball game played between the Daphne State Normal Girls and the girls of the Organic School of Fairhope. This is the first year that the girls base ball has been in the Normal, and a great deal of enthusiasm is being manifested. The girls seem to have the spirit all right for every afternoon they get in some good practice on the campus. The girls will also have two tennis games with the Organic School and the boys will have one game. The tennis courts are quite popular now as the students are practicing for May Day.

The side events of the day will be pole vault, shot put, tug of war, and foot races.

GOOD FARM SOUTH B.

An auto trip with recently to see a pa Belforest and Loxley lot of good farming that way. The Belmont is a particularly good farming region. It is settled between Daphne, and starting ago, about the time founded, with practice many have fine farm built or are building big barns, etc. A. completing a big two home, which would any farming community other attractive, has seen in the trip are A. Brooks, Wm. Rot Gregory, and the old ton homestead. The Farm" of Mr. P. charge of Mr. Durb good fences, broad cleared lands, and a tax system, looks indeed and, coming number of improved parent being made land and on the la vided and sold by Fairhope Developme

From the far corner Park, into town over holdings, the young ones looked particularly fine.

The need for the new road on the sec of Satusma Park was and it was easy to much more apparent. The Colony cleared twenty feet on the than two miles and a couple of fine corn but there are several badly needed culvert road machine about and the road grade shape. Beyond the the Pictorial Farm great deal of time as this road. As before Courier this road is because of very great in the section between the bay and it should north to connect v Minette road near t lin railroad line and in good shape.

COMMISSIONERS PASS RESOLUTION.

The following resolution regarding the cooperation of the commissioners in the building of dipping vats was recently passed by the Commissioner's Court of Baldwin County:

Whereas, it is known that ticks and other parasites are detrimental to the upbuilding of the stock industry of Baldwin County, and feeling that it is the duty of the County to help its citizens in the eradication of the same, by assisting in the construction of dipping vats in the various communities in the County;

It is therefore Resolved by the Court of County Commissioners of Baldwin County, that whenever the citizens of any community shall petition the Commissioner of the district in which said community is located for the establishment of a dipping vat, said Commissioners shall with the aid of said citizens, select a site therefor, and whenever said citizens shall have delivered to said commissioners a five year lease of one acre of land on said selected site, together with assurance on the part of said citizens, that they will fence in said acre of ground, furnish all labor, sand, gravel, rock, money, water, etc., for the completion of said dipping vat thereon, Baldwin County, through its commissioner of the District in which said vat or vats are to be located, shall furnish to the citizens of said community the sum of \$10 for the purchase of lumber to be used in the construction of said vat, together with forty sacks of suitable cement, and in addition to furnish all chemicals to charge said vat from time to time, when needed, and provide inspectors not to exceed two in number to supervise the charging of said vat and to supervise the dipping of stock therein:

It is further Resolved, that J. H. H. Smith, Judge of Probate, and P. I. Conner, Commissioner

DEATH OF WM. RICHARD.

The editor was greatly shocked to receive on Tuesday evening a letter from Mr. Ludwig Richard, of Cullman, Ala., announcing the death of his father, Wm. Richard, which occurred at Birmingham on Thursday of last week, April 15th. He was attacked with appendicitis, and was taken to Birmingham, where he was operated upon, but only lived 56 hours after the operation.

Mr. Richard was very prominently identified with his home town, having been one of the original pioneers in its founding and having occupied various positions of honor and responsibility, all of which were filled with satisfaction to his fellow citizens and credit to himself.

About three years ago he became interested in Fairhope and a couple of years ago built him a pretty home at Magnolia Beach, to which he and his family loved to resort whenever opportunity offered. Only a short time ago he and his wife and some of the younger children, spent some time there. He was very enthusiastic about the charms of Fairhope and said good words for it wherever he went.

Mr. Richard left a wife and a large family, all daughters, but the one son Ludwig. Their many friends here will extend them sincere sympathy in their hour of trial.

Orpheum Club Organizes.

Believing music to be one of the most essential attractions a resort may have to maintain and increase its prosperity, a number of the local musicians met at Mr. Dyson's home and formed an organization to be known as the Orpheum Club.

DEATH OF IRA. W. HOPPING.

Ira. H. Hopping died at the home of his brother, George L. Hopping, about two a. m. Wednesday morning. While his health has been markedly failing for some time, he had been able to walk about some daily to the preceding Saturday.

Mr. Hopping was a native of New Jersey, but had lived almost all his life in Brooklyn, N. Y., from which place he came to make his home with his brother and family in Feb. 1912. He was 77 years old, had been twice married, but had been a widower for about 25 years.

The remains were taken to Mobile and embalmed by undertakers Bercun and Sands and shipped to Brooklyn, where it was his desire that he should be buried in Greenwood cemetery beside other members of his family gone before.

Early Wednesday morning a simple funeral service was conducted at the residence by Rev. C. C. Simpson, who, with Mr. Gaston, accompanied Mr. G. L. Hopping and Miss Emma Hopping to Mobile.

Clay Products Company.

The "Clay Products Company" is in process of incorporation to develop the clay deposits on Fish River, before mentioned, Frank L. Brown, will be president of the company, Mrs. Mary Fels, 1st vice president, A. M. Troyer, 2nd vice president, G. C. Streeter, secretary and E. G. Dougherty, treasurer. This is the most important industrial enterprise projected in this vicinity and its successful establishment and operation will be a great thing for the section.

Progressive Forum

At Coloni:

Mrs. Korrad and M nurse and children, left in Chicago, Wednesday deep regret at leaving their many friends.

On Friday the Majes ed and a party went to After picking up trophies they stopped at Daphne walked along the beau were welcomed to the of the Hammetts.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. I urday for a month's stay, D. C.

The Misses Chism an Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Wednesday morning f the coast, taking in other places.

Mrs. Shultz and he Chicago, have arrived main several weeks.

Mr. E. G. Bergh of wife's mother Mrs. J. Birmingham were over for a summer cottage.

A very pleasant po given on Tuesday after 12 persons participate

Fairhope Courier

May 7, 1915

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on route, the president seems it
proper to say that he has not yet
seen the necessity or wisdom of
the change, but assumes that this
is primarily a matter for deter-
mination by those interested here.

THE CLAY PRODUCTS COMPANY.

President and manager F. L. Brown of the "Clay Products Company," moved over to the site of the new clay products plant on Fish River this week the brick making machinery, which has been installed at his plant in east Fairhope, and will operate it for the present with the big portable gasoline engine, of the Ring Farm, which he tested out and found sufficient. Later his steam plant will be taken out there. B. J. Reynolds and family have moved out and are occupying a cottage of Eugene Slosson. Mrs. Reynolds will board the hands at work on the plant while Mr. Reynolds will work in the plant. The brick making machinery will first be employed in converting "strip-pings" into brick for the buildings, kilns, etc., which will be erected. A small saw-mill already on the property, is being utilized in sawing lumber from the abundant timber on the Company's property for construction purposes and a barn is now being built to house the live stock, tools, etc. Several men are now employed and the force will be added to as the plans develop.

E. B. Kay, C. E., of Tuscaloosa, met with members of the Town Council at Mayor Berglin's residence Wednesday evening and talked municipal waterworks. The

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No. 666 will cure Malaria or Bilious Fever. It kills the germs.

The Fairhope bath-houses did a thriving business on Sunday.

Roy Wilson is back at Fairhope and is in the baggage transfer and moving business.

Nathaniel Mereshon and Charlie Wilson are back from their camp on the beach at the mouth of Rock Creek.

The Beaver and Pleasure Bay have both been landing at Fairhope while the Apollo was off this week.

The continued dry weather is again getting very trying. Mobile had two nice showers which we missed.

J. M. Pilcher has been assisting the editor some this week and his "Pilcheresque style" will probably be noted.

The genial Mr. Campbell representing The Mobile Coca Cola Bottling Company made Fairhope a call this week.

Miss Edith Peckham has arrived from Barnesville, Ohio, where she has just graduated from the Friend's School.

Nathaniel Mereshon had quite a gash cut on his forehead yesterday, the marble top of the soda fountain falling and striking him.

Rev. S. O. Y. Ray preached on Sunday at the Baptist church. He was the guest of Mr. H. C. Oswald while in town for a few days.

E. C. Stires, of Protom, Mo., writing to order a Baldwin County map, says that he is much interested in Baldwin County and hopes some day to make his home here.

Clay City Products Co., has a large force of men busily engaged in cutting and saving lumber for their new buildings. Everything seems to be moving along satisfactorily, toward the development of this new enterprise.

The Christian Church Song Service postponed from last week, was held on Sunday night, with a solo by Miss Florence Russell, a duet by the Misses Florence and Mildred Russell, and other music by the young peoples choir and Ladies Quartet.

A representative of the Southern Express Company, was over recently making arrangements with Mrs. Anne B. Call for shipping her large orders of candied Kumquats and figs by express rather than by parcels post. Mrs. Call had many orders during the winter and is preparing for a busy season this summer.

Jno B. Foley was in Fairhope accompanied by C. A. Alston of Foley and Messrs. E. A. Zimmerman and Wallace Lowell of Chicago. They motored over from Foley. Mr. Foley said it was his first trip to Fairhope in ten years and he noted many improvements. The beautiful orange groves east of town particularly pleased the party.

The breaking of the record head bolt.

Mr. Gordon Lowell and Herbert Stapleton are opening a new meat market on Section Street south of the Fairhope Pharmacy. They have installed a refrigerator and will handle Western as well as native meats. Their adv. will appear in next weeks Courier.

No. 666 will cure Chills and Fever. It is the most-speedy remedy we know.

S. M. Logan who has ten acres adjoining Colony land, about five miles northeast of town, says that he has an extensive deposit of very fine clay on his land, coming right to the surface. This is no doubt the same vein of clay, which was found in sinking a well at Satsuma Park in the next section south, immediately on the line of the Peoples Railroad. It was about twelve feet below the surface where struck at Satsuma Park, but that was up on the high level land, and it likely comes nearer the surface if not to it, on the sides of the hollows, as at Mr. Logan's place.

NOTICE OF SALE OF TENANT'S IMPROVEMENTS

Default for more than six months having been made by W. M. Turnbull's estate in the payment of rent on 1-2 n. w. 1-4 Sec. 15, in township 6 s. r. 2 e., the undersigned will sell the improvements on said land for the satisfaction of said rent, cost of sale and this advertisement, on Tuesday the 15th day of June, A. D., 1915, at public sale, in front of the office of the Secretary at eleven o'clock a. m. Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, 41-51, Lessor.

We have a communication from a lady in Illinois who has property near St. Elmo (Irvington) Mobile county on the line of L. & N. R. R., which she would exchange for town property in Fairhope. Her property consists of 15 acres, 10 fenced, fine barn 32 x 36 with two rooms in it furnished for living; painted outside and screened, hen house 12 x 24, 75 ft. wire run, 10 paper shell peacans 8 years old. Property is held at \$1,000 and would put \$500 to \$1,000 cash into town house, with sea view, furnished. Would consider Colony or owned land. If interested write or call on. E. B. GASTON.

NEW CHURCH SERVICES every Sunday at home of Rev. F. L. Higgins at 5:00 p. m. All are cordially invited.

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Preaching Every Other Sunday..... 11:00 A. M.
Sunday School..... 9:45 A. M.
Epworth League..... 7:00 P. M.
Preaching Every Sunday evening at..... 8:00 P. M.

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15 N. Water Street Mobile

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All goods marked in plain figures. Terms Cash. No exceptions, but you get genuine bargains, and the goods are not seconds, but strictly first quality. At the

Kelley-Brady Store

15 N. Water Street

Mobile, Ala.

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Fairhope, Ala.

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Fairhope Courier
June 11, 1915

~~Explain~~ 

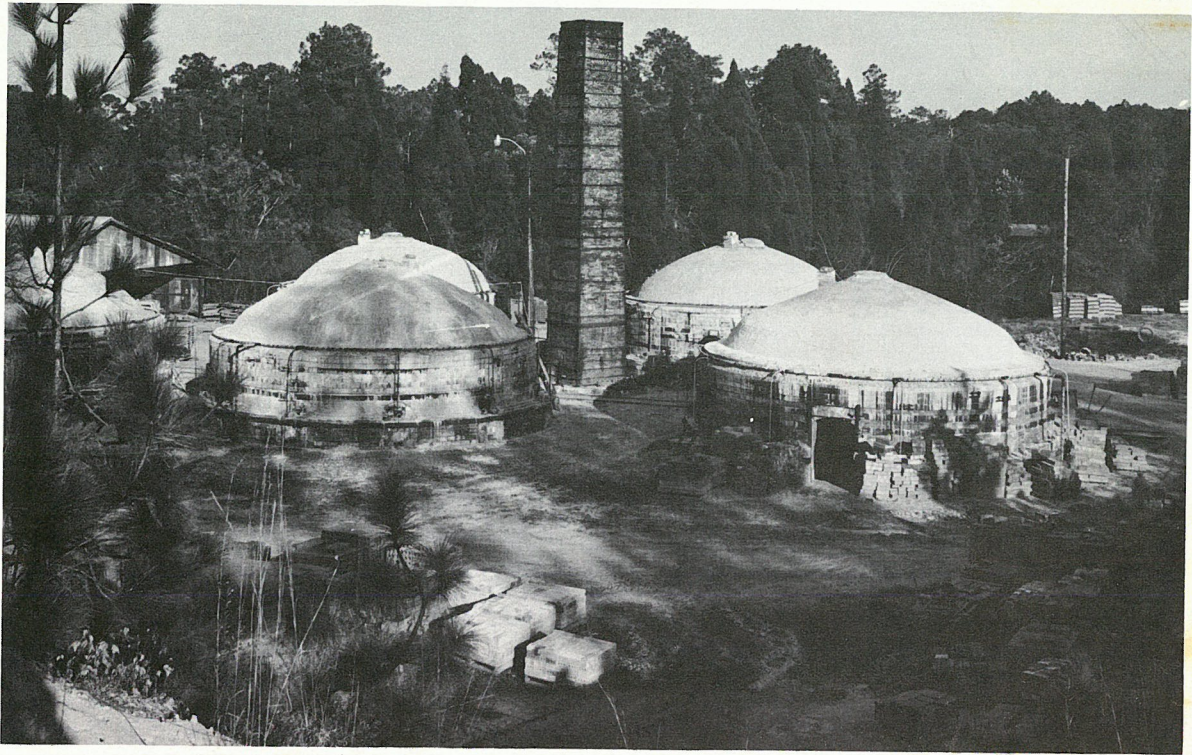
Explain Bann
HAPP. her people

→ ~~Explain~~ Calm world
ET

Problems
about my new art.
905

FRONT PAGE

— Scan both sides



CLAY CITY

It's a unique geographical entity of the State of Alabama, it's called Clay City, and that's exactly what it is. It is not, of course, an incorporated municipality nor even a small town in the accepted sense of the term. Yet it is a place flourishing in its own economic niche by performing a function that well lives up to its name: turning out products manufactured from clay.

To get to Clay City, you take the highway from Point Clear on Mobile Bay's Eastern Shore, drive almost to Fish River, and turn left on a blacktop road marked with the directional sign, "Fairhope Clay Products." The road ends abruptly at a turn on a large cliff overlooking a bend of the Fish River. Look under the cliff and there you gaze upon a startling, strange sight: a conglomeration of conical, adobe and red brick huts, with rail tracks running down "streets." It's got the looks of a little city from another world.

This is Clay City, Alabama.

These little huts are the kilns of the Fairhope Clay Products Co., and it is here where B. H. Jennings, Jr., and his family operates a brick and tile manufacturing plant for supplying construction projects, for patios, for driveways, for any other project requiring products of clay.

The place where Clay City thrives is a piece of history. From the time, long ago, when the Spanish first guided their vessels into Mobile Bay, Fish River and other streams feeding into the bay were extensions of ocean commerce. Long before Mobile was permanently established as a major port, these other rivers were competing for the sailing ship and industrial trade. The ships came up the various rivers to haul out oak timbers, pine lumber and naval stores. At that time, Fish River was deep and clear, and the old schooners sailed to the wide turning basin in the river's bend where Clay City now lies, and docked at a landing alongside two pottery factories. They

came for a speciality of the area—earthen jugs, used for bottling vinegar, molasses and rum.

The same clay that made quality earthen jugs in those early times today makes good brick and tile for modern markets.

From those same clay pits, Fairhope Clay Products Co. obtains its principal raw material. The clay is ground to the proper consistency, augered into a moving slab of soft beige “fudge” and then steel wires on turning wheels automatically cut the clay slab into brick or tile. After air-drying, the brick are cooked in the little oven huts, or kilns, for eight days. Then it goes out into the channels of national and world commerce.

Perhaps you have heard the old joke about the entrepreneur who “made antiques while you wait.” Well, Clay City does the same thing, too, in principle, and it’s no joke. Old brick are turned out of the ovens by smearing lime on the face of the brick and baking it on. It looks old and used, and it fills a growing demand for this particular item in the construction field.

Where the demand calls for it, brick from Clay City also can be processed to take on a black, sooty surface, by using manganese dioxide powder. This powder gets to Clay City in a roundabout way involving the Port of Mobile. First, manganese ore is unloaded at the Alabama State Docks from ships that picked it up

in Africa. Then it moves by rail car up the rivers to the Lavino & Co. plant in York, Ala. These ores come back in 100-pound bags of manganese dioxide powder for use at Clay City.

Mr. Jennings and his family live on a beautiful site overlooking Fish River. The residence is built on a foundation of huge layers of pottery shard — rejects and broken bits from the old pottery operations of many years ago.

Not only that, but the two Jennings sons, Bart III and Ralph, have brought up whole, intact earthen jugs of yore from the bottom of Fish River. These jugs were rejects from the old pottery operations, each with a small imperfection such as a blistered side, a broken handle, or a cracked top. Rejects were simply thrown into the river by the old pottery makers.

These jugs have been used by Mrs. Jennings to line the path from the old river landing to the patio, and in the house to line the stairs to her boys’ room. Also retrieved from the river bottom were a couple of excellent specimens of old whisky-sipping jugs. They are now ornaments in a house full of artifacts gathered from diggings as far away as Panama — a hobby avidly pursued by Mrs. Jennings.

So that is Clay City, Alabama.

You won’t find any place elsewhere in Alabama quite like it.



*The B. H. Jennings at their
home-site in "Clay City."
The brick ovens nestled in
their surroundings are
strange sites for this area.*



Spanish Flavor



Francisco Aldecoa, Jr., studying his honorary citizenship of the City of Mobile.



(Above) Ship's agent in Mobile, Ted Fillette, second from right, and State Docks Director Feaster enjoying an evening aboard the MAR CANTEBRICO, on her first voyage.

(Left) Welcoming Captain Roberto Egurrola to the Port of Mobile are Mobile's Mayor Arthur Outlaw, Docks Director H. H. Feaster, and Boolie Hill, Vice President of the Mobile Jaycees.

*Bricks are being made from
clay coming from the same
clay pits used over 100
years ago.*

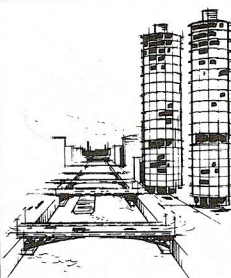




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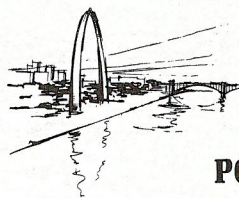
WH 3-0079



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IN BIRMINGHAM**

Room 821, Brown-Marx Bldg.

324-1020

Clay Products Add \$1,800,000 To Area's Economy

Text and Photos

By EARL SWEATT

Press Register Reporter

Clay can be found in many colors and the average housewife in Alabama knows that it's one of the hardest forms of soil to remove from the toddlers' play togs and the livingroom carpet.

But clay, besides being something that children and adults like to play in, is a big product in Alabama and especially in the Southeastern section of the state.

A report released by the University of Alabama Geology Department "Clays of Southeastern Alabama" written by Otis M. Clarke Jr., with the cooperation of the Bureau of Mines, Tuscaloosa Metallurgy Research Laboratory, U.S. Department of Interior, stated that more than 600,000 tons of clay, kaolin and bauxite were mined and processed in the area in 1966.

ECONOMIC BOOST

In terms of money brought into the economy of the state it means about \$1,800,000 annually. With new and more automated processes now being installed in some of the operations this amount will probably be greatly increased.

Clay is mined in various counties in the state with Russell, Dale, Escambia and Baldwin counties leading in the mining of clay for use in making brick.

Bauxite and kaolin are mined primarily in Barbour and Henry counties and are used in the manufacture of refractory products such as firebrick, furnace linings and other super-heat duty brick. These minerals are also used in chemical production, particularly in the manufacture of aluminous chemicals for the paper industry.

AUTOMATION

Automation and modernization have greatly improved the mining as well as the manufacturing of clay and clay products throughout the state.

Once the manufacturing of bricks was a time consuming process which took months to accomplish. Today the same process can be completed in a matter of days, and with better results.

A good example of the up-to-date methods now employed in the brick and tile industry is found at the Fairhope Clay Products Co., still known by many as Clay City, in Baldwin County.

Before automation Baldwin County Company, established in 1902, and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bart Jennings, could produce up to 100,000 bricks a month, when the weather was right. If the humidity was high the production was greatly reduced because it took the bricks longer to dry enough to put in the kilns for the final drying.

At the present Fairhope Clay Products is installing a modern pushbutton operation which will increase production to 600,000 bricks, no matter what the weather conditions. Under the old system it took six to eight weeks to pre-dry the bricks. This has been reduced to approximately three days.

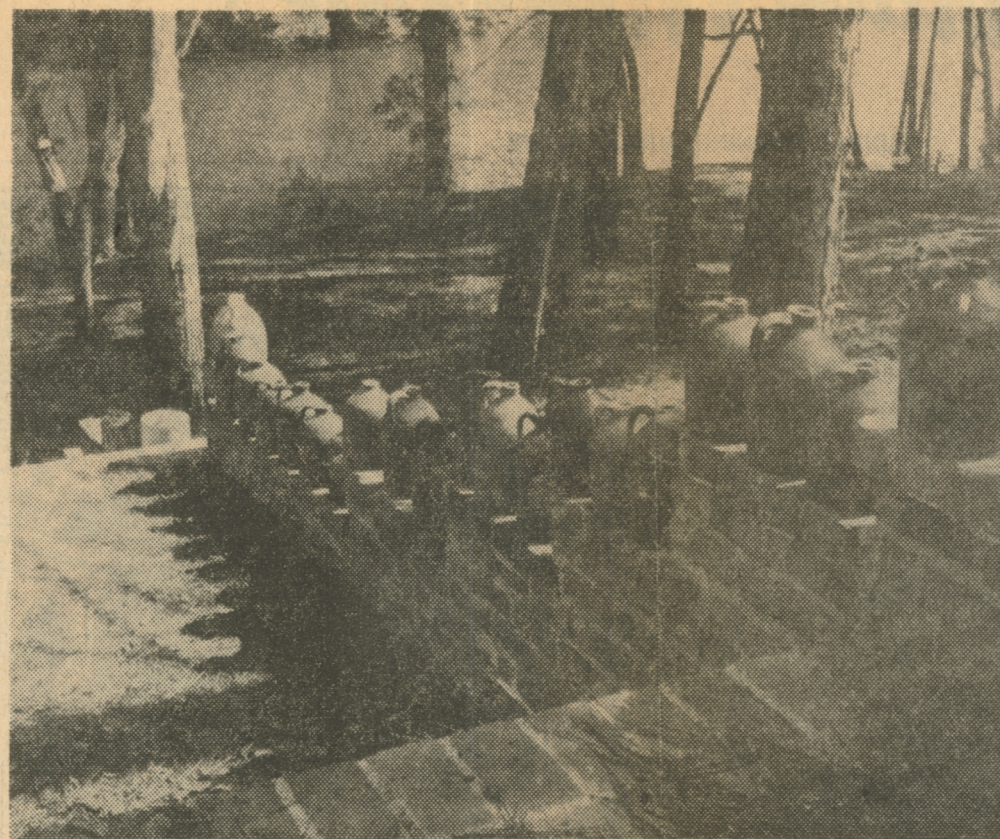
Loading the brick in the 32 feet diameter kilns for the final drying at one time was done by manual labor and was a back breaking job. Today the bricks are pre-stacked on flatbed platforms and stacked in one of the five bee-hive downdraft kilns by forklift. They are baked approximately 100 hours at 2,300 degrees in the gas-fired kilns.

MANY USES

Brick making is one of the many uses of clay. One of the oldest forms of art known to man is the molding of clay into pottery and other forms of ceramics.

According to State Geologist P. E. LaMoreaux, raw materials suitable for commercial ceramic use do occur in much of the Southeastern sector of Alabama.

In fact the art of pottery had been practiced in this area long before the white



EVIDENCE OF POTTERY—Jugs found at the bottom of Fish River, shown in the background, give evidence that at one time a pottery plant was situated on the very grounds where the Fairhope Clay Products

man stumbled upon the shores of the New World. The American Indian was an artist in his own right when it came to making products of clay, especially for food, drink, or storage.

Years ago a village, now known as Fairhope, was established as an art colony, and the ceramics produced there were among the finest in the world.

In the surrounding area of the Fairhope brickyard, situated on Fish River, evidence can be found that at one time the making of pottery was a thriving business. The Jennings sons, Bart and Ralph, have recovered various sizes and types of jugs from the river bottom. Also on the riv-

er banks numerous lids to vases have been uncovered indicating that some of them were of a large dimension.

According to some historians, the clay from the Jennings pits has been transported to New Orleans, also the clay to make the bricks at Fort Morgan came from these very same pits.

Ceramic making itself is being taken over by machines.

Only a few of the high schools and grade schools still teach ceramics. Mainly their teaching efforts in the art form are directed toward the industrial arts, according to Lloyd L. Patten, art instructor at the University of South Alabama.

Patten, along with art in-

struction is now located. Bart and Ralph Jennings, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Jennings, owners of the brick works, found the jugs while swimming in the river.

structors in the various colleges and universities around the country, is teaching the students the hows and whys of ceramics, as an art.

The people who work with clay and clay products sometimes dig their own clay to work with.

The mixing of the clay is a very important process, according to Patten, and some of the formulas which have been worked out through years of trial and error are closely guarded secrets which are passed from generation to generation.

One of the men greatly interested in the clay products in this area is Edmond C. Dean, art instructor at the Mobile State Junior College. His main interest lies in earthenware products and he digs his own clay and mixes it to his specifications. When asked the location of his diggings he replied, "I'd rather not say."



RECEIVING A NEW CROWN—Workmen are busy putting a new crown on one of the five bee-hive type kilns used at the Fairhope brickyard. Automation has taken over most of the operations of the plant and production will be vastly increased.



CLAY PIT—This is only one of the many clay pits found in the southeastern section of the state. In the above photo the crane is used to dig the clay from the pit, located near the Fairhope Clay Products Co. The clay is then loaded onto dump trucks to be transported to the brickyard.

Bookmobile To Continue Operating During 1971

SUMMERDALE, Ala. (Special) — The Baldwin County Library Service will offer bookmobile service to residents throughout the county in 1971.

The Bookmobile was begun in the summer of 1970 as a special opportunity to those persons to whom regular library facilities were not readily available.

It is operated out of the Summerdale library office, the central book depository for the county, under the direction of library coordinators Mrs. Gretchen Schenk and Mrs. Elizabeth Heidelberg.

The bookmobile's regular route was discontinued last week due to the holidays, but it

will continue next week. It will follow this schedule of stops throughout Baldwin County:

Monday — Week's Bay at 9 a.m. at the Head Start School; Magnolia Springs at 9:45 a.m. at the Community House; Point Clear at 2 p.m. at the post office; Sec-Twin Beach Road at 3 p.m. at James' Store, and Marlow at 4 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

Wednesday — Elberta at 9 a.m. at the post office; Lillian at 10 a.m. at Mt. Moriah Church; Lillian at 10:40 a.m. at the post office; Perdido Beach at 12:30 p.m. at the Grocery Store; Josephine at 1:30 p.m. at Ross Point and Settlement, and Miflin at 3 p.m. at Wolf Bay Lodge.

Retarded Children Aid Group To Meet

DAPHNE, Ala. — The Baldwin Aid to Retarded Children will hold the first meeting of the new year Monday, at 7:30 p.m. at Nicholson Center in Daphne. On the agenda will be setting the date for the election of officers for the new year. Mrs. Sally Sales, secretary, said that the BARC-sponsored Kitty Korner in Fairhope will resume classes Monday.

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Mr. Lowell Powell . . . 928-9306

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Dixie Darlings



SENIOR BOWL BOUND — Two Baldwin County beauties, now attending the University of Southern Mississippi, will participate in the half-time show during the Senior Bowl Game, Jan. 9, in Mobile. In the upper photo, Lorinda Smith of Fairhope, right, will join Carlene Hubbard, left, of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., Debbie Southall, center, of Panama City, Fla., and 47 other

teammates. In the lower photo, standing, are Kathy Cowling of Robertsedale, left, and Tammy O'Neal of Birmingham. Kneeling are captains Sanfra Ange, left, of Edenton, N.C., and Betty Jo Richardson of Auburndale, Fla. These four constitute the officers of the Dixie Darlings, famed precision dance and drill team.

January
Clearance Sale

**ALL GIFTS and
HOUSEWARE 25% OFF**

Sale Starts Saturday, January 2nd
and Lasts Through Saturday, January 9th

THE HARBOR SHOP

Located in Fairhope Hardware
337 Fairhope Avenue

Thursday, December 31, 1970

Press Register—3

Foley Sets Bid Opening On 90 Low-Rent Units

FOLEY, Ala. (Special) — "Promises, promises, promises" has been the program at 206 Laurel St. this year. But Executive Director Richard Sadowski at the City of Foley's Housing Authority office added that much preparation has accompanied the promises.

Sadowski stated that shortly after the first of the year the carefully laid groundwork of his agency will shift into actual construction work on the new houses promised Aaronville residents.

Contractors are right now, in fact, figuring costs to submit bids for the building of 90 low-rent housing units. The bids are set for opening at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14 at the Housing Authority office.

The contract will be awarded 60 days thereafter, when the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington has accepted the bid of a contractor who has met with all federal eligibility requirements.

Some of those requirements are provisions for equal employment opportunity and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications.

The 90 units will be built as 45 duplexes. Each will provide from one to five bedrooms. The units will have terrazzo floors. Stoves, refrigerators, water

heaters and central heating units will be included.

The units in the urban renewal project will have a total living area of 88,044 square feet. The total cost of the project is expected to exceed \$5 million.

They will be built on scattered sites throughout the Aaronville section in Foley between Michigan Road, Ninth Avenue, Oak Street and Pine Street.

Sadowski said the Housing Authority has already acquired title to all of the land on which the units are to be built.

The housing authority has also made application for 50 leased houses, Sadowski added, as well as for 50 more housing assistance units to be made available to the low-income families of Foley.

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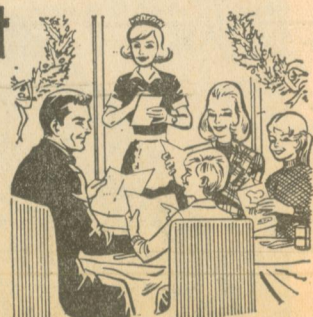
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ON COLOR TV**
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Announcing STARTING ON JANUARY 1st.
NAMAN'S WILL BE OPEN
FROM 6:30 A.M.-11:00 P.M.
7 DAYS A WEEK!!

COUNTRY SMOKED Hams .49¢ lb.	FRESH PORK SHOULDERS 39¢ lb.	FRESH PORK STEAKS 49¢ lb.
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small hen **TURKEYS (8-10 lbs.)... SPECIAL 34¢ lb.**

FRESH CUT Round Steak 99¢ lb.	CHOICE Sirloin Steak 99¢ lb.	CHOICE T-BONE STEAK \$1.29 lb.	CHOICE RUMP ROAST 69¢ lb.
LEAN TENDER SHOULDER Round Steak 89¢ lb.	SHOULDER ROUND ROAST 69¢ lb.	CENTER CUT Pork Chops 99¢ lb.	FIRST CUT Pork Chops 69¢ lb.

WE HAVE SMOKED & FRESH JOWL FOR NEW YEAR'S

BEEF FOR YOUR FREEZER

U.S.D.A. CHOICE WESTERN BEEF ★ CUT-WRAPPED-QUICK FROZEN
& LABELED ★ UP TO 6 MOS. FINANCING AVAILABLE

CHOICE HINDQUARTERS	69¢ lb.
FOREQUARTERS	55¢ lb.
½ BEEF (Sides)	62¢ lb.
BEEF LOINS	89¢ lb.

NAMAN'S WILL BE OPEN ALL DAY NEW YEAR'S

South Alabama Industry Rises From Baldwin County Clay

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JAMES JOHNSON

Seventy-five tons of clay are used each day to produce 30,000 bricks at Fairhope City Products, according to Ralph Jennings, general sales-manager.

The brick are made by a method called "stiff-mud." Clay and sand are mixed together and run through a pug mill, which mixes the material into a substance called "bulk."

Before the bulk reaches the brick machine, it goes through several different processes. It first goes into a degenerator chamber. From there the apron feeder carries it to a smooth roll crusher. The bulk is then passed through another degenerator chamber and into another pug mill which mixes the material into smaller molecules.

Before entering the brick machine the clay is

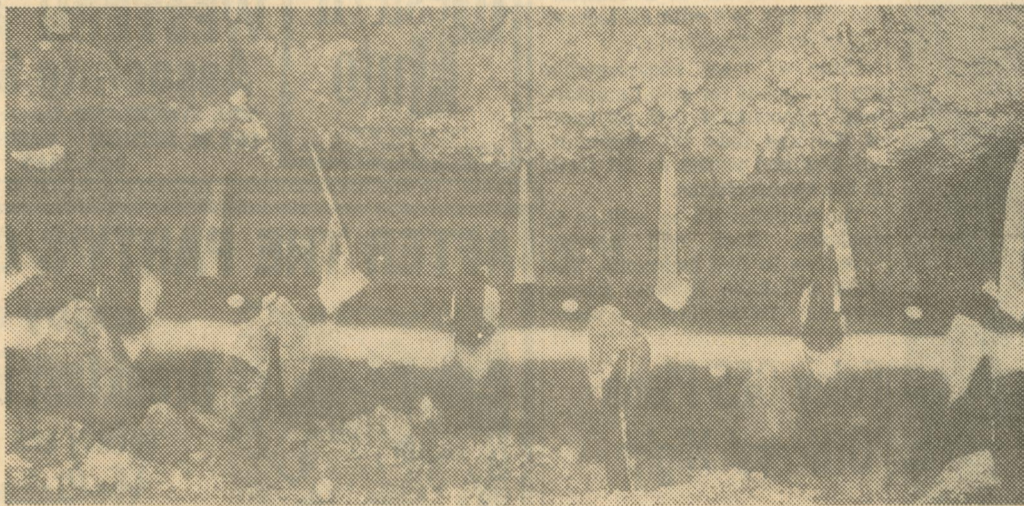
de-aired by a vacuum chamber attached to the brick machine.

The bulk is then forced through an opening or die in the brick machine to form a long ribbon. The ribbon is sliced into bricks by evenly spaced wires in the brick cutter.

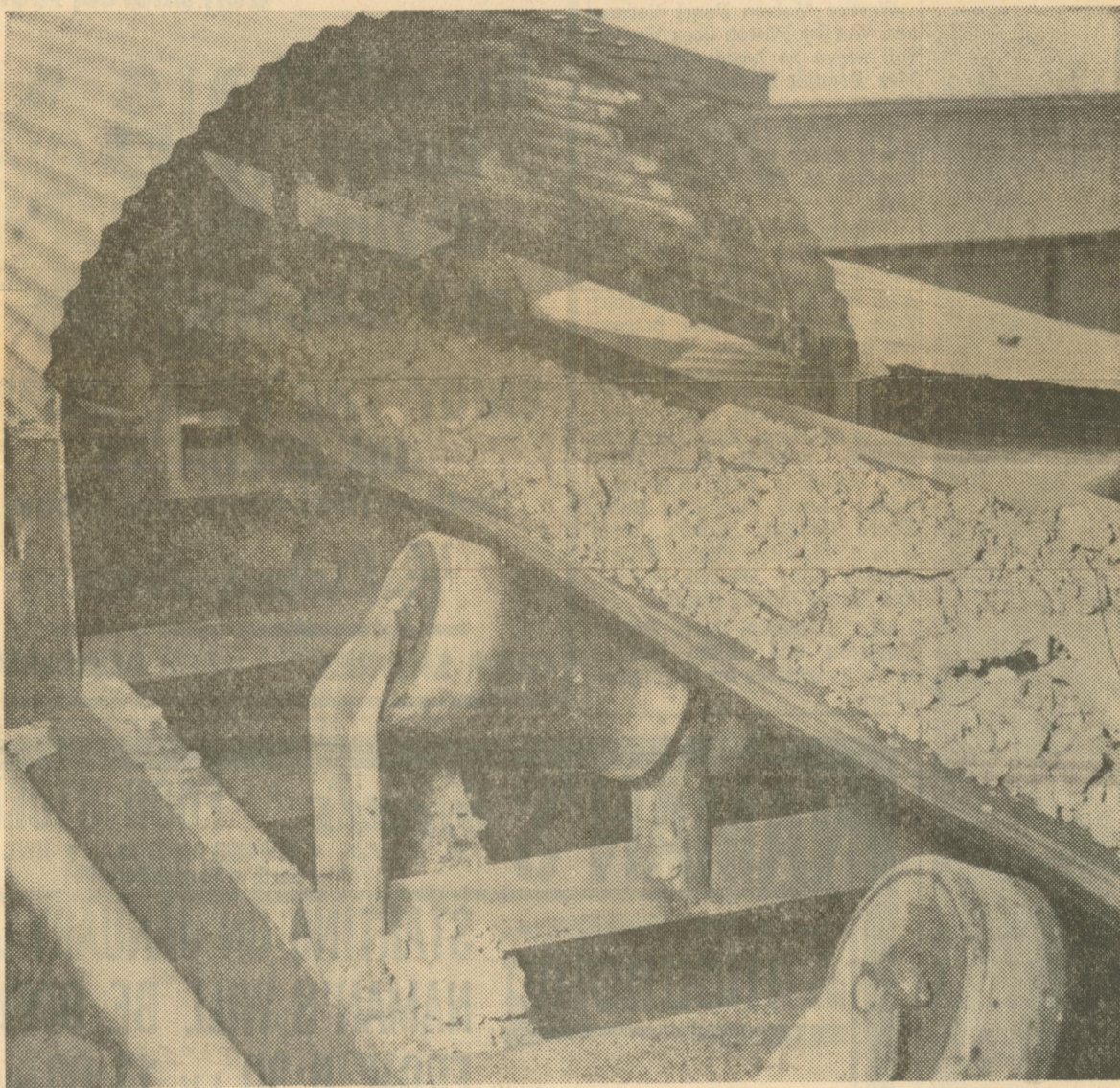
After being formed, the bricks are put in a humidity dryer for 54 hours. The bricks are then placed in a 12-hour water soaking period.

The bricks are next stacked in furnaces called kilns, where they are burned for 96 hours. The kilns are heated by gas and the heat rises slowly until it reaches 2,060 degrees.

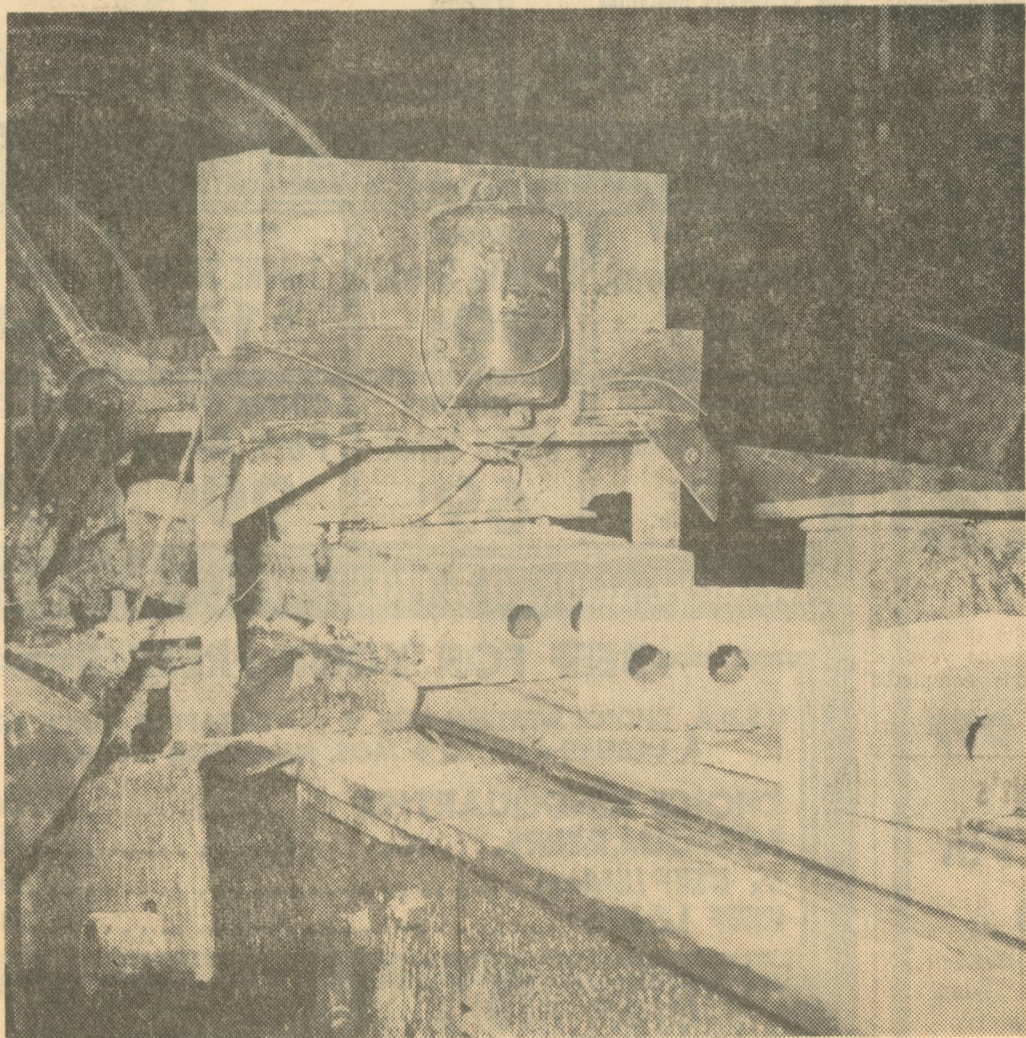
After burning, the bricks are smoked for 12 hours, cooled and pre-stacked 500 to a package for shipment.



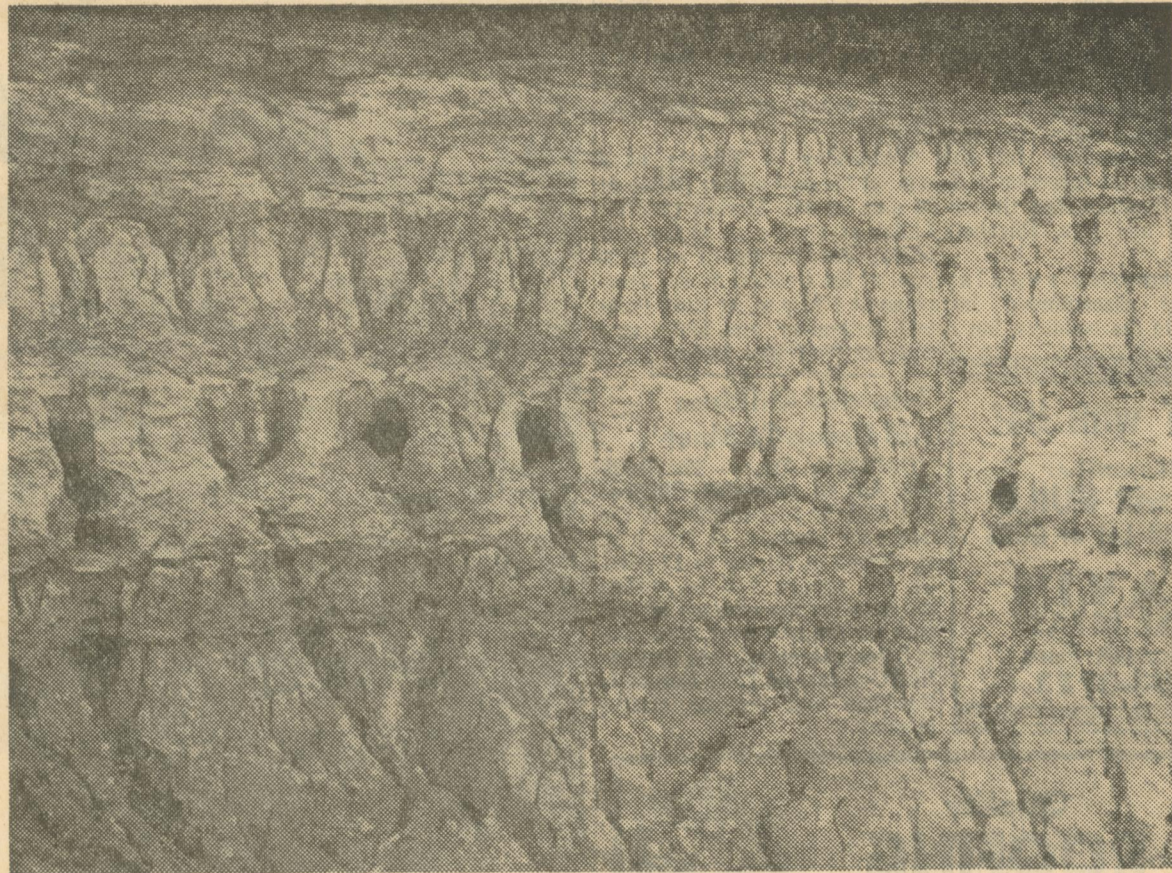
The pug mill mixes clay and sand



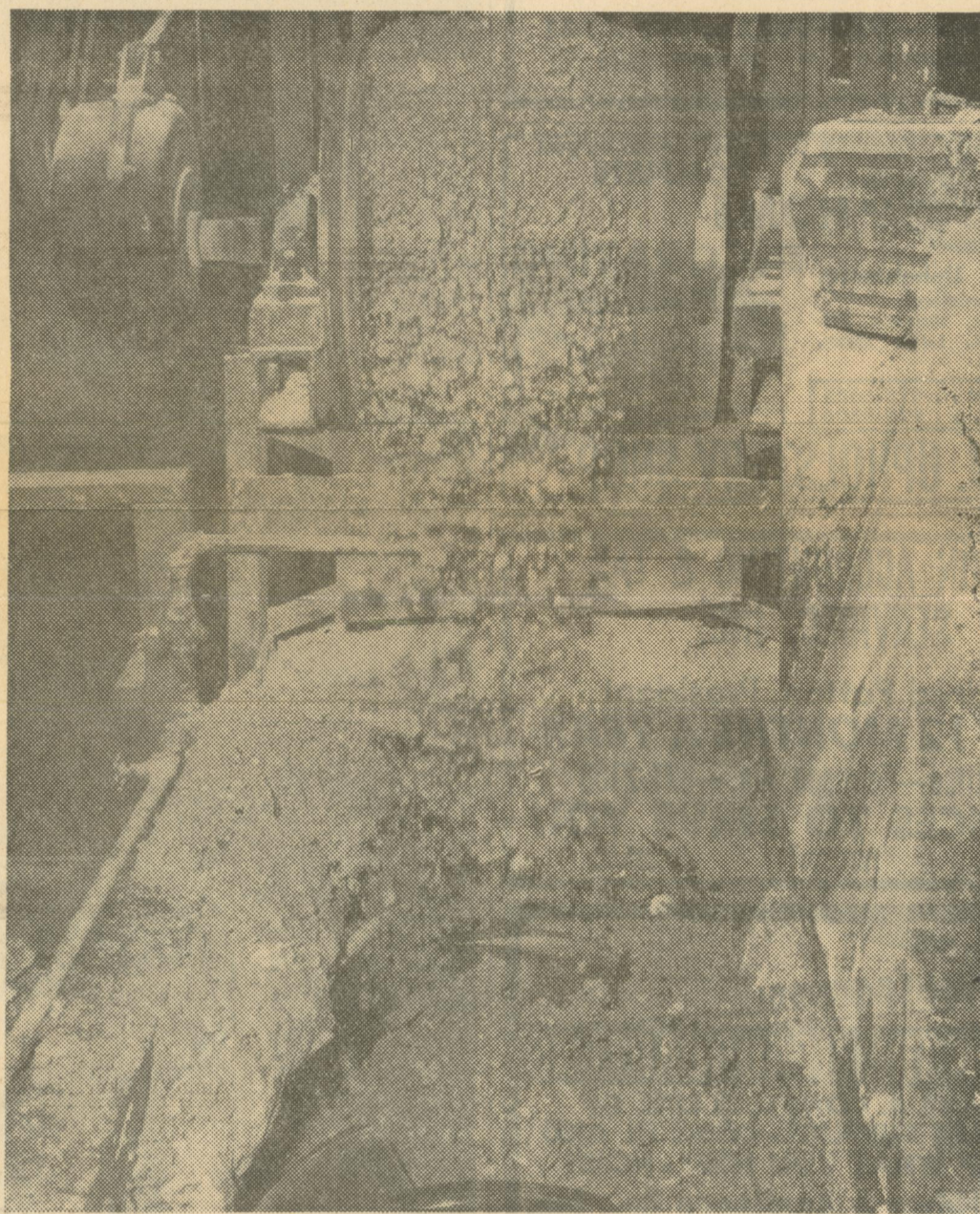
Apron feeder feeds bulk to a smooth roll crusher



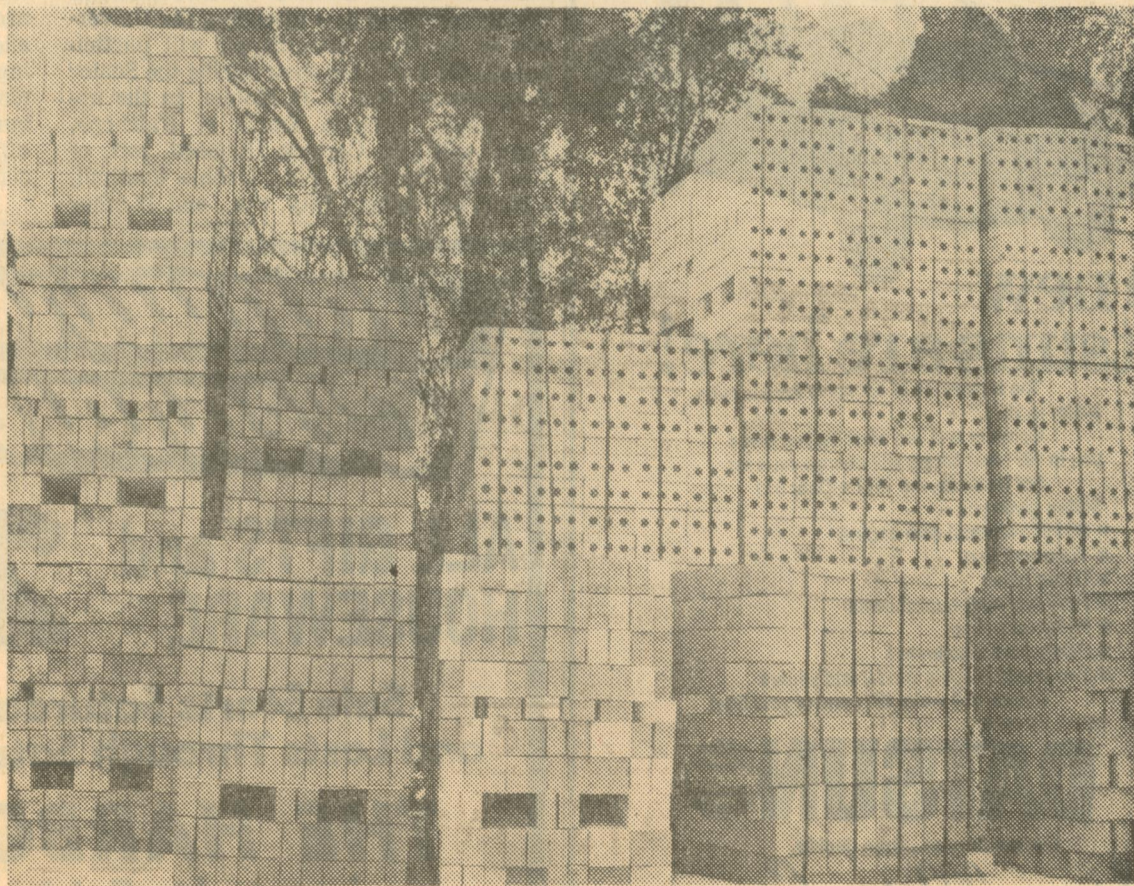
Wire cutter divides clay into brick-shaped pieces



Clay used for making bricks



Bulk is mixed into smaller molecules by the pug mill



Bricks are ready for shipment

CLAY CITY, FAIRHOPE, U.S.A.

A BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITY ON FISH RIVER

by Kay Nuzum

Baldwin County has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources but few have been handled as skillfully and uniquely as the rich clay deposits lining the banks of Fish River at Clay City. From the picturesque kilns here, come the finished clay products of which the ingenious, industrious Bart Jennings, Jr. family is understandably proud.

Fairhope Clay Products, Inc., better known locally as Clay City, is located about seven miles due east of Point Clear. This family enterprise supplies building projects with a variety of clay products. Although 18 varieties of face brick are made, ten times as many of the simulated old brick are sold than any other. Patibrick, a solid type which takes longer to fire, is another popular one. A long, narrow Roman brick is the same size and shape as that made during the days of the Old Roman Empire. Clay City manufactures the only Roman brick in Alabama.

Fish River clays, ranging from the best brick clays to find ceramic and pottery clays, are supposedly the largest clay deposits of their kind south of the Ohio River. Alabama's Geological Survey Map #83 shows that clay resources of Baldwin County which crop out so abundantly on Fish River date back to the Miocene geological age.

It is from this rich deposit of nature that clays are dug and transformed into brick, structural tile and sewer pipe at Clay City. Most clays are dug from a depth of three feet to depths of 40 to 50 feet - all within 200 feet of Fish River.

A Family Industry

Clay City is a sterling example of a family industry where the hearts of all its members and their employees are in the business. Bart Jennings, Jr., burns the kilns and casts an expert, fatherly eye over the entire "beehive" of activity. Number One son, Bart III, is in charge of production. Number Two son, Ralph, (a decorated veteran of the Viet Nam Conflict) handles the sales.

Although Mother Beverly's station is the office, her lithe, willowy figure can be seen flitting about the plant wherever she may be needed, delivering messages, and handing out praise and encouragement on her rounds. Besides being office-keeper, and time-keeper, she is also house-keeper, and at times, grandchildren-keeper to grandsons: Bart IV, Bryan, and relevantly named Clay; and granddaughter, Alicia. Daughters-in-law, Nancye and Delores are on ready reserve whenever needed.



BART JENNINGS, JR. is justly proud of Fairhope Clay Products, Inc.

Daphne Brown Anderson, although a silent partner in Fairhope Clay Products, Inc., continues to be intensely interested in what goes on at Clay City. She is president of the Single Tax Colony and lives in Fairhope.

Oscar Sterrett is a valued part time bookkeeper. Dan Gardner has been a trusted employee since the brick plant's inception in 1916, and Willie O'Cañ since 1926. Drag line operator in the clay pit, Sidney Thompson, has been on his job since the early thirties. In addition to the full time employees, ten part time local high school students are also on the payroll.

Everyone works at Clay City -- even a herd of 30 goats which keep the compound clean by nibbling away at brush and bushes. "Dirt daubers", or pipe organ wasps, know where the action is, too. The old drying sheds are full of homes of these original potters. Occasionally a clay habitation of the rare potter wasp is found. This solitary wasp is an uncommon architect, fashioning its unique home into a jug-like abode.

Modernization And Automation

In 1968 the family got its heads together and realized they had to get bigger or get out of the clay products business.

"We obtained a small business loan, installed modern equipment and automation, and increased our production from 100,000 to 600,000 bricks per month regardless of weather conditions," explained Beverly Jennings.



OLD EARTHEN JUGS recovered from bottom of Fish River by the two Jennings' sons. (Photo by Kay Nuzum)

"Pre-drying time has been reduced from six to eight weeks in the old drying sheds to only three days by our new method in the modern pre-drying areas. Bricks and tile are then baked at an average of 2300 degrees for approximately 100 hours in the five gas-fired, down-draft, beehive kilns," she continued.

"Being a small plant, we can copy any type of special brick as was done for the new First National Bank of Fairhope recently completed. Also, at the present time, we are furnishing a special face of brick for the addition to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Foley," Beverly proudly added.

Frank Brown Created Clay City In 1916

Family interest in Clay City actually was initiated at the turn of the century when the Fairhope Single Tax Colony (originally called the Fairhope Industrial Association) invited Beverly Jennings' grandfather, Frank Brown, of Des Moines, Iowa, to bring industry into the Fairhope area.

Frank Brown came to Baldwin County in 1896, liked what he saw and stayed. He set up a business - or rather businesses - on the southeastern corner of Greeno Road and Morphy. His letterheads read: "Dealer in Lumber, Brick, Drain Tile, Pottery, Wood Turning, Rice Hulling and Corn Grinding." This ingenious and versatile man repaired clocks and watches, too. And since there was no dentist in town he also extracted troublesome teeth! Although not generally known, Frank Brown designed the steamer, Fairhope, which was built in the late 1890's just north of the present municipal pier in Fairhope.

Taking time out to fish one day in 1902 on Fish River, Frank Brown noticed the stratum of clays which lined the river bank. His interest was naturally intensified since his father-in-law operated a brick and tile factory in Denmark, Ohio.

After experimenting with the clays he found they were of an excellent grade. Foreseeing a possible thriving business, he began to set up a business at the present site of Clay City. While establishing the business he sold the highly priced clays to Newcomb Pottery in New Orleans. (Today's Sophia Newcomb College is located on

the old Newcomb Pottery site.)

To expand the clay products plant at Clay City, a group of Fairhope men formed a corporation, which failed during the Great Depression in the early thirties.

Frank Brown's daughter, Daphne, bought back the plant and her brother, Ralph, operated it. It has been owned and operated by members of the family since. Frank Brown remained active in the company until his death in 1940. Beverly and her husband, Bart Jennings, Jr., came into the business in 1956. Beverly's mother and father, Lucille (Wienand) and Ralph Brown, with Ralph's sister and husband, Daphne and Byron Anderson, were associated with the industry at Clay City from the 1920's until the late 1960's.

Clay City Has Fascinating Early History

Recalling the days Indians roamed our land called Baldwin we would find the artistic and resourceful Creeks modeling Fish River clays into containers for food, drink and storage.

Then in turn the Spanish explorers and colonizers all have been known to use Baldwin County clays for making pottery.

After the War of 1812 Fort Bowyer, renamed Fort Morgan in honor of General Daniel Morgan of Revolutionary fame, was rebuilt with bricks fashioned from Fish River clay.

Numerous pottery jugs recovered from the bottom of Fish River by the two Jennings sons prove that pottery making was a thriving business at the Clay City site well over 100 years ago. These earthen jugs were no doubt rejects of an antebellum pottery since they all seem to have slight imperfections - small cracks, chips, or blistered sides. Many lids to earthen containers indicate that some were of large dimensions.

At the wide turning basin of the river's bend schooners and later steamers docked alongside the pottery plant and loaded a variety of jugs which were in great demand for bottling rum, molasses, vinegar, beer, etc.

It has been ascertained that a Josephus Gable and his family operated a pottery at Clay City



FRANK BROWN, family and interested Fairhope friends at "lighting of first kiln" ceremonies in '16 (Frank Brown stands near center of group. The second woman from left seated in first row is Marietta Johnson, founder of Organic School in Fairhope.)

for over 70 years since before the Civil War. They made flower pots, butter pots with lids, and two-three-four and five gallon jugs and churns. His daughter, Bell, could turn out a five-gallon churn with no effort.

During the Civil War General E. R. S. Canby began the siege of Mobile, the Eastern maneuver was to have been one side of a huge pincer's movement against the port city. Two divisions of the 13th Infantry bivouaced for 9 days between the present site of the Jennings home and Cowpen Creek. Remains of the breastworks and gun emplacements can still be seen. Ironically, the officer in command of the two divisions encamped on Fish River was a great uncle of Beverly Jennings!

About five years ago Minnie Gachire Gable visited the Jennings at Clay City. (As a young girl she had come to the United States with her father, a doctor who had been called to the Gulf Coast to help wipe out the dreaded yellow fever.)

Aunt Minnie reminisced about the four wonderful years she and her husband, Will Gable, had spent making pottery on Fish River. She recalled how mighty handy were the earthen beer jugs to throw at the rattlers that threatened to invade their home during unusually high waters when Davis Dam up river broke.

Another episode she related was when Alonzo Hall started down the hill with a loaded cart of clay tied to the back of his buggy. His horse bucked and

ran straight into the river. Lorenzo dove in, cut the harness and saved his horse. Later the buggy was retrieved and now joins the many artifacts of by-gone days collected by the Jennings family.

Aunt Minnie vividly remembered the still, silvery moonlight nights on the river - the Baldwin Hotel, the boisterous saloon across the river, the river boats with their string bands going past their landing.

After the 1906 hurricane washed the Gable pottery out of business, Will and Minnie moved to Biloxi where Will became a Gulf fisherman. After Will's death Minnie continued to live on the Mississippi coast. She eagerly planned another trip to her beloved Fish River. But death took her just a year ago, still 90 years young at heart.

***** These then are the predominant factors that have been woven into the tapestry that is Clay City's story: Nature's generous deposits of the right kinds of clays eons ago; a fascinating background of American history; a proud family heritage including a versatile grandfather with a vision; an esprit de corps among members of a remarkable modern family; a touching loyalty of co-workers; a smooth transition to automation resulting in the manufacture of better clay products with the least possible effort - the future looks mighty bright for Fairhope Clay Products, Inc.!



BEEHIVES OF activity on Fish River. (Photo by Kay Nuzum)



VIEW OF CLAY PIT with its rich deposits of fine grade clays used at Fairhope Clay Products, Inc. (Photo by Kay Nuzum)



LEBERT MCCLELLAN removing needed clay from reserve pile with case loader. (Photo by Kay Nuzum)



THIS MACHINE grinds, dries, and piles the clay ready to be used. (Photo by Keith Wood)



THE CLAY IS FED into this hopper after which it goes through an apron feeder where it undergoes three more grindings. (Photo by Keith Wood)



RALPH JENNINGS checking temperature of one of the kilns. (Photo by Kay Nuzum)



CARL STIMPSON, AND Bart Jennings, III, tending "heart" machine of the industry. Along a conveyor the clay goes into a pug mill and vacuum chamber from which it is extruded in a solid column to a cutter where 18 bricks are cut at one time. (Photo by Keith Wood)



WILLIAM HOLLINGER shown unloading bricks from kiln onto fork lift. (Photo by Kay Nuzum)



MRS. BART JENNINGS, Jr. checking bricks ready to be removed from kiln. (Photo by Kay Nuzum)



THESE BRICK ARE READY to be loaded onto the truck to be delivered to the customer. (Photo by Keith Wood)

Thursday, March 21, 1985



A family affair

The sixth generation of Jennings offspring were busy stacking bricks at Fairhope Clay Products Co. during their spring break from school. Pictured are,

left to right, Daphne Jennings, 14; Brian Jennings, 16, and Clay Jennings, 14. Not pictured is Arlene Jennings, 12.

Fairhope Clay Products Co.:

A successful family business learning how to diversify

By GRAHAM HEATH

Baldwin PEOPLE Writer

CLAY CITY, Ala. — Frank Brown was one of the earliest proponents of the Single Tax philosophy to chuck aside the civilized comforts of Des Moines, Iowa, for the relative wilds of Fairhope.

Along with his family, he also brought the skills of brick making, and soon had a modest business with a clay pit at the southeast corner of Morphy Avenue and Greeno Road, near the tight-knit community revolving around Mobile Bay.

By 1916, Brown had discovered and moved his operation to the clay resources of "Clay City," a scenic area situated on a bluff at Fish River about 10 miles southeast of Fairhope and considered to be one of the largest clay deposits south of the Ohio River.

From those humble beginnings, the business remains family-owned within a curious — but effective — combination of turn-of-the-century equipment being operated alongside modern technology by six generations of family members.

Ralph Jennings, whose grandfather founded the business, has taken over the reins of the firm from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bart Jennings Jr., and is using his own business savvy to keep the firm family owned and to compete as a small business owner in a field which has been predominantly taken over by large corporations.

Jennings says he's now acting as a broker for large firms, while maintaining a market for small orders.

"We have about 80 kinds of brick available for our customers," Jennings says. "But we can match any kind of brick for families who want to add to their houses."

The most unusual order for the firm may have been a request from the city of Mobile for 350,000 bricks to reconstruct Fort Conde, which was completed in 1976. But orders of less than 100 bricks are also received, he says, for repair or additions to homes.

"But the demand has been so great (for bricks) that we are now selling for three or four major companies. We can't really bid on an equal basis on large projects with the major brick-making firms because they have 'push button' technology. I am acting as a broker for major projects, and

still supply specialized brick from our operation for smaller orders."

The firm has 10 employees, which includes Bart Jennings IV in sales and Bruce Jennings who installs specialized orders locally. Four grandchildren also work at the company during school vacations and in the summer.

"Olde Chicago" brick remains their best seller, Jennings says. And contractors for construction of a country club in Victoria, Texas, was willing to wait four months for delivery of a specialized brick. The firm also provided the brick for the recent addition to Thomas Hospital.

The company's new kiln can cure nearly a quarter of a million brick with natural gas, and the modernized plant can produce 800,000 bricks per month.

But less than 100 feet away from the modern additions is

an immense 110-horsepower diesel which provides the power for the original plant. Installed around 1916, the diesel engine still provides enough power to run the old plant and is used during the summer months.

The old plant survived the ravages of Hurricane Frederic, but a smokestack is the only remnant of the original kiln, which remains surrounded by the new additions.

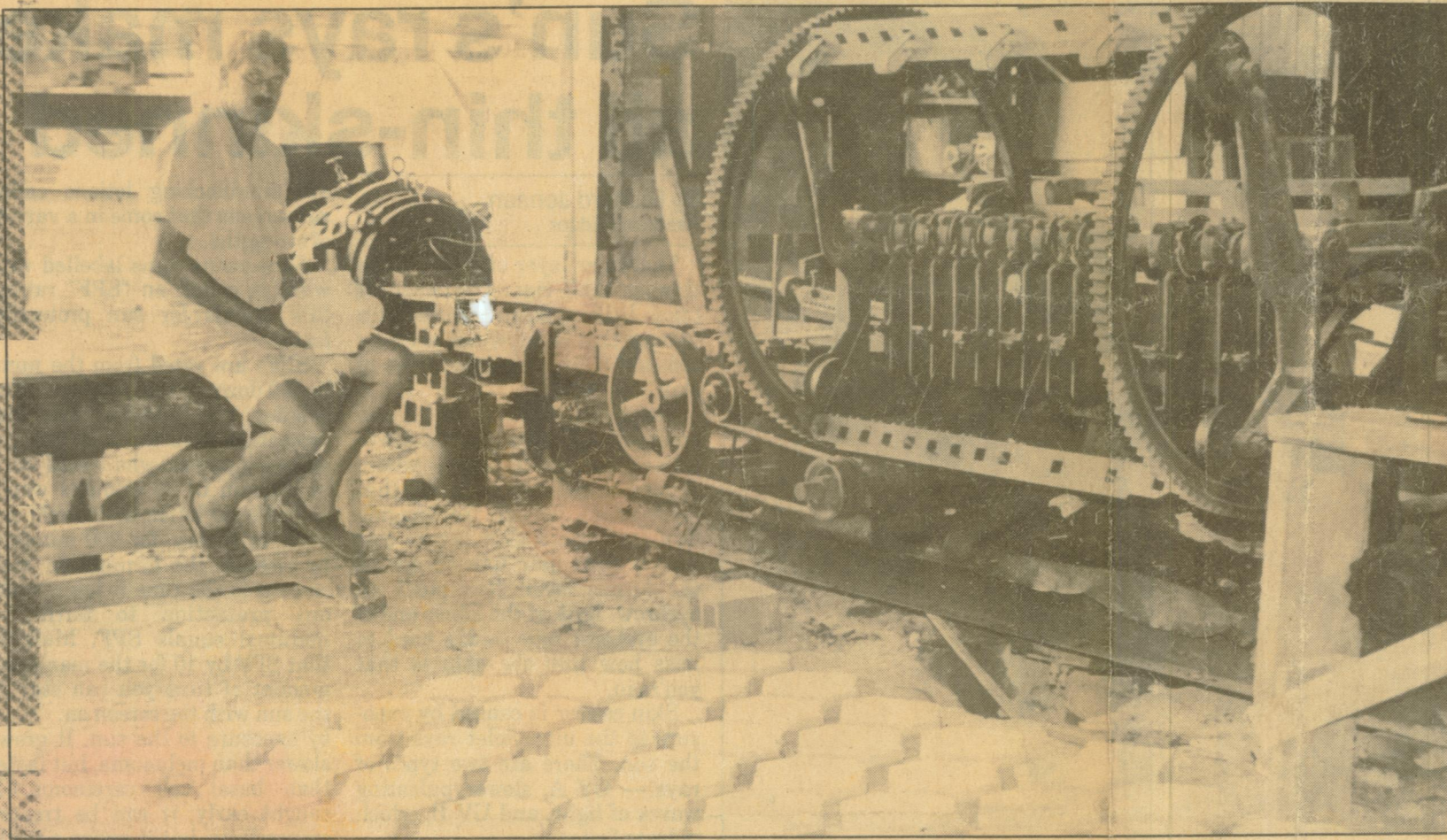
"My children are working here during their spring break," Jennings says, wiping the sweat from his forehead and looking toward the dusty plant. "They will decide someday what they want to do here, or if they want to work here."

"But if the bottom drops out of the business, we'll still have this spectacular view of Fish River — and that will be OK, too."



Specialized production

Ralph Jennings, manager of Fairhope Clay Products Co., examines a stack of Roman brick manufactured at the Clay City firm. Jennings says he is the only brick producer in the Southeast who is still manufacturing the product. Behind Jennings is a kiln constructed around 1940.



Ralph Jennings with hand-cut floor tiles produced by his company.

Clay City firm stays true to roots

Family-owned brickworks still making product from local resources

Fourth of a series

By Valarie Webb
Staff Writer

Several years ago, Beverly Jennings prepared a booklet to share with the Girl Scout troops who toured her family's business, Fairhope Clay Products.

"Historic places are just sections of our country where people have lived and left a written record for other people to read, remember and enjoy," she wrote. "That is why we feel Clay City deserves a place in history."

This observation seems appropriate, since the area east of Fairhope known as Clay City — the largest deposit of natural clay south of the Ohio River — is documented in written records as far back as 1711. French settlers from Mobile wrote of the kind treatment they received from Indians living along the clay-rich banks of the Fish River. The Indians welcomed their European visitors, providing them with food and a safe haven from Mobile's raging yellow-fever epidemic.

A century later, after the War of 1812, Clay City mines supplied the bricks to rebuild Fort Morgan.

The Gable family established a formidable pottery-making operation on the site in 1860. Their business flourished, turning out hundreds of jugs, churns, surveyor's markers and clay pots. During the Civil War, they manufactured jugs used by Confederate troops to transport molasses, whiskey, rum, beer and vinegar. In those days, wares were shipped by schooner to Mobile and New Orleans.

A new era began for the Fairhope clay industry with the arrival of Frank Brown, a Chicago industrialist, in 1896. Brown came to Baldwin County on the invitation of the Fairhope Single Tax Colony, who hoped the gifted businessman would establish a strong local industry.

Brown apparently liked what he saw. He was a versatile man whose skills ranged from shipbuilding — he designed the "Fairhope," a steam-driven bay boat operated by the Fairhope Industrial Association — to watch repair and dentistry. His first business, located on the corner of Greeno Road and Morphy Avenue, advertised "Dealer in Lumber, Brick, Drain Tile, Pottery, Wood Turning, Rice Hulling and Corn Grinding."

Despite what must have been a demanding business schedule, Brown managed to find time to fish along the banks of the Fish River. It was during an afternoon fishing expedition that he first noticed the rich veins of high-quality clay layered along the riverbank. Brown's interest was aroused; when preliminary tests revealed that the clay was an excellent grade for commercial production, he set about relocating his existing clay-products business to Clay City.

Moving the heavy brick-making machines was no simple matter in 1915. Without the modern-day convenience of roads and trucks, the equipment had to be hauled down seven miles of trail behind teams of oxen. Eventually, Brown's set-up was complete. New kilns were built and new machinery for additional clay products were installed. The first firing of the brick kiln was a festive occasion. On hand for that event, besides Brown's 35 employees, were most of Fairhope's

civic leaders including Marietta Johnson, whose pottery classes at the Organic School used potter's wheels designed by Brown.

The first brick produced at Fairhope Clay Products were made four at a time in a wooden mold. Raw clay was dug with hand shovels, a laborious process. Bricks were dried in the sun and fired in kilns fueled with pine lighter knots.

It wasn't long before progress found its way to the Fish River business. In 1926, larger kilns were constructed and fired with coal. A new engine was installed with the capacity of producing 30,000 brick each day. This expansion was made possible by a group of early Fairhope businessmen who incorporated to provide the necessary funds. Unfortunately, they could not foresee the eminent Depression years. In the early '30s, the business was lost.

Daphne Brown Anderson

aged the brickworks for many years. As the American economy gained strength, the business grew. Barges and tugboats plied the river, hauling heavy loads of brick and tile to Mobile markets.

Eventually, management of the company was taken over by Beverly Brown Jennings and her husband, Bart Jennings Jr. Today their son, Ralph Jennings, operates Fairhope Clay products. He recites the list of local structures built with Clay City tile, pride evident in his voice — First National Bank in Fairhope, Thomas Hospital, Fairhope Middle School, Fairhope United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Foley. The reconstruction of Fort Conde, completed in 1976, was accomplished with Clay City bricks.

Despite a national trend toward large-scale, mass-produced brick, Jennings says Fairhope Brick and Tile still has an important place in the market

ness' days of large-scale production are over, but in the versatile spirit of his great-grandfather, Frank Brown, he's looking in new directions.

"We've reached the point where we've decided not to compete with high-volume foreign companies," he says. The company now makes specialty orders, matching bricks to existing buildings when additions are built. Another specialty product is hand-cut floor tiles, which first emerge as long slabs of moist clay from machines used by Jennings' father and grandfather. Jennings cuts each tile individually, using a heavy tool shaped much like a giant cookie-cutter.

He is optimistic about the future of the business that has been handed down through his family for 74 years. "We're special," he says. "We can give people service they can't get from the big companies."

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MEETING
of
THE BALDWIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
October 17, 1976 Laraway Home
Submitted by Mrs. Flo Simmons

Row Brown
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Clay City Rd
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1976

Among the tall pines and beside the beautiful Fish River, the meeting of the Baldwin County Historical Society was called to order by the President, Mr. Frank LARAWAY.

Mr. LARAWAY asked members to sign and take their Quarterly to save mailing cost.

Mrs. Kay NUZUM was sorry to have to announce the death of Claudia SLAUGHTER, the funeral being this afternoon. Mrs. SLAUGHTER was one of the early members of our Society.

Mr. Mike BLAKE reported that Mr. George BROWN called to say they would not attend the meeting, as Mrs. BROWN is in the Foley hospital.

Mr. LARAWAY reported that our past president Mr. John SNOOKS is in the Foley hospital having an operation on his hand.

Mrs. Berta HORNE introduced Mr. and Mrs. Hal BAMFORD, the editor of our Eastern Shore Courier. Mr. BAMFORD said he would be glad to help our society in any way he could. He has what is called "common pages" and could use these to print historical items, if we would turn them in. Mrs. BAMFORD, as a girl, lived on Fels Avenue in the COVE cottage built by her grandparents, the MIDGETTS. She was known as Annie Laurie FELL.

Mrs. LARAWAY announced that the League of Women Voters were going to charter a bus November 9th for a nature trip to Fort Morgan for seven dollars a person. Bring your lunch; drinks will be served.

Mrs. HORNE announced that Greenville, Alabama, was going to open thirty miles of the Bartrum Trail on October 17th at two o'clock. It is hoped this trail will be continued to Fort Morgan.

Mrs. Dick SCOTT read a letter from the Montgomery Historical Society asking for money and letters to keep the Gulf Oil Company from putting a big sign in their historical district. Mr. BLAKE made a motion for the Society to send twenty-five dollars and for the members that wanted to do so, to put a dollar in the basket. Mrs. Eloise WILSON seconded the motion.

Mr. BLAKE made a motion that Mr. LARAWAY could sign the Baldwin County Historical checks. Mrs. Kay NUZUM seconded the motion.

Mr. GREER reported that Red Eagle Park now had a sign. There was discussion and complaints about Highway 59 being called Gulf State Parkway.

SPEAKER: Vice President Mr. Henry (G.A.) introduced our speaker: Mrs. Daphne ANDERSON, who spoke on Early Fairhope and Clay City. (Given in first person)

In 1896 my Father, Frank L. BROWN and a friend were sent to Fairhope from Des Moines, Iowa, to find out how the new Single Tax Colony was doing. When my father returned home, he told my Mother, Minnie, that someday we were going to move to Fairhope. My father became ill and almost died and the doctor said he could not take another winter in that climate. So, as soon as he was well

Oct. 17, 1976, meeting cont'd.

enough he sold his jewelry store, bought machinery for a sawmill and with his family, household goods and his sister and brother-in-law, Nellie and Howard LEECH, came to Mobile. To get to Fairhope, they had to cross Mobile Bay on a boat, the James A. Coney, I think. Everything could go on the bay boat but the sawmill machinery, so they had Mr. George LAWRENCE's schooner haul it over.

When we arrived in Fairhope, there were not many houses. The families were GASTONS, MERSHONS, TOUVERSONS, BELLANGEES, CALLS and others. All the people from the north were called -- well, I guess it doesn't matter -- "Damm Yankies". The people that had been here forever and ever were called "Natives". Some of their names were GABELS, LOWELLS, BISHOPS, STAPLETONS.

I went to school in the "Bell" building for many years. My neice has the ledger with the list of lumber and the cost of the building. It was used as a public school, paid for and checked on every three months by the State - someone from Mobile.

To get water, we went to Sweet Water Branch in wagons and hauled the water home in barrels. At Sweet Water Branch, there was a foot bridge, also a cup hanging on a nail for anyone who wanted a cool drink. (This is about a mile and a half from the center of Fairhope.)

On the old road from Daphne to Marlowe, my father built his sawmill and home in 1897. The home is still standing today on Greeno and Morphy and is now being used for Nannies Restaurant.

When the 1906 storm came, it rained for three days and three nights and knocked most of the trees down by their roots. The wood was being used up so my father decided to buy a small brick machine for making brick and foundations for houses. Before this, people had used pine stumps. The pond by the bowling alley in Fairhope is where my father dug his clay. He had to put a well and water tank in, so decided to pipe water to the house. We were the first people in Fairhope to have running water indoors. He also put a turning lay in to make posts as at this time a lot of people were building summer homes along the bay front.

The people in the country were raising a lot of rice so my father built a three story mill. When the machinery came, the box was marked "Daphne Mill". This amused me as my name is Daphne. My father also had machinery to shell velvet beans and different kinds of peas.

For recreation my father loved to fish in Fish River. In going up and down the river, he noticed the fine grey clay and discovered an old pottery had been there. In 1916 he decided to move his brick factory and build a kiln and drying shed there. The machinery was moved over trails by oxen and wagon. After setting up everything, they discovered the best clay was under the business. Soon after they settled, on a Sunday a wagon drove up with five ladies who told them to dry the bricks in the clearing on the hill. I think the ladies were GABLES.

The bricks were made four at a time in a wooden mold, dried in the sun and burned in a small kiln fired with pine lighter knots. The bricks were hauled to Mobile and New Orleans by schooner.

In 1915 my father had a man come from Ohio to build two bee hive kilns, round in shape with a lot of work under them. One is still being used today. During

Oct. 17, 1976, meeting cont'd.

1918 the pottery was shut down for lack of manpower because of the war. My niece, Beverly (BROWN) JENNINGS will tell you about the mill today.

Mrs. JENNINGS said no one knew how long a pottery had been at Clay City. Her sons found in the river water jugs (the kind with two holes), jugs for whiskey and syrup, and turpentine cups. They have also learned that 40,000 Union troupes camped there for nine days before marching to Spanish Fort. There are two rows of breast works. They have also found Indian arrowheads there.

They now have what they call their Bicentennial Kiln. It is the second of its kind built in the United States. It is computer programmed and burns off two hundred thousand brick in thirty-six hours, instead of a hundred hours in the old kiln.

They also made the bricks for Fort Conde in Mobile. In restoring the old fort, Albert HUNTER wanted to use the same kind of brick as was in the original fort. He read Peter HAMILTON's history that said the clay for the fort came from the Indians on Fish River. So he compared the clays and they matched. Clay City made by hand, putting finger prints and dog tracks on some of the bricks, three hundred and fifty thousand for old Fort Conde. --

Delicious cookies and drinks were served by Mrs. LARAWAY. (The next meeting will be in Stockton).

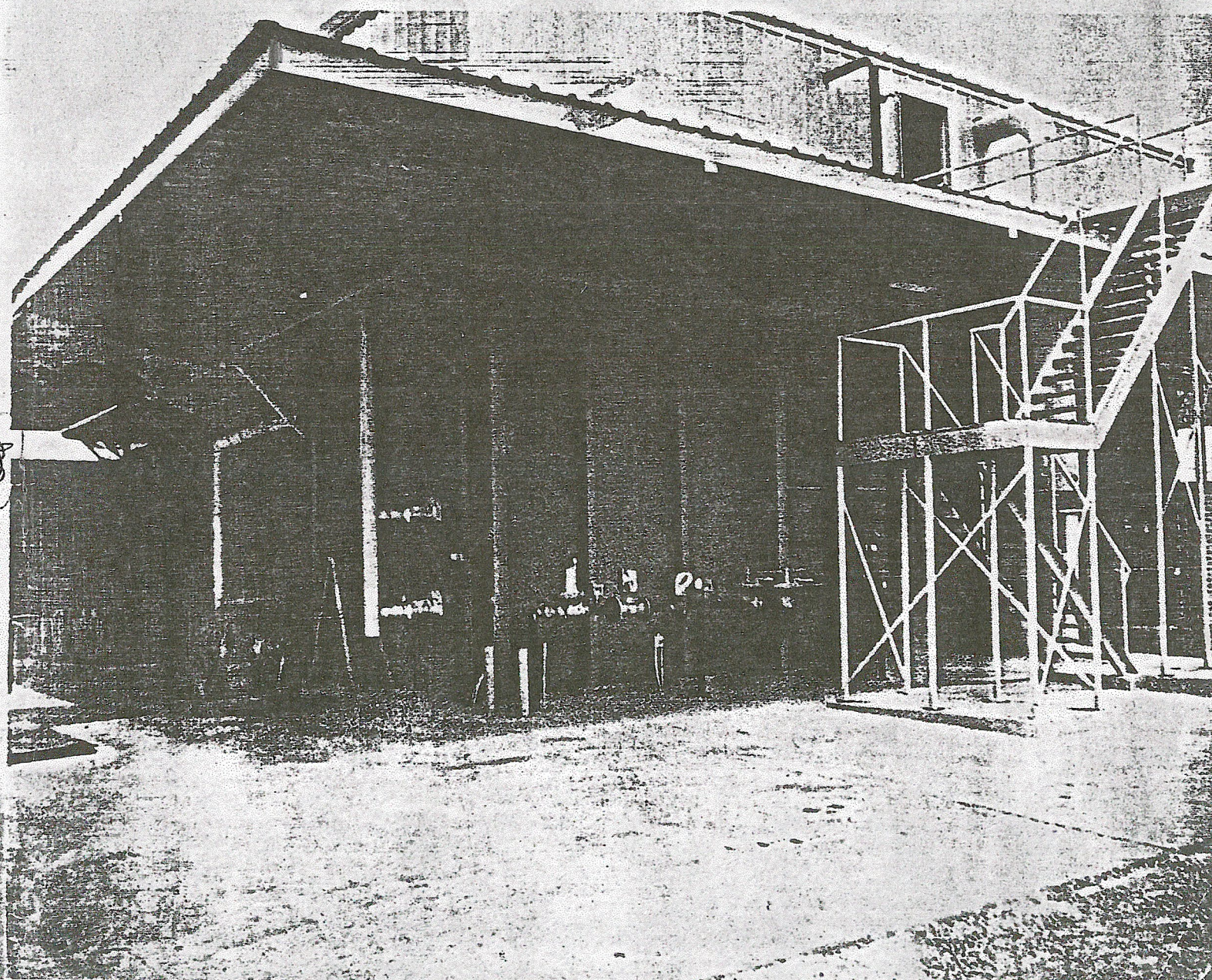
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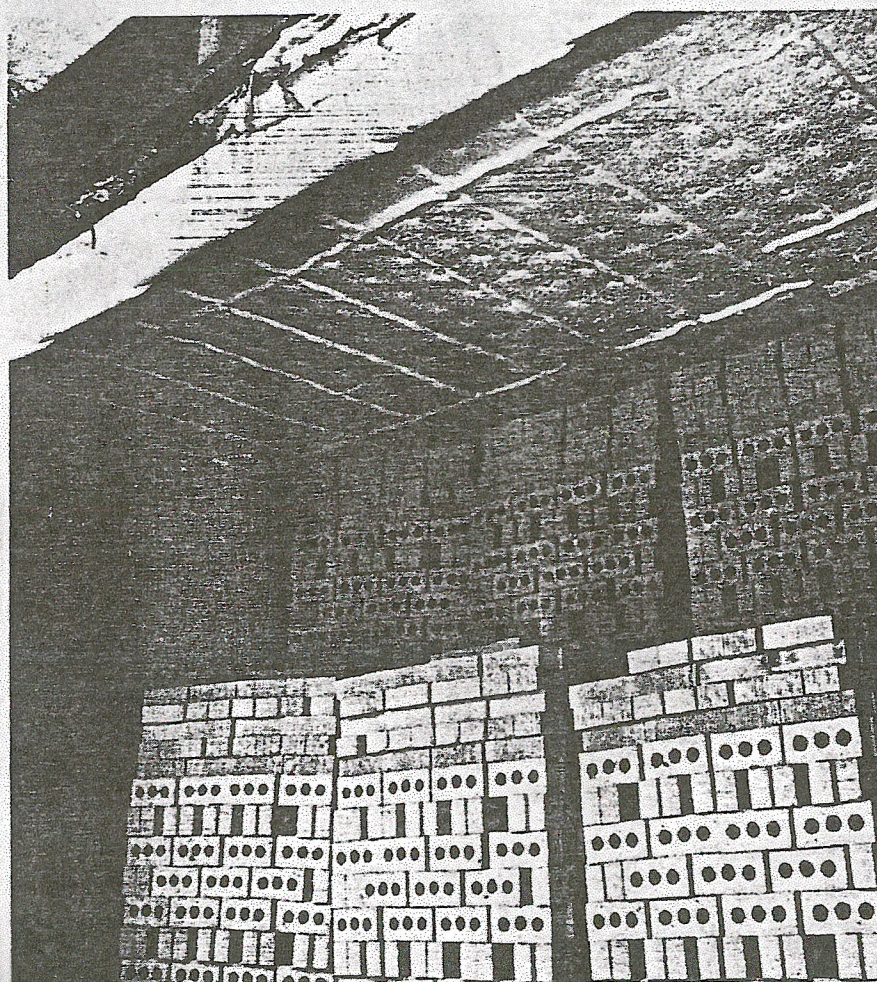
PERICLASE MANUFACTURE AT MARTIN-MARIETTA
FIBER-LINED KILN AT FAIRHOPE
POSTONWAY PAVING



Fairhope Clay Products Chooses Fiber

New square fiber lined periodic kiln built at Fairhope Brick. As many as 200,000 brick in kiln. A long history of clay products.

By: P. E. Jeffers, Editor



Fiber lining remains in excellent condition after many burns.

Just south of Mobile, Ala. on the banks of the Fish River, is located Fairhope Brick Company, in production since 1916. The area, known as Clay City near Fairhope, Ala. was famous for pottery back in civil war days. From these early days when the brick were hand molded, sun dried and fired in small wood burning kilns, the plant now produces about 40,000 brick per day and uses a new square fiber lined periodic kiln for much of its production.

New kiln like Laurel Brick's

The new kiln was patterned after the one at Laurel Brick in Laurel, Miss. (See Brick & Clay Record August 1976) and will hold 200,000 brick for each firing. It is loaded and unloaded by lift trucks handling setting cubes of brick. The cubes are set three high throughout the kiln except at the immediate door area. Additional brick are placed flat on top of the upper cubes to almost touch the fiber lined roof. There are nine high velocity gas burners on top of the kiln, eight placed in a circular fashion around the middle outside of the kiln top and one directly in the center. There also are two horizontal high velocity burners at each corner of the kiln, positioned to fire between the brick and the kiln wall. This creates a circulating action to get the brick uniformly hot faster. Exhaust is by a center flue into an adjoining stack.

The actual firing schedule depends a lot on the condition of the brick in the kiln. It has often been necessary to place brick in the kiln that are not completely dry so consideration for this has to be made in the total kiln cycle. Generally, the center burner is lighted first. This, gets the center flue and stack hot so a good draft is possible. This burner can usually be shut off when temperatures reach 400°F. Other burners are controlled according to the condition of the brick. A firing temperature of 2200°F is reached before the kiln is shut off. Positive pressure is maintained through the firing cycle in the kiln. The kiln is equipped with automatic firing for use when all of the brick are dry and

Fairhope Clay Products was organized in 1916 by Frank Brown using machinery brought in by oxen. It is operated today by Bart Jennings and his sons Bart and Ralph, great-grandsons of the founder. Ralph Jennings also operates a small pottery near the brick plant, producing ware similar to that produced in the area 100 years ago.

there is no need for special manual manipulation. Because of the nature of the brick it's difficult to get a good average figure on the fuel consumption, but it is estimated at about 5000 cubic feet of gas per 1000 brick. Kiln is metered every burn with a flowmeter. Consumption varies when brick are dried in kiln.

The door of the kiln is removed by lift truck for cooling. Large portable fans are placed in the door opening. It takes two to three days to empty a kiln which is about the same time schedule as loading it. Generally a kiln can be recycled every eight to 12 days if green brick are available.

The brick are taken to the packaging station from the kiln, where a crew of three women place them on the stacker belt. The brick move into the stacker where they are formed into standard industry packages for automatic banding.

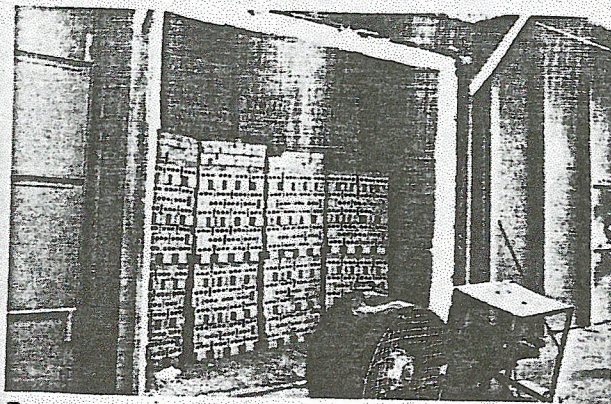
Fairhope Brick also has four round down draft kilns that are still used in production. These kilns now are used to supplement the production from the new kiln and for special firing cycles. At the present time, the limiting factor in the manufacturing system at Fairhope is drying. The next major expansion program will rectify that situation and will probably involve the use of waste heat from the kilns for drying. Now, dryer heat is obtained from dutch-oven type ovens which require additional fuel to operate.

Mine two types of clay

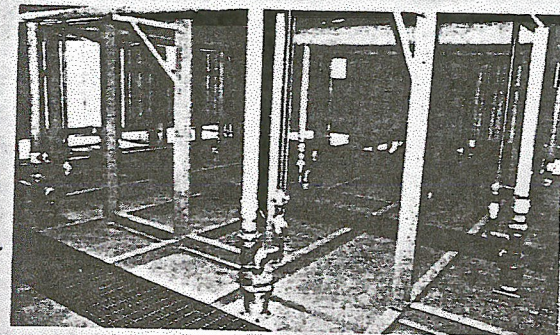
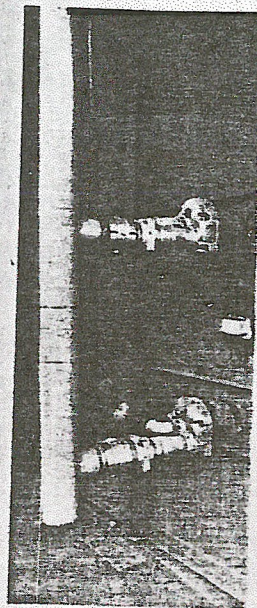
Two types of clay are mined near the plant, i.e., a reddish colored clay and a light clay. Both types burn to a light color. They are first chopped up in a double screw granulator then conveyed into a covered storage area. A front end loader portions the clay into a hopper equipped with an even feeder for movement by conveyor to the pug-mill. The column is extruded, coated when necessary with lime, sand or other materials and cut into sizes with a reel-type wire cutter. Offbearers set the brick into cubes on dryer cars for transport into the small tunnel dryers.

Equipment List

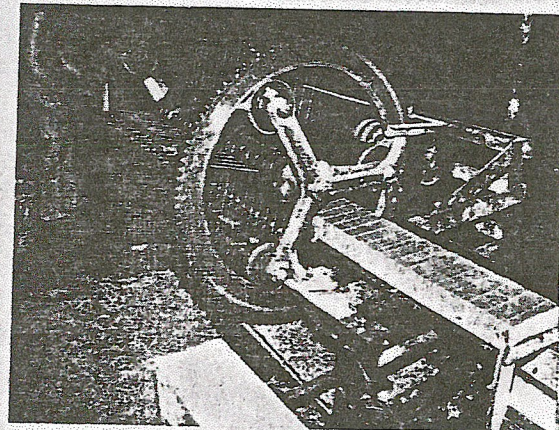
Pugmill and Extruder/J. C. Steele & Sons
Cutter/J. C. Steele & Sons
Even feeder/J. C. Steele & Sons
Twin Shaft or Dual
Screw-Granulator/Fate International
Front end loader/Case, J. I. Co.
Fiber Lining in Kiln/Carborundum Co.
Burners/North American Mfg.
Fan on Kiln/North American Mfg.
Automatic Stacker/Clarksville Machine Co.
Strapping/Signode Corp.
Flow Meter/Singer American Meter



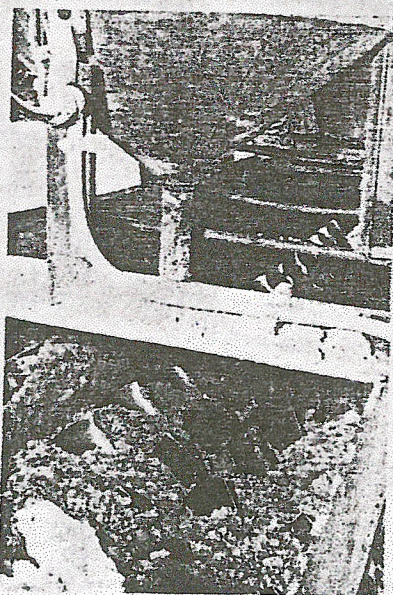
Fans are placed in the open doorway to speed cooling.



Top burners are easily accessible in enclosure over the kiln.

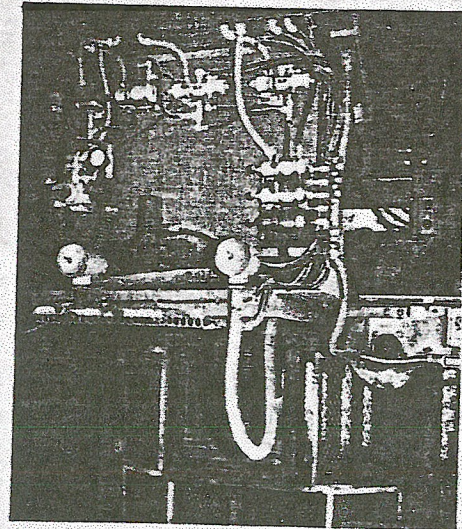


Reel cutter is used to cut 18 bricks at a time on extrusion line.

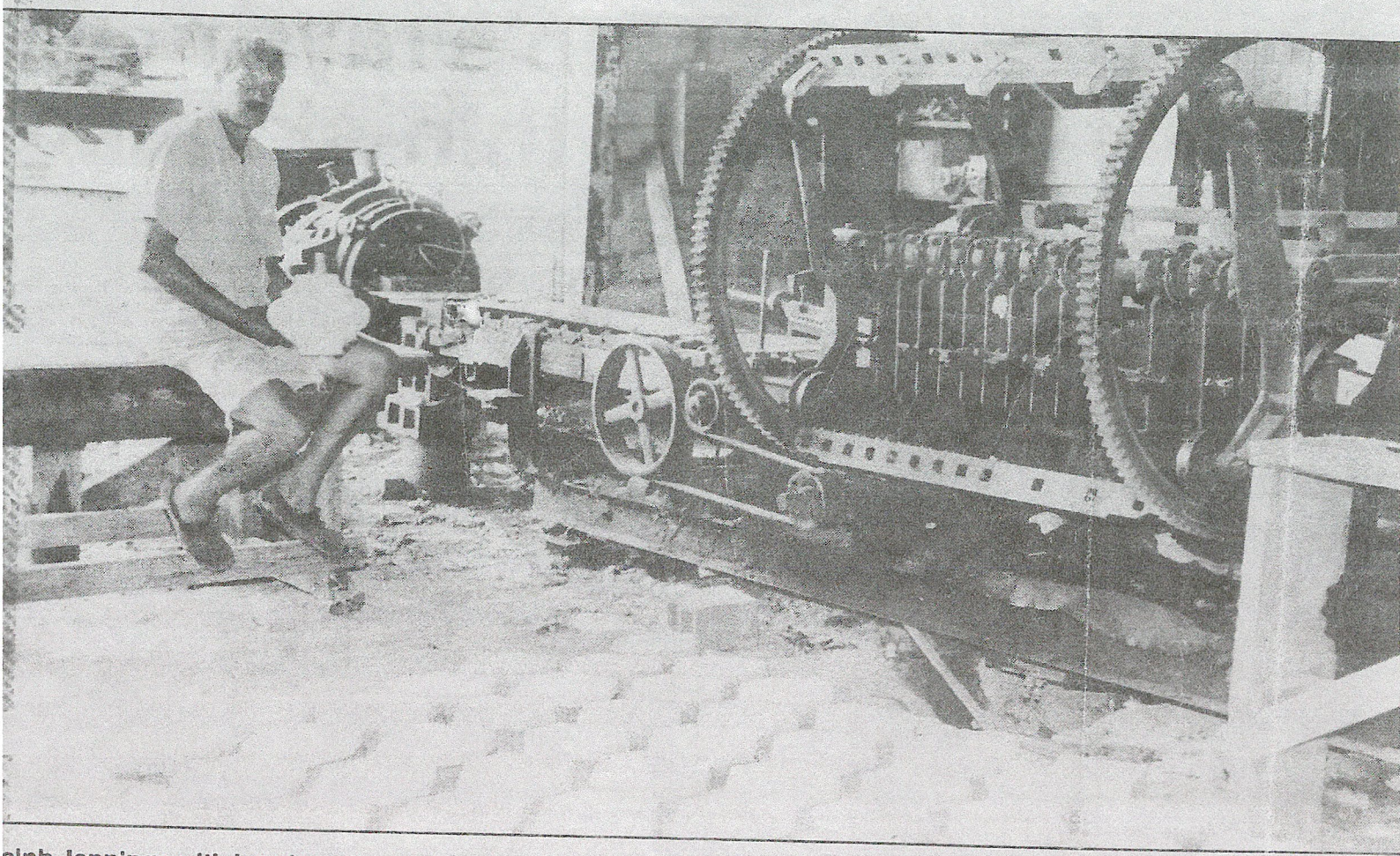


(Above) Dual screw granulator breaks up the clay for indoor storage.

(Top) Two side burners at each corner provide circulation for faster heating.



Automatic stacker assembles brick into packages for shipment.



Ralph Jennings with hand-cut floor tiles produced by his company.

Clay City firm stays true to roots

Family-owned brickworks still making product from local resources

Fourth of a series

Valarie Webb
Staff Writer

Several years ago, Beverly Jennings prepared a booklet to share with the Girl Scout troops who toured her family's business, Fairhope Clay Products. "Historic places are just sections of our country where people have lived and left a written record for other people to read, remember and enjoy," she wrote. "That is why we feel Clay City deserves a place in history." This observation seems appropriate, since the area east of Fairhope known as Clay City — the largest deposit of natural clay in the Ohio River — is documented in written records as far back as 1711. French settlers in Mobile wrote of the kind of cement they received from the

civic leaders including Marietta Johnson, whose pottery classes at the Organic School used potter's wheels designed by Brown.

The first brick produced at Fairhope Clay Products were made four at a time in a wooden mold. Raw clay was dug with hand shovels, a laborious process. Bricks were dried in the sun and fired in kilns fueled with pine lighter knots.

It wasn't long before progress found its way to the Fish River business. In 1926, larger kilns were constructed and fired with coal. A new engine was installed with the capacity of producing 30,000 brick each day. This expansion was made possible by a group of early Fairhope businessmen who incorporated to provide the necessary funds. Unfortunately, they could not foresee the eminent Depression

aged the brickworks for many years. As the American economy gained strength, the business grew. Barges and tugboats plied the river, hauling heavy loads of brick and tile to Mobile markets.

Eventually, management of the company was taken over by Beverly Brown Jennings and her husband, Bart Jennings Jr. Today their son, Ralph Jennings, operates Fairhope Clay products. He recites the list of local structures built with Clay City tile, pride evident in his voice — First National Bank in Fairhope, Thomas Hospital, Fairhope Middle School, Fairhope United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Foley. The reconstruction of Fort Conde, completed in 1976, was accomplished with Clay City bricks.

Despite a national trend toward large-scale mass

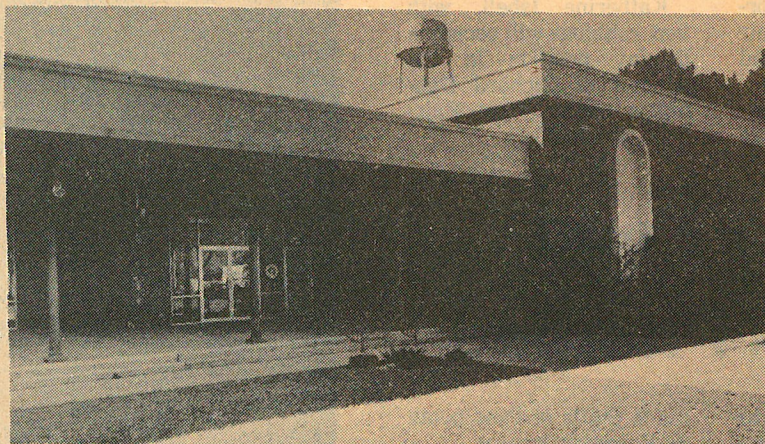
ness' days of large-scale production are over, but in the versatile spirit of his great-grandfather Frank Brown, he's looking in new directions.

"We've reached the point where we've decided not to compete with high-volume foreign companies," he says. The company now makes specialty orders, matching brick to existing buildings when additions are built. Another specialty product is hand-cut floor tiles which first emerge as long slabs of moist clay from machines used by Jennings' father and grandfather. Jennings cuts each tile individually, using a heavy tool shaped much like a giant cookie-cutter.

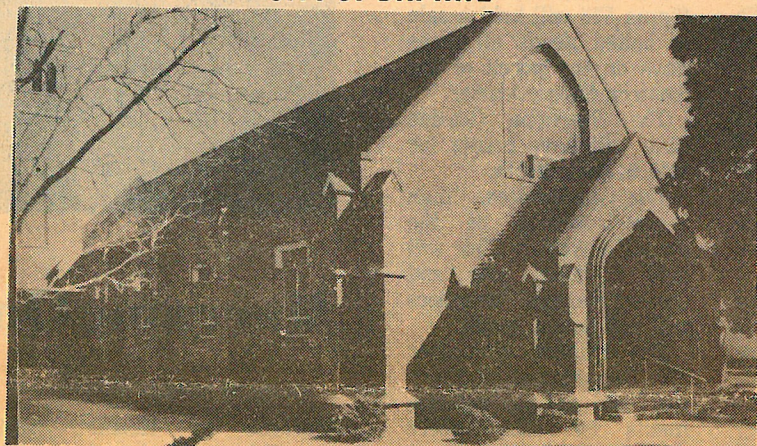
He is optimistic about the future of the business that has been handed down through his family for 74 years. "We're special," he

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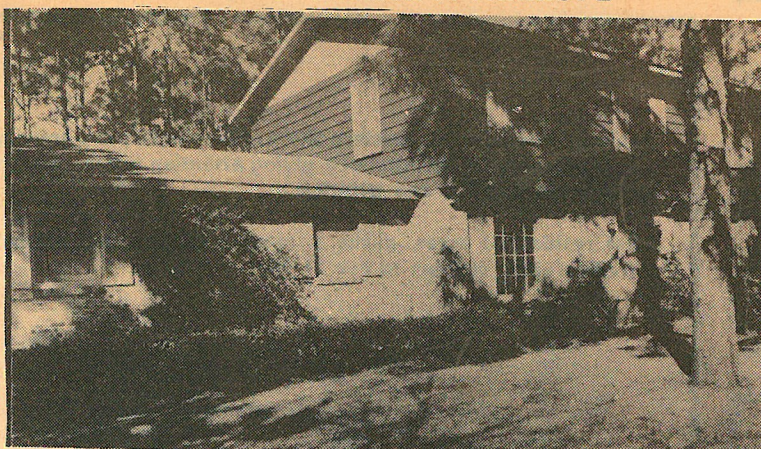
THESE BUILDINGS WERE MADE
WITH OUR BRICK.



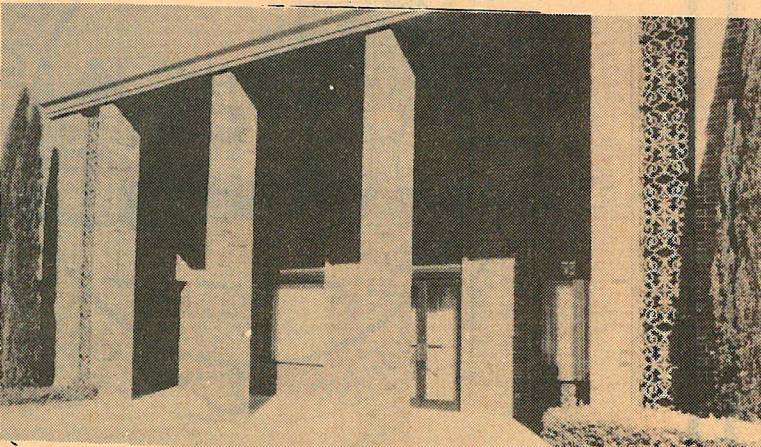
CITY OF DAPHNE



METHODIST CHURCH OF FAIRHOPE



RESIDENTIAL HOME

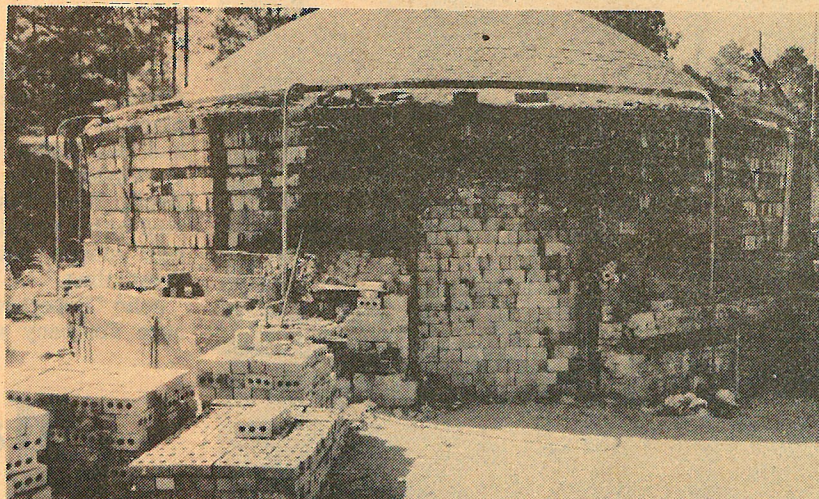


FIRST NATIONAL BANK

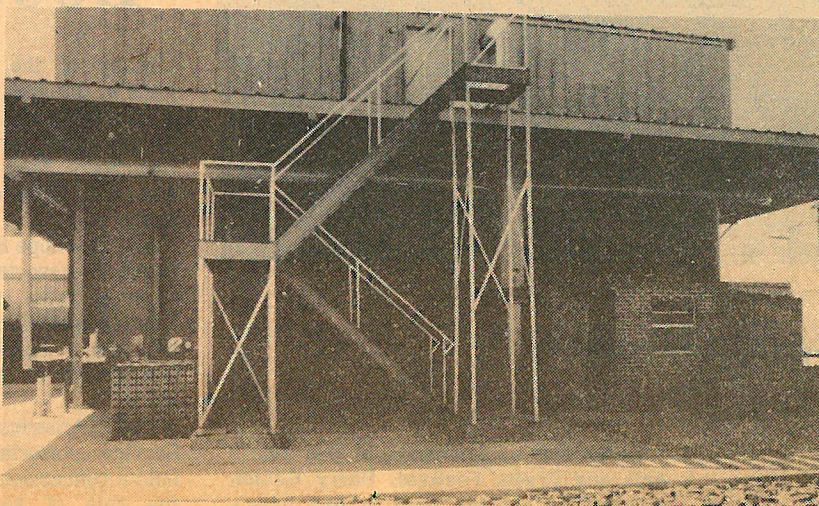
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OLD KILN



NEW KILN

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Your home can be a beautiful display that reflects those values so highly treasured in our progressive area. Speaking creatively, brick is more than just a building material. Its qualities appeal to the artisan in each of us who dreams of a home uniquely our own. Hence it inspires stability, efficiency, beauty and economy. Fairhope Clay Products now offers a larger variety of the best brick from our modern kiln plus faster service and lower prices...all direct to your job too. That's another reason why we say brick is a beautiful bargain.

Making Brick Since 1902

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Gaston Display

While busy as Chairman of this year's Arts and Crafts Festival, Barry Gaston will not be a participant in this year's show. He and wife Stevi plan to have an exhibit of their popular pottery and Copper enameling in the Hazel Council Real Estate window on Fairhope Avenue.

Daileys Plan Window Display

Downtown Fairhope is ablaze with window displays of all types. Naomi and Bob Dailey will have the window of the Fairhope Health Food Store decorated with a variety of their own martin houses and "rosmaling."

John Robertson Insurance Company will have

two paintings done by local famous artist Cleveland Woodward. "After the Storm" and "Irish Lake" will be on display.

Katherine Isbell, with wax rubbings will occupy a display position in the window of Richard Dunning's office, West Fairhope Avenue.

Many Food Booths Planned

Many of the organizations in the area will have booths for food and crafts. Among these are the St. Lawrence Altar Sodality who will have crafts for sale.

The Fairhope Single Tax Lessees Association will have a bake sale, and Youth Baseball Association will sell a variety of refreshments at their food stand.

The American Field Service Association will hold a concession stand for the sale of sandwiches, drinks and other goodies.

Patients at Villa Mercy Convalescent Center will be selling a variety of hand

made crafts in their booth on Fairhope Avenue.

The members of Beta Sigma Phi will hold a sale of baked goods all three days on the porch of the Eastern Shore Courier.

The Fairhope Garden Club will have plants for sale in their booth.

The Juniores, high school division of the Junior Women's Club will hold a donut sale and Junior Women members will sell baked goods.

The Daphne Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will be selling refreshments for show goers throughout the three days.

Macrame On Display

Macrame by Helene Jones will be on display at Bill's Dollar Store in Fairhope.

Clay Wind Chimes, much more

Clay wind chimes made by Margie Arceneaux of Cleveland, Ms. will be another of the interesting crafts to be displayed and sold during the show.

Pensacola residents Joyce Beebe and Monica Sweet will be selling tole

painting and miniatures in their exhibit.

JoAnne Brown and Diane Blaschak will have sugar eggs and dip and drape dolls for sale during the show.

Favorites of the recent Adult Recreation Center

Craft Show were E.M. and Mary Robertson with their quail egg jewelry. The couple will return to the Arts and Crafts Festival to bring their unique and beautiful art to sell. The couple is from Eight Mile.

IT'S SPRING AGAIN!

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1978**

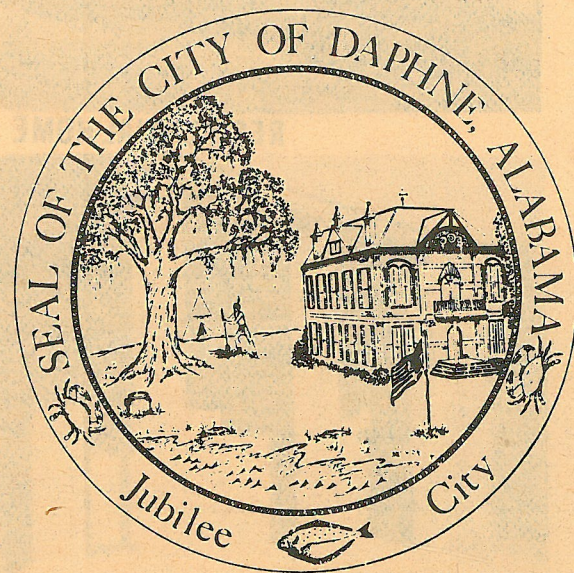
928-5400

•JAMES ANNAN •EVA FRALICK

•BEVERLY GREEN •DIANE FUCHSEN

Daphne, situated on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay is a growing community. The City is planning for the future by giving attention to administration, added Police and Fire Protection, and Utilities.

Quiet residential areas, parks, a modern library, and many family - oriented activities allow citizens to live at their own pace.



The Festa Italiana is held annually as part of the Arts and Crafts Festival. Held on Sunday of each year's Festival, the Festa is sponsored by the Altar Sodality of the Church of Christ the King. The Festa features a traditional Spaghetti Dinner, and booths offering Italian bread, baked goods, handwork and plants.

Clay City - One Of Area's Oldest Industries

A Family Industry

KAY NUZUM
DEBORAH UPTON

The first part of the following article was written by Kay Nuzum in 1972, the second part is an up-to-date look at Clay City by Deborah Upton.

Baldwin County has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources but few have been handled as skillfully and uniquely as the rich clay deposits lining the banks of Fish River at Clay City. From the picturesque kilns here, come the finished clay products of which the ingenious, industrious Bart Jennings, Jr. family is understandably proud.

Fairhope Clay Products, Inc. better known locally as Clay City, is located about seven miles due east of Point Clear. This family enterprise supplies building projects with a variety of clay products. Although 18 varieties of face brick are made, ten times as many of the simulated old brick are sold than any other. Patio brick, a solid type which takes longer to fire, is another popular one. A long, narrow Roman brick is the same size and shape as that made during the days of the Old Roman Empire. Clay City manufactures the only Roman brick in Alabama.

Fish River clays, ranging from the best brick clays to fine ceramic and pottery clays, are supposedly the largest clay deposits of their kind south of the Ohio River. Alabama Geological Survey Map No. 83 shows that clay resources of Baldwin County which crop out so abundantly on Fish River date back to the Miocene geological age.

It is from this rich depository of nature that clays are dug and transformed into brick, structural tile and sewer pipe at Clay City. Most clays are dug from a depth of three feet to depths of 40 to 50 feet - all within 200 feet of Fish River.

A Family Industry

Clay City is a sterling example of a family industry where the hearts of all its members and their employees are in the business. Bart Jennings, Jr. burns the kilns and casts an expert, fatherly eye over the entire "beehive" of activity. Number One son, Bart III, is in charge of productions. Number Two son, Ralph, (a decorated veteran of the Viet Nam Conflict) handles the sales.

Although Mother Beverly's station is the office, her lithe, willowy figure can be seen flitting about the plant wherever she may be needed, delivering messages, and handing out praise and encouragement

on her rounds. Besides being office-keeper and time-keeper, she is also house-keeper, and at times, grandchildren - keeper to grandsons: Bart IV, Bryan, and relevantly named Clay; and granddaughter, Alicia.

Everyone works at Clay City - even a herd of 30 goats which keep the compound clean by nibbling away at brush and bushes. "Dirt daubers", or pipe organ wasps, know where the action is, too. The old drying sheds are full of homes of these original potters. Occasionally a clay habitation of the rare potter wasp is found. This solitary wasp is an uncommon architect, fashioning its unique home into a jug-like abode.

Modernization And Automation

In 1968 the family got its heads together and realized they had to get bigger or get out of the clay products business.

"We obtained a small business loan, installed modern equipment and automation, and increased our production from 100,000 to 600,000 bricks per month regardless of weather conditions," explained Beverly Jennings.

"Pre-drying time has been reduced from six to eight weeks in the old drying sheds to only three days by our new method in the modern pre-drying areas. Bricks and tile are then baked at an average of 2300 degrees for approximately 100 hours in the five gas-fired, down-draft, beehive kilns," she continued.

"Being a small plant, we can copy any type of special brick as was done for the new First National Bank of Fairhope recently completed. Also, at the present time, we are furnishing a special face of brick for the addition to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Foley," Beverly proudly added.

1978

Since Kay Nuzum wrote her article in 1972 many changes have taken place at Clay City. For one, the fifth generation of Jennings', grandson - Bart Jennings IV, is working part-time this summer at Clay City.

The old beehive kilns are no longer used, except for special orders. They required too much energy to operate. The new main kiln holds 200,000 bricks and burns them for 48 hours at 2,000 degrees.

As of August 1, Clay City will be producing one million plus bricks a month, doubling the capacity of the yard.

Energy Crunch

"Capitol expansion and energy utilization is what

we are doing here at Clay City due to the energy crunch," explained Mike West, Manager at the Mobile office.

"We are doubling our production but not our use

of energy. For years the waste heat coming from the kiln has gone up a smoke stack, but now we have modernized and that waste heat is now being piped into the dryer, thus

speeding up the heat process. By saving the waste heat we are saving the gas normally used to heat the dryer. We are able to produce more bricks and use less energy," West added.

Mobile and Baldwin

Counties consume five million plus bricks a month. Clay City is able to handle 20 percent of that demand.

Clay City continues to be the largest industrial brick yard within a 150 mile radius.



Population Boom

The Eastern Shore is one of the largest growth centers in the "sunbelt south." The estimated 25,000 population two years ago is expected to rise to 50,000 by 1982, according to a study report released by South Central Bell telephone.

By 1990, the area will have an estimated 75,000 and by 2000, the population is expected to soar to 100,000.

The growth of the Eastern Shore as a residential community is due in part to the completion of the I-10 bridge spanning Mobile Bay. The new highway makes downtown Mobile accessible in a matter of minutes, compared with the traffic snarls and cutover problems on the old causeway which had outgrown the demand years ago.

The heavy industrial expansion of Mobile in the past several years has forced much of the residential growth over the Bay with Mobile's residential areas expanding farther and farther to the west.

Another major factor in the growth on the Eastern Shore are the large numbers of retirees who are seeking a quiet

residential area within a short distance to the convenience and activities of a city.

The Eastern Shore Chamber has worked closely with authors of several books on retirement who have listed the Fairhope area among the outstanding areas for retirement living.

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EASTERN SHORE SPORTING GOODS

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FAIRHOPE, AL



Selman Examines Corn Product



Grass Varieties Tested

Volunteer Firemen Serve Area Needs

Volunteer fire departments have been an integral part of the American way of life for many years. Today 86 percent of communities with fire departments utilize volunteers. There are more than 1.2 million persons serving as volunteers with these departments.

Volunteer Fire Departments along the Eastern Shore are Spanish Fort, Daphne, Belforest, Fish River, Barnwell and Fairhope.

The Fairhope Fire Department is the oldest of these having been organized in 1935 with Jack Titus serving as the first chief. Bill Funk followed him to become the department's second chief, with Les Bung serving as present chief.

Two early members of the Fairhope Department were Leo Keller and Harold Miller. Keller remembers his first major fire vividly. Foster pier had a number of 55 gallon oil drums on it with a barge containing fuel oil tied up alongside the pier. The drums caught fire and about the time the firemen arrived they started to

explode. As Miller and Keller were fighting the fire a nearby drum exploded and blew them both in the water. They were badly burned but by being blown overboard away from the fire their lives were probably saved.

Daphne's Fire Department is well equipped and Fire Chief Johnny Baggett is proud of the caliber of volunteers he has available. Through his leadership the men have been able to attend various types of training classes

which teach the latest techniques in fire fighting and life saving.

The younger volunteer departments are Belforest with Roger Plemmons serving as fire chief, Fish River-Marlow with Bill Leavitt as Chief, Barnwell

Community with Ed Dean as Fire Chief, and Spanish Fort-Lake Forest with Bobby Wilson serving as Fire Chief.

These departments are manned by volunteers from each community and depend upon contributions

of businesses and individuals to continue in existence. For this reason all chiefs encourage local contributions be made and that anyone interested in serving as a volunteer firemen to contact the fire chief in his area.

U.S.S. Alabama

No tour of Baldwin County's historic attractions is complete without a visit to Battleship Park located just across the Mobile County line on the causeway which links the eastern and western shores of Mobile Bay.

Sitting in 15 feet of sand with all her tanks filled with fresh water for stability, the Battleship U.S.S. Alabama lies anchored as the centerpiece of an historic collection of military hardware, a tribute to all Alabamians who served in World War II and the Korean Conflict.

The battleship was brought to Mobile after a statewide campaign which raised \$1,000,000 to preserve the state's namesake as a permanent exhibit. The drive to save the vessel followed a routine Navy announcement that the WWII-vintage battlewagon was to be sold for scrap.



Daphne Firemen Are Examples Of Volunteers Serving Eastern Shore

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A&D Pottery To Be Part Of Arts And Crafts

Many artists and craftsmen are coming to Fairhope this weekend for the 28th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival sponsored by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce.

But just as many artists and craftsmen are always here, and sell their works all year long. Most are individual craftsmen who sell their work through a few craft shops.

Others, like A and D Pottery, a subsidiary of the Fairhope Clay Products, produces work on a commercial basis all year long.

The pottery, which uses a giant beehive kiln, operates near the site of the original Clay City, along the banks of the Fish River

near Marlow.

Founded in early 1976 by Ralph Brown Jennings, great-grandson of the founder of Clay City, the pottery produces the traditional wares using the same clays as were used 100 years ago.

The A and D craftsmen produce jugs, crocks, churns, and other functional items like those used in the mid 1900's. The original pottery along the banks of Fish River was destroyed and rebuilt twice before it was ended by a third hurricane.

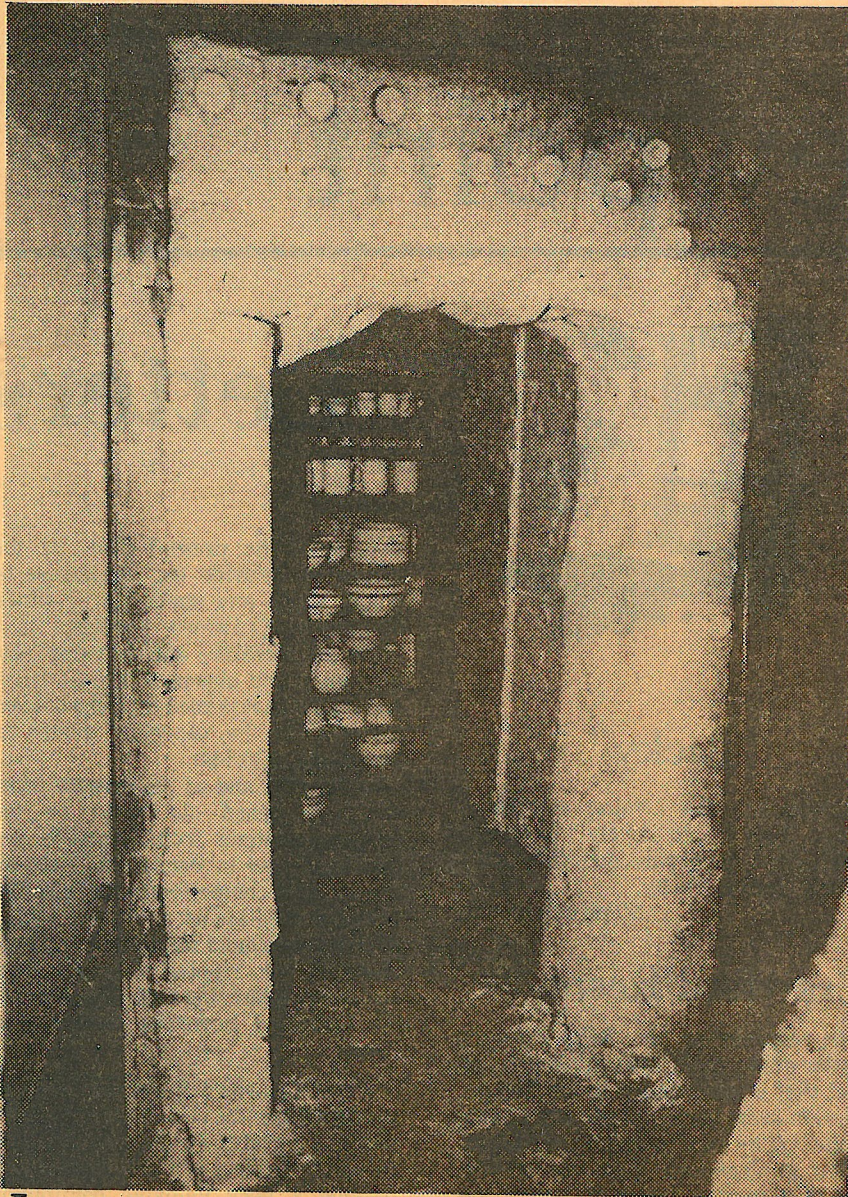
The business was started again in 1943. This time, with more foresight and a more modern approach.

The pottery was con-

structed further from the river, and a press pot machine was purchased that was capable of turning out 800 flower pots an hour.

This time, however, production was halted by the successful brick business of Clay City.

But it is back and Jennings will display his wares during the festival. Visit their booth on Fairhope Avenue.



*In
The Kiln*

The raw pottery at A&D Pottery is placed into the giant beehive kiln to be baked.

Eastern Shore Courier

Comment, Viewpoint

Reflections
On The Bay

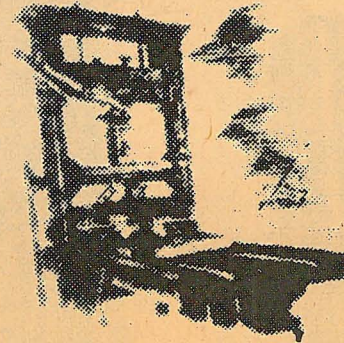
Steve Hart

The Celebration Of Arts And Crafts

in at Arts and
events that
the map, and
to foster the
Shore than
few years.

of thought and expression in which
talent and art flourish that we
acknowledge each year through the
Arts and Crafts Festival.

Fairhope's national reputation is not
unwarranted. Look around you and you
can see that.



"Tacky"

Concerning the coming of "Judy, Judy, Judy's" to lovely downtown Fairhope I have only one comment: Tacky, Tacky, Tacky.

Stephanie Hardin

Crawford Response

In response to Mr. Robb Parker's Letter of March 13, 1980, alluding to the fact that in comparison to the Tampa, Florida area, our residents were being ripped off by local reclamation centers.

We at Crawford Beverage operate our reclamation center at a very low

Letters

volume at the present time. At the center we provide two employees to count, weigh and stack all reclaimed aluminum. Crawford Beverage provides the necessary space to store this aluminum and also provides the truck and trailer that is used to transport this material to the recycling center in Pensacola, Florida.

In the past and at the present time, we have based our price on the recommendations from Reynolds Recycling Center in Pensacola. Also, we are in direct competition with Reynolds in this immediate area. We feel paying 25 cents per pound for aluminum is not classified as ripping off any local customers who bring their aluminum to the Crawford Beverage Reclamation Center.

We at Crawford Beverage Distributors are not in the reclamation business to make a profit. At this time we think we can take a loss and at the same time provide a very valuable community

Weekly Special

A family tradition

BY MARION VALENTINO
Port City Writer

It isn't the kind of place you'd want to wear a new pair shoes, especially if it's been raining . . . but if you're searching for brick to match that in your 50-year-old-house, then it's the greatest.

Seven miles south of Fairhope, at the very end of the road, is the Fairhope Clay Products Inc., family business of Bart and Beverly Jennings and their son, Ralph. In fact, the raw materials for making the rectangular building blocks also come from their property — dug from along a two-mile stretch of Fish River.

Commonly called Clay City, the company dates back to 1902 when Beverly's grandfather, Frank Brown, began digging the gray potter's clay to make brick.

There have been physical changes since the days when the brick were made in a wooden mold, four at the time, and dried in the sun. More efficient equipment — such as a gas-fired kiln insulated with spun clay and one of four in the country at the time it was installed in 1968, has improved the process, but basically brick making remains unchanged.

Clay is still gouged from deposits said to be the largest south of Ohio. Today a dragline lifts the huge chunks which were dug out by hand in the olden days.



The raw stuff from which bricks are made

center cone, overtopping euges slightly to give petal effect and pressing pieces together at base to resemble flower. For "open" blossom, bend gumdrop petals outward from center cone. For larger blossoms, use additional gumdrops and add the pieces to blossom. For leaves, cut flattened gumdrops into desired leaf shapes.

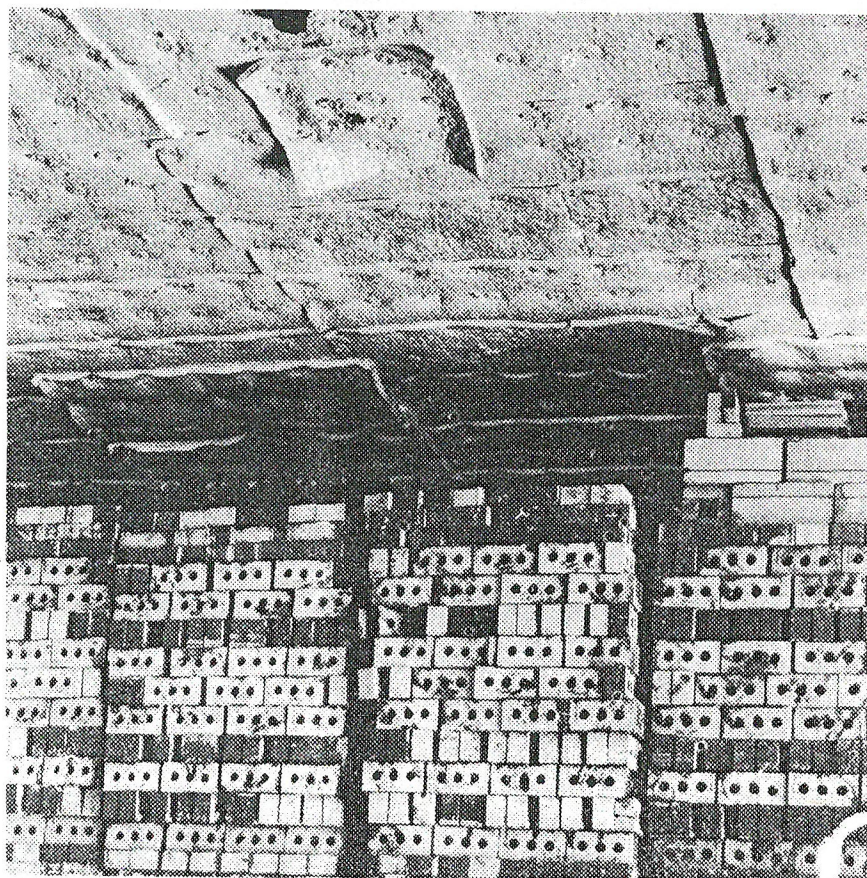
ange gumdrop; attach to head for beak. Use brown decorator icing to make eyes.
CAKES
FROSTED RAINBOW CUP-
1 package (2-layer size) yellow cake mix or pudding-included cake mix
1 package (3 oz.) fruit flavor gelatin, any flavor

four ingredients to prepare. Even Barbecued Chicken is just the ticket. While it bakes, there's time to set the table and clean up the kitchen so there's less to do when the meal is done.
To begin this recipe, show beginner cooks how to rinse chicken in cool water and dry with paper towels.

prepare dishes is possible.
Meat and poultry don't necessarily need lengthy cooking to develop great flavor. For flavor that penetrates deep into food while cooking and imparts a unique, savory flavor in a short time, a good prepared barbecue sauce is a great cooking shortcut. Kraft-brand barbecue sauce has a snappy seasoned tomato base that

The Jenningses pride themselves on their ability to take this material and duplicate many old patterns and shapes of brick. This know-how led to the company's producing the some 350,000 brick used in the construction of Fort Conde.

Common brick generally is pink or brown. The vast array of other colors and tones is achieved by chemicals. Manganese, for example, gives brick the appearance of being soot covered. Lime produces an old look while fire clay gives reddish tones. In combination, many variations can be achieved.



Bricks, 200,000, await firing of kiln

These extras — singularly or in combination, are stroked or dusted onto the ribbon of warm clay — long, unbroken — as it's extruded from the brick maker. The column, moved by conveyor, is cut into 18 bricks by the fine wires of the cutting machine.

Clay requires a period of curing. After the huge chunks are dug from the ground, twin augers — resembling giant corkscrews, pulverize it and then it's stored in the clay shed. When needed, clay is moved into a hopper where a single auger grinds some more and air is removed as it passes through a vacuum chamber.

As the clay comes from the machine, this is

the point when various colors and textures can be applied. Sharp-pointed rollers sweeping across the top of the clay give a rough texture prior to the individual bricks being cut. Other finishes or textures can be achieved by similar methods.

Once cut, the bricks are stacked on pallets and pushed along a rail system into the drying sheds. Approximately three weeks are required for the curing process. This includes 72 hours in the drying shed where temperatures range between 200 and 300 degrees and then another 96 in the kiln with temperatures over 2,000 degrees. After the cooling period, the bricks, 105 of them, are stacked and secured by

(Please turn to Pg. 16)



Wheel-thrown clay pottery


Sun 1-5pm, Mon - Sat 9-6pm

Pottery sites hold pieces to Baldwin's past

BIG BEAUTIFUL BALDWIN, June 28-29, 2000 , Page 3

BY VALARIE WEBB
STAFF WRITER

were stacked at dockside. In that day, before refrigeration,



BIG BEAUTIFUL BALDWIN, June 28-29, 2000 , Page 3

BY VALARIE WEBB
STAFF WRITER

You're calm. You're collected. Your palms are dry and your smile radiates confidence as Regis Philbin leans in close during the final seconds of "Who Wants to be a Historian?" to read your million-dollar question.

"Just a century ago, more than one third of Baldwin County's total population was employed in a single industry. What was it?"

Fishing? No, no – farming. It has to be farming. Surely if there had ever been a local industry bigger than farming, it couldn't have vanished without a trace in only a hundred years. Your final answer is farming, of course.

Sorry.

But even if you had polled the audience or phoned a well-informed friend, it's unlikely they would have known that according to a Mobile newspaper account written around the end of the last century, one out of three Baldwin residents worked in the thriving local pottery business. Almost as quickly as it could be dug from the riverbanks and gullies of the Eastern Shore, stoneware clay

ware stacked at dockside. In that day, before refrigeration and canned foods, clay was king.

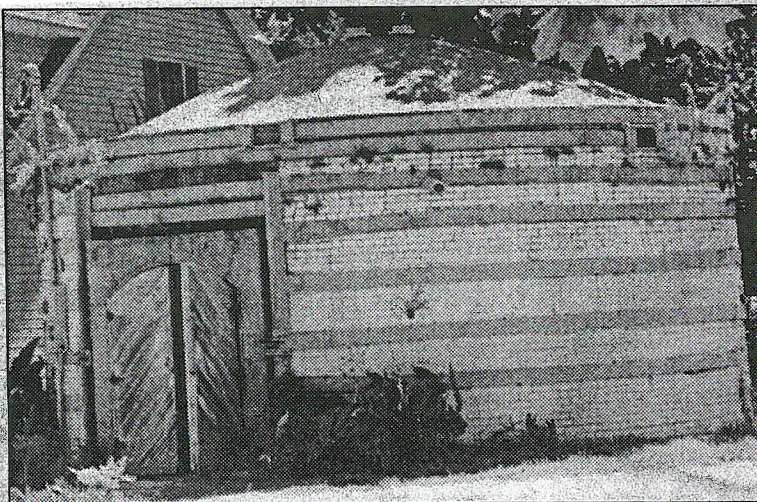
Now, in the space of a few generations, Baldwin County's pottery industry has vanished like smoke up a kiln chimney. Rapid development has all but erased the footprints the old-time potters left behind; the old pottery sites are disappearing under the foundations of new homes almost as fast as archaeologists can catalog them.

"We are working to document any sites or collections that still exist," said Bonnie Gums of the University of South Alabama Center for Archaeological Studies. "But other yet unknown pottery sites are probably threatened by construction of housing developments. Documentation of the sites could be the last chance to record these remains before they are plowed under by bulldozers."

Gums and a team of USA archaeology students have spent hundreds of hours studying Baldwin's historic pottery sites. A 140-page report authored by Gums, *Made of Alabama Clay: Historic Potteries on Mobile Bay*, will be released this fall. Including photographs, maps and transcripts of interviews, the ambi-



The beehive kiln behind Tom Jones' Fish River pottery studio is part of a historic brickmaking site that dates back to the Indian wars. Jones is pictured holding an Albany-glazed jug made by a 10th century Baldwin County potter.



Use it or lose it: historic preservation can take many forms. Instead of tearing down this old Clay City brick kiln, owner Ralph Jennings turned the structure into an unusual office for his business, Fairhope Brick and Tile.

was formed into jugs, crocks and charcoal braziers. Busy pottery "mills" with cavernous drying sheds and humpbacked brick kilns dotted the countryside. A continuous bumper crop of crockery crossed the bay to Mobile's commercial market aboard schooners and steamships; vintage photographs show vast columns of

tious project spans 180 years of local pottery production. All but a handful of the old sites have been eradicated now, but Gums' research describes them in detail, outlining an important part of the county's history.

Following the discovery of a historic kiln site in Montrose – uncovered by homebuilders and

soon after destroyed as the house was built over it – USA's archaeology department received a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission to conduct extensive research and produce a survey with a threefold purpose: to identify the old-time potters who worked at each site, to evaluate the archaeological remains and to establish the potential threat of destruction.

Though property owners sometimes fear that reporting a site on their land will cause problems, Gums said those fears are groundless. "We have a lot of development going on in the area, and people think that archaeologists are going to come in and shut down their construction. That never happens. In fact, there just isn't a lot of site preservation."

The first thing Gums does when a historic pottery site is discovered is to register its existence in the Alabama Site File, located in Moundville.

"The site gets an official number," she said, "and contents of the Site File are not public information, so people can't just call and ask for the location. It's only accessible to archaeologists and researchers."

Registering the site does nothing to actually protect it from

being looted or destroyed. "We try to encourage public and private stewardship. That means property owners making a commitment to preserve, not destroy, sites on their property," Gums said.

The USA archaeology department has scored some successes in their efforts to convince landowners to embrace preservation. A 19th-century pottery site operated by German-born potter Jacob Wingender was reported to the survey team last year by current property owner Rob Leatherbury.

When a feature story, "Lost World of Baldwin Potters," appeared in Gulf Coast Newspapers in July, Leatherbury read about Gums' search for an undocumented site on the Fish River. For decades, his family had known about the old site near their waterfront home.

The USA team visited the site, mapped it, located the remnants of a wood-fired kiln and collected samples from the abundant supply of broken jugs that litter the property.

Despite the fact that it is located in someone's backyard, the Wingender site has remained undisturbed – a rare situation. "Unfortunately, many people view sites as an opportunity to help themselves to the artifacts," Gums said. "Property owners tend to let

people dig up whatever they want.

Preservation is even more difficult on public lands, where sites can be remote and impossible to monitor. "You could be walking along the beach and discover a shell midden, which is pretty common in this region," Gums said.

"People think nothing of picking up these artifacts and taking them home. They think they are saving it, but that is the worst thing you can do. You interpret an artifact from its surroundings. Remove it and 10 years later you'll have no idea where it came from. The context is gone. It turns into just an object."

Archaeologists aren't just conducting research and excavating the past anymore; they are also actively involved with public education.

"Our hope for preservation really lies with the younger generation," Gums said.

She and fellow staff members are involved in "Project Archaeology," a program for public school teachers. The seminar covers archaeological basics and will include a field trip to a site where teachers will dig and screen artifacts, and do related lab work.

"This is one way we can share the importance of preservation," Gums said.

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