

CITY OF FAIRHOPE

1908 ~ 2008

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GLORIOUS FOURTH EDITION

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CARRY ON TRADITION
PAGE 17

RESIDENT'S FILM LEGACY
CONTINUES TO ENCHANT
PAGE 20

A SUPPLEMENT OF GULF COAST NEWSPAPERS

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of Ministry*

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1908-2008

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Dr. Jerry Henry, Pastor

City has history of celebrating Independence Day

By Sheila Propp

Courier Editor
courier@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

The city of Fairhope is prepared to mark the Independence Day of its centennial year with traditional fanfare.

The north end of Fairhope Municipal Park will be available throughout the day for informal family fun and will remain open until all parking spaces are filled. Refreshments will be provided throughout the day by Foster Concessions.

The south end of the park as well as Knoll Park and Henry George Park will be available to spectators for the evening's festivities. Lawn chairs and blankets are advised for comfort. Picnickers are welcome.

The Baldwin Pops Band will present an Independence Day Concert, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Henry George Park on the bluff. A variety of patriotic music will be played before and during the fireworks display.

From 6 to 9 p.m., the Downtown Merchants will be selling beverages.

Limited handicap parking will be available near the fountain, but anyone wishing to park in this area is encouraged to come early and stay until the fireworks show is completed. Those unable to attend the beachside festivities can listen to the Baldwin Pops at home. WABF 1220 AM will carry a live broadcast of the band concert. Those who gather at the

bay or on the bluff are encouraged to bring along a battery-powered radio and tune it to WABF for an enhanced listening experience.

The Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department is in charge of the pyrotechnics. Their show of light and sound will begin around 9.

A TRADITION OF CELEBRATING

While the corporate traditions of celebrating the Fourth of July have changed over the years in Fairhope, residents of the community have always celebrated the day in some fashion.

The annual tradition was well entrenched in 1908 when residents first marked the nation's birth during its incorporation year. In those days, a full schedule of activities was usually planned, and 1908 was no exception. The holiday fell on a Saturday that year and the festivities opened with a parade.

According to the Fairhope Courier of July 3, 1908, two parade form-up areas were designated. Magnolia Avenue east of Section Street for the Kallathumpians and three wagons. The wagons carried 13 young ladies who represented the 13 original states or grants as well as Miss Columbia and Uncle Sam. The 10:30 a.m. parade route was down Fairhope Avenue to the beach park. At the top of the bluff, the Uniform Rank of the Knights



Photo courtesy of the city of Fairhope

Residents gather on the bluff overlooking the pier, enjoying picnics and each other's company as they wait for the Fourth of July Baldwin Pops concert to begin.

of Pythias from Mobile were to join the parade as it made its way down the bluff to the bay.

At 11, a formal program was planned that included the singing of "America" by a male

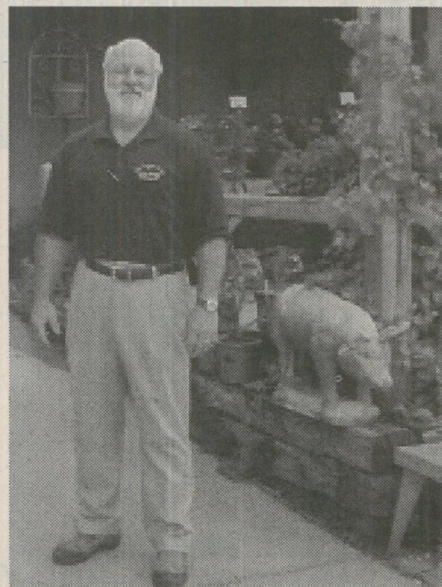
quartet from Mobile, a welcome by Mayor Greeno, a reading of the Declaration of

Independence, music, an oration by U.S. District Attorney William H. Armbract, "The Star

Spangled Banner" and a flag drill by 16 Fairhope young ladies under the direction of

SEE FOURTH, PAGE 34

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Fairhope, AL

CITY OF FAIRHOPE CENTENNIAL

GLORIOUS FOURTH SUMMER EDITION

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Photo courtesy of the city of Fairhope

Troop 47 continues 80-year legacy of community service

By Sheila Propp

Courier Editor

courier@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

Fairhope's volunteers come in all sizes, shapes and ages. Troop 47 of the Boy Scouts of America, located in Fairhope, has been serving its community since 1928.

In December of 1927, application was made to the National Council of Boy Scouts of America to establish Troop 27 in the town of Fairhope. Its initial roster contained 29 names: 11 12-year-olds, 10 13-year-olds, four 14-year-olds, three 15-year-olds and one 17-year-old.

Over the past 80 years, many Fairhope area men have spent their adolescent years involved in Troop 47, moving through Scouting ranks: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class and Eagle Scout.

"After they grow up, they are still active to a degree," said Scoutmaster Seth Peden, who has served in that capacity since 1993. "One came to a meeting Monday night. He has been out of scouting for six or seven years," Peden

"Less than 2 percent of all scouts make Eagle Scout because it is very hard. Eagle Scouts stand out in the community, just look at our Eagle Scout roster."

— Troop 47
Scoutmaster Seth Peden

said. "He saw there was a meeting and he just stopped by. That happens about every other month."

Some of the young men in the in the troop have completed the Eagle Scout requirements, and in doing so have left a lasting legacy of service in the town through their Eagle projects.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in scouting and "those who earn this rank learn strong leadership skills as well as duty to community and country," said Peden. This spring, Troop 47 awarded its 100th and 101st Eagle Scout awards. The troop actually has 102 Eagle Scouts, but the cere-

mony has not been held for one member, although he has completed all the requirements.

"Less than 2 percent of all scouts make Eagle Scout because it is very hard," Peden said. "Eagle Scouts stand out in the community, just look at our Eagle Scout roster."

SEE TROOP 47, PAGE 33

Eagle Scout Rucker Staggers recently completed a pergola, his Eagle Scout project, at the Fairhope Public Library. The pergola is also home to a sensory garden funded by the Fairhope Garden Club. Staggers, a 2008 graduate of Fairhope High School, is a member of Troop 47 in Fairhope. He plans to attend Auburn University this fall. Troop 47 has been in Fairhope for more than 80 years, and Rucker is the 101st Eagle Scout from that troop. Pictured, from the left, are Fairhope Library Director Ilse Krick, Staggers and Jennifer Fidler, city of Fairhope Public Works director.

Congratulations Fairhope!

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An Eagle Scout reflects on his affiliation with Troop 47

By Brantley Ditto

Eagle Scout, Troop 47
Special to Gulf Coast Newspapers

After moving to Fairhope from the Memphis, Tenn. area at the age of 15, I was presented with a difficult

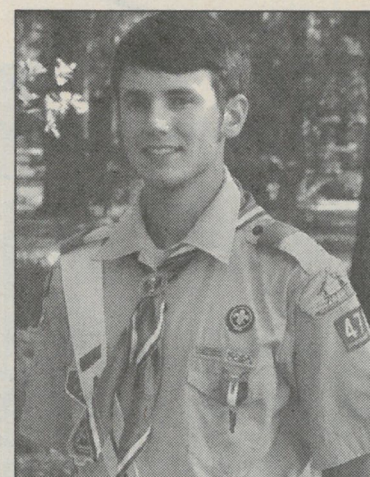
task. I had been active in scouts since first grade with the same group of guys in Tennessee. Suddenly, with my sophomore year of high school approaching, I was forced to find a new troop and learn to adapt to it.

I found Troop 47 through fellow scouts at my new school, but my first visit at this highly acclaimed troop was, quite honestly, overwhelming. Coming from my troop in Memphis where 12 boys at a meeting was a good

turnout, the 70-plus member troop with twice as many adults almost seemed more than I could handle. But it wasn't long before I became a member of the great Troop 47 of Fairhope.

Moving from one troop to another can be devastating to a scout's career and journey toward achieving Eagle, which is scouting's highest rank. In this regard, Troop 47 proved to be a blessing. They were very accepting of new members, and it wasn't long before I felt at home in the troop, and the other guys and adult leaders became like family.

Over the three years I was a youth member of Troop 47, I was offered many leadership, high adventure and service opportunities that I might never have experienced with another troop. With the encouragement of my brothers in scouting, an amazing group of adult leaders and one of the most unique and genuine scoutmasters I have ever met, I



Eagle Scout Brantley Ditto

was able to beat the odds and achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in early 2007.

Troop 47 offers a lot of opportunities and experiences to its scouts that go above and beyond the average scouting experience. The troop has a very active roll in the area's Order of the Arrow

SEE DITTO, PAGE 32

TROOP 47 EAGLE SCOUTS TO DATE

Leslie Allen (1945)
Will Anders (2000)
Brad Badinger (1992)
Jay Boyington (1980)
Wade Bradley (1999)
Harris Brabston (2005)
Will Brabston (1997)
Zachary Brandon (2003)
David Brudi (1976)
Jared Budlong (2001)
James Burch (2008)
William Butterworth IV (1976)
Trey Chadwick (1996)
Brandon Chapman (2001)
Trent Coley (2007)
Tommy Cotton (1945)
Whit Cramer (1946)
Samuel Crosby (1997)
Mitchell Dantzler (1973)
Anthony Davis (1975)
Jake Davis (2005)
Joey Davis (1999)
Charlie Dean (1984)
D.J. Dillard (2003)
Brantley Ditto (2007)
Will Dorriety (2006)
Fletcher Eaton (1992)
Stewart Eaton (1992)
Chris Evans (1999)
Charles (Mickey) Feltus (1952)
Dennis Fisk (1954)
Michael Fuqua (2001)
Philip Gibbs (1978)
Robert (Bob) Gilmore (1950)

Jason Halbert (1994)
Marion Heddon (1931)
David Hermecz (1972)
Hunter Hill (1996)
Rickard Hershberger (1945)
James Hollingsworth (1972)
Chris Hutchison (2003)
John Jackson (1978)
Michael Johnson (2007)
Erik Jorgensen (2004)
Jason Keenan (2000)
Scotty Keenan (2002)
Robert Keeney (1931)
Drew King (1998)
Patrick King (1994)
Milton (Mickey) Ladd (1997)
Justin Laughlin (1988)
Paul Lawrence (2001)
Will Mahler (2005)
Ross Malugani (2004)
George Martin (1945)
Ludlow Martin (1945)
John Mason (1968)
Ronnie Maury (1953)
Worth McCue (1953)
Timothy McKeown (2002)
Jeff McKenzie (1994)
Brady McLaughlin (2005)
David Meiselbach (1976)
Andre Mitchell (1998)
Mark Montgomery (1975)
Jerry Nelson (1952)
Walter Newman (1952)
Carlton Neimeyer (1953)

Mike Odom (1983)
Walter Peckham (1977)
Jeffrey Peden (1995)
Bryan Pennington (1992)
Alan Perfect (1982)
Matthew Perkins (1997)
Willie Phillips (1996)
Harry Pond (1952)
Michael Ponder (1952)
Michael J. Quinn (1968)
Frank Rider (1976)
Witt Ruffin (1997)
Ian Rupp (2005)
Jeremy Skinner (2003)
Frank Smith (1999)
Jonathon Smith (1998)
Mark Snow (1978)
Ronald Snyder (1993)
Charles William Spaht (1998)
Jeff Stacy (2002)
Rucker Staggers (2008)
Andy Stokes (1955)
George Strachan III (1978)
Carter Terral (2007)
James Thomas (1952)
Paul Todd (1952)
Seth Walden (2001)
Noel Walton (1999)
Fred Watkins Jr. (1967)
George Whitlock (2000)
Robert Wilmer (1945)
Bryan Wood (2004)
Clifford Wright (2006)
John Zimmerman (1984)



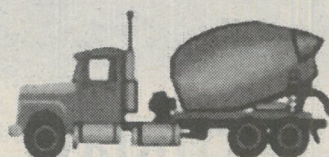
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FAIRHOPE CHURCHES IN 1908 & TODAY

Fairhope Christian Church



Photo courtesy of the Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

Fairhope Christian Church, about 1901.

The town's first church

Staff Report

Fairhope Christian Church was organized on Sept. 8, 1896. It was Fairhope's first congregation.

Initially, services were held in the homes and businesses of members, but on May 17, 1901, the first church building was dedicated at the corner of Church and St. James streets.

The church moved to its current site, 349 Fairwood Ave., in 1961.



Sheila Propp/Staff Photo

Fairhope Christian Church today, 349 Fairwood Ave.

This article is from the Nov. 20, 1908 Fairhope Courier:

"Rev. Eugene R. Clarkson arrived last Saturday evening and on Sunday began his pastorate with the local Christian Church.

Mr. Clarkson, still quite a young man—even boyish-looking—was 10 years younger when he before officiated in a like capacity, for it has been so long since he was with us.

Since then, Mr. Clarkson

has had pastorates in Kentucky, Oklahoma and California and done evangelistic work in adjoining states. The years have been years of advancement and development for him, as those who heard him 10 years ago have only to hear him now to appreciate. He is a fluent and pleasing speaker, with a liberal attitude toward sociological and economic problems. We believe his pastorate will prove acceptable to the congregation and the community.

In the course of a pleasant call at the Courier office, Mr. Clarkson said that his observations in all the states he has visited, during the past 10 years had convinced him that no part of the country offered greater advantages than southern Alabama and Georgia and northern Florida. California, he thought greatly over-estimated, both as to climate and agricultural resources, in neither respect the equal of the gulf coast country."

From one centenarian to another . . .



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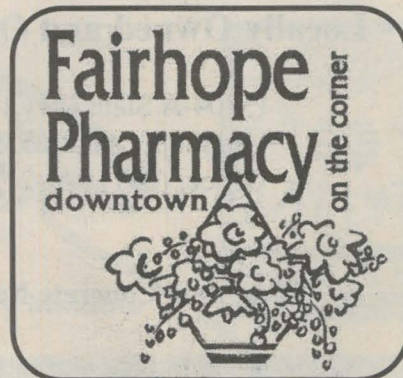
Happy 100th Birthday!

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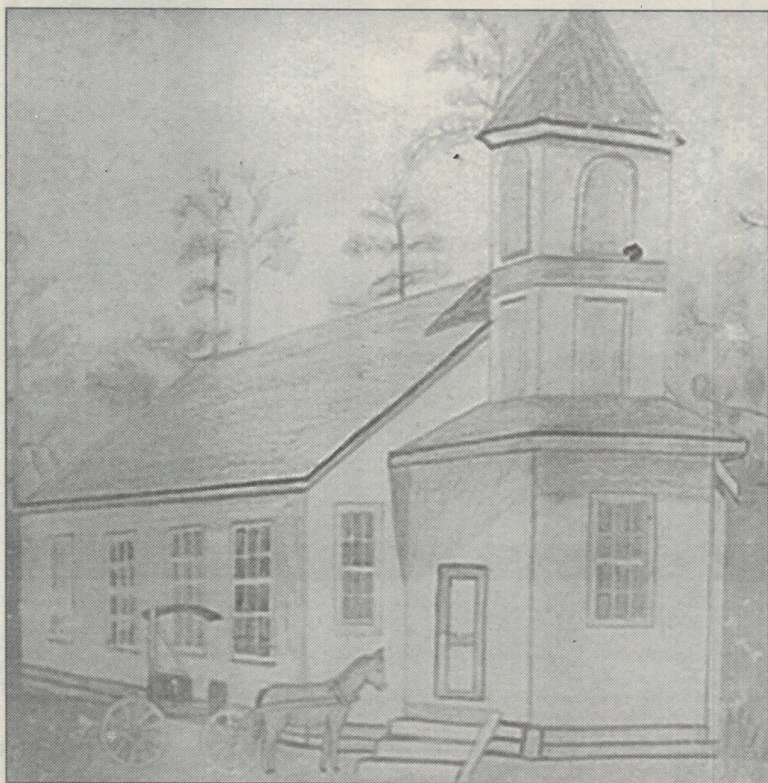
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FAIRHOPE CHURCHES IN 1908 & TODAY



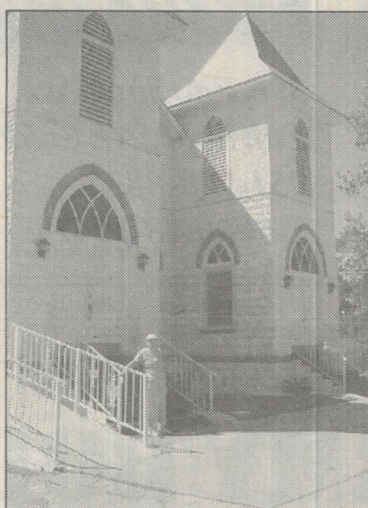
File photo

The sketch above by Twin Beech member Eleanor Harpe was drawn from a photo of the last frame building in which church members met. Harpe stands in the picture below.

Twin Beech AME Zion

Staff Report

This church, which will mark its 141st anniversary in September, began in 1867 with brush arbor meetings near the bay and was called Zion Chapel. Rev. Charles Lee was pastor. The group built a frame structure near the arbor between two beech trees whose branches intertwined. The congregation continued to worship at this site, rebuilding or adding on to their wooden church two or three times. In 1925, a new church was built at the congregation's present location, and the church was renamed Twin Beech AME Zion Church. It is located on a road that also bears its name, Twin Beech Road.

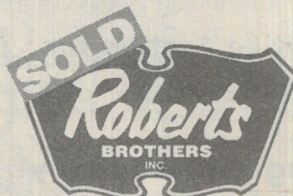


File photo

Today, Twin Beech African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is located at 6664 Twin Beech Road.

Congratulations Fairhope!
100 Years

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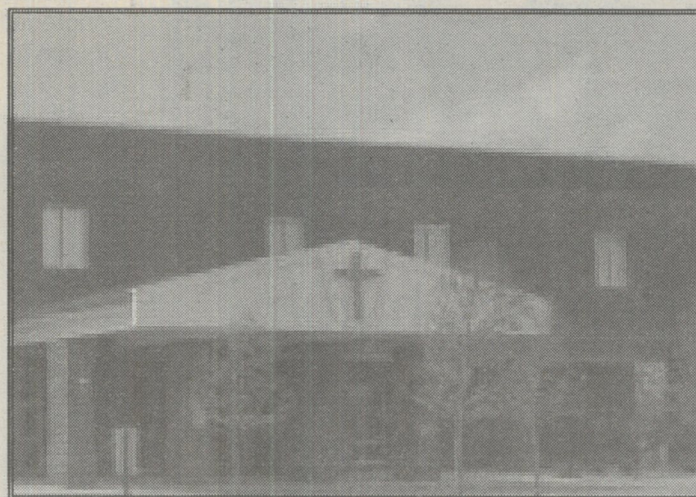
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10:15 am..... Worship
4:30 pm..... AWANA
4:45 pm..... Home Small Groups

WEDNESDAY

6:30 pm..... Jr. High Student Worship
6:30 pm..... Home Prayer Groups
7:30 pm..... Sr. High Student Worship

Sharing Life and Purpose with
Our Community

FAIRHOPE CHURCHES IN 1908 & TODAY



File Photo

Today, First Baptist Church is located at 300 S. Section St.

First Baptist Church

Staff Report

On March 8, 1908, a small group of Baptists secured a piece of property from the Fairhope Single Tax Corp. The property, on which the group hoped to build a church, was located at the corner of St. James and Summit streets. The building was erected, and the church was named First Baptist Church.

In 1920, this property was sold to St. James Episcopal Church.

Now in its sixth sanctuary, the First Baptist congregation has been located at 300 S. Section St. since 1956.

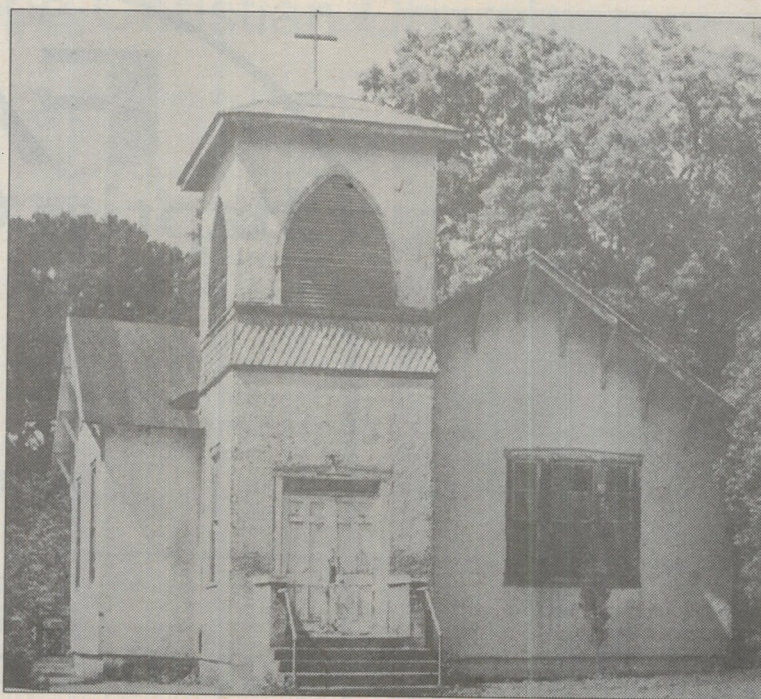


Photo courtesy of First Baptist Church

The above structure was the first building erected by the congregation of First Baptist Church in 1908-1909.

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Photo courtesy of the city of Fairhope

Pictured is Fairhope Centennial artist Ron Thomson whose artwork is featured on one of the panels.

A brush with the past coming to downtown Fairhope in August

Submitted by Sherry Sullivan

The Eastern Shore Art Center featured "A Brush with the Past" at the First Friday Artwork in April as part of Fairhope's Centennial celebration. Twelve local artists (Fairhope's Centennial Artist) took old photographs of Fairhope and painted them on large wooden panels. The panels were displayed at the Eastern Shore Art Center throughout the month of

April and will hang in downtown Fairhope in August and September.

Participating artists include Susan Alsup, Pat Buttarazzi, Debbie Kingrea, Bill Harrison, Stacey Howell, Phyllis Horne with Bayside Academy students, Nancy Raia/Michael Johnson, Ron Thomson, Mark Will, Shawn Johnson with Fairhope Middle School and Felicia Olds with Fairhope High School students.

Arts and Crafts

From the Nov. 13, 1908 Courier:

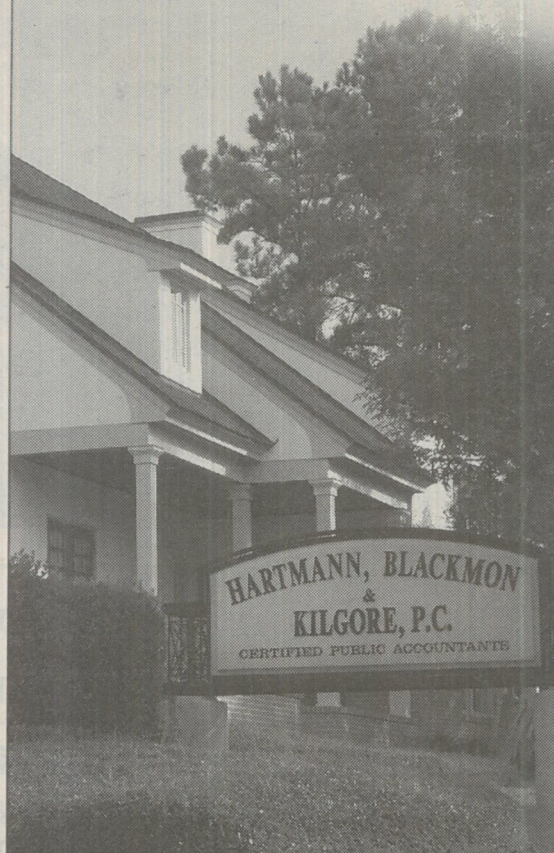
"The Arts and Crafts Society held a sale yesterday afternoon at the studio of Mrs. E.P. Smith on Church St. ... There was also on display a charming collection of Miss Kile's artistic photography, colored and uncolored, which attracted much attention and from which sales were made. Mrs. Smith's own work in painting, pastel and sculpture, which the occasion afforded, were also much appreciated by those who gathered. Mrs. Smith is the latest edition to the ranks of Fairhope's "interesting" people — interesting for what they do."

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CENTENNIAL EVENT: INCORPORATION DAY CONCERT



Photos courtesy of the city of Fairhope

Joe Riemer conducts the Baldwin Pops concert given at Henry George Park on the bluff. The concert, a centennial celebration sponsored by the city of Fairhope, was held at 6:30 p.m., April 25.

The 2008 Dogwood Trail was represented at the Incorporation Day event. From the left are Maids Taylor Donze and Sydney Petite. Residents got comfortable in their lawn chairs, reading and visiting as they waited the music to start.

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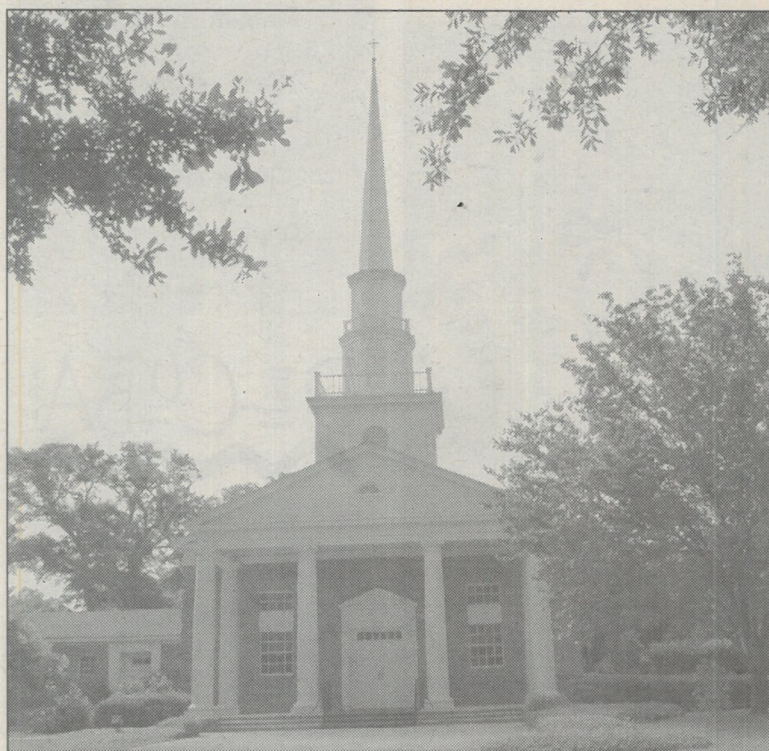
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FAIRHOPE CHURCHES IN 1908 & TODAY



Mike Odom/Staff Photo

Today, Trinity Presbyterian is located at 545 S Mobile St.

Trinity Presbyterian

Staff Report

In 1908, an outreach ministry of Government Street Presbyterian Church had been working in Fairhope for four years. A small Bible study group met during the summer months at the Mobile church's pavilion overlooking Mobile Bay and in the homes of various members.

The group continued to increase and in 1919 began meeting in an open-air tabernacle located on Mobile Street and Fig Avenue. This ministry would grow and mature over the years until it became a separate congregation — Trinity Presbyterian Church. The congregation built its first permanent building at the site, an education building, in 1966.



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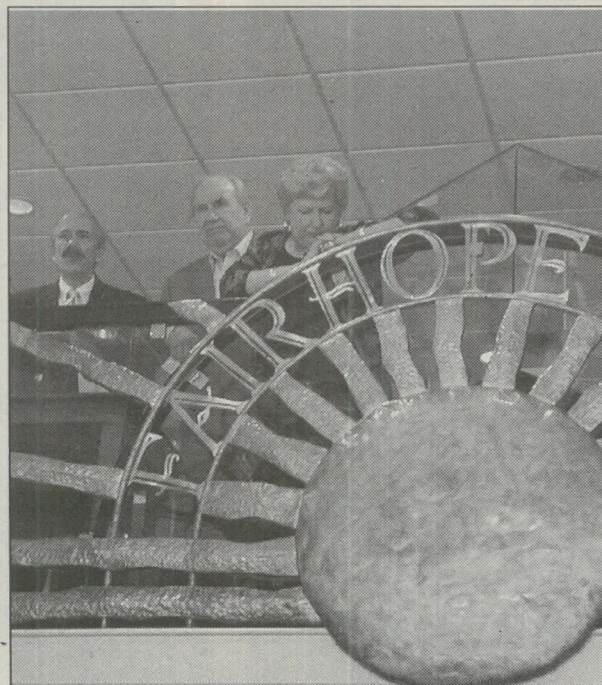
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CENTENNIAL EVENT: MUSEUM DEDICATION



Fairhope Courier File Photos

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On Saturday, April 5, the city held a Grand Opening gala for the new Fairhope Museum of History, located on North Section Street. Residents and area officials gathered for the ceremony and to tour the two-story renovated building that was funded by the Fairhope Single Tax Corp. and the city of Fairhope.

CLOCKWISE FROM THE LEFT: A bronze sculpture of the late Craig Sheldon, Fairhope's renowned artist, was dedicated that day. The statue is sited at the Bancroft museum entrance. An old fire truck can be seen in the service door opening that located on the Section Street museum entrance. Museum Director Donnie Barrett stands with former Mayor James P. Nix and his wife, Anne, on the interior balcony of the museum's second floor.

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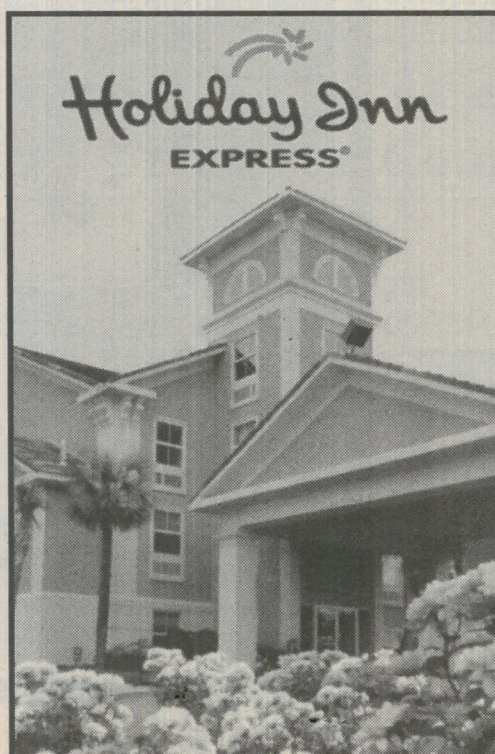
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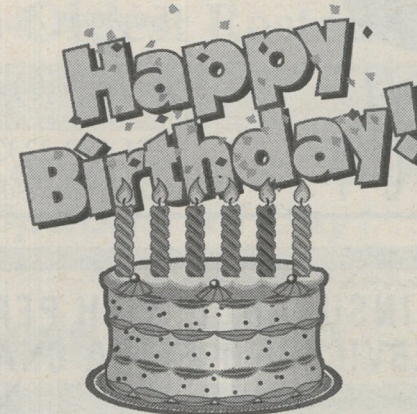


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FAIRHOPE CHURCHES IN 1908 & TODAY



File photo

Today, St. James Episcopal is located at 860 N. Section

St. James Episcopal

Staff Report

In 1903, St. James was a mission effort in Fairhope. St. James members bought their first church building in 1921. It was located on St. James and Summit streets.

On May 25, 1924, paid in full, the church was consecrated. The Methodist, Baptist and Christian churches in Fairhope adjourned their own services that day and attended the service.

In 1957, St. James built a new sanctuary building at the site and in the mid-1990s moved to a new campus at the intersection of Alabama 104 and North Section Street.

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Area residents gathered in downtown Fairhope Dec. 31, 2007 to welcome in the city's centennial year. The danced to music provided by the band Target, enjoyed party favors, a glittery drop ball at midnight and even a bit of fireworks.

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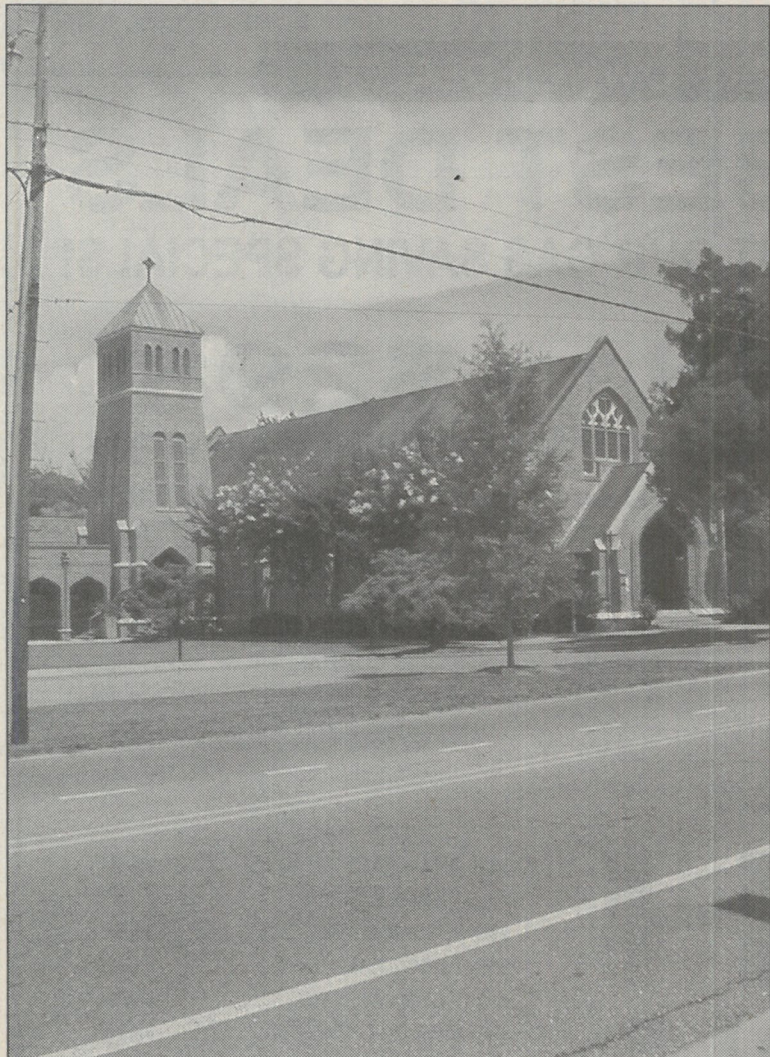
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FAIRHOPE CHURCHES IN 1908 & TODAY



File photo

Today, Fairhope United Methodist is located at 155 S. Section St.

Fairhope United Methodist

Staff Report

Fairhope United Methodist Church began in 1909, when a dozen or so families in town got together to organize a Methodist church.

These residents met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson (Capt. Jack) Lowell, which was located east of Greeno Road near the Gayfer Avenue intersection. The home meetings continued until 1910, when the young congregation was given permission to use the Bell Building at the Marietta Johnson School of Education. This site was considered to be "more conveniently located," according to church historical records, and services were held there for three years.

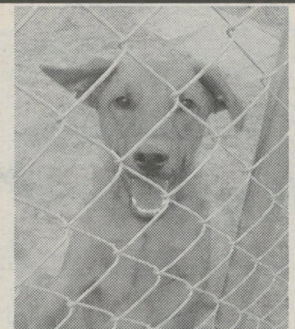
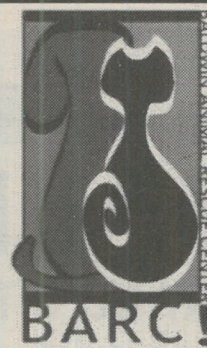
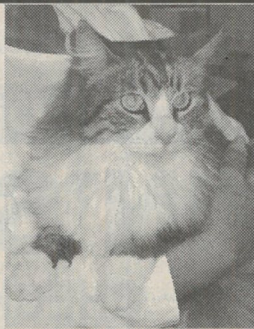
The church is now located at 155 S. Section St. and is nearing completion on a facet of their long-term building program, a family life center.

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The graphic above shows the design of the commemorative lapel pins that may be purchased as a keepsake.

Centennial memorabilia still available for purchase

Submitted by the city of Fairhope

The city of Fairhope centennial coins and lapel pins will be available for \$5 each throughout the year at the Fairhope Museum of History.

The coins and lapel pins were presented at the Grand Opening of the Fairhope Museum of History to celebrate Fairhope's 100th anniversary. The special memorabilia is limited.

For additional information call 929-1466.

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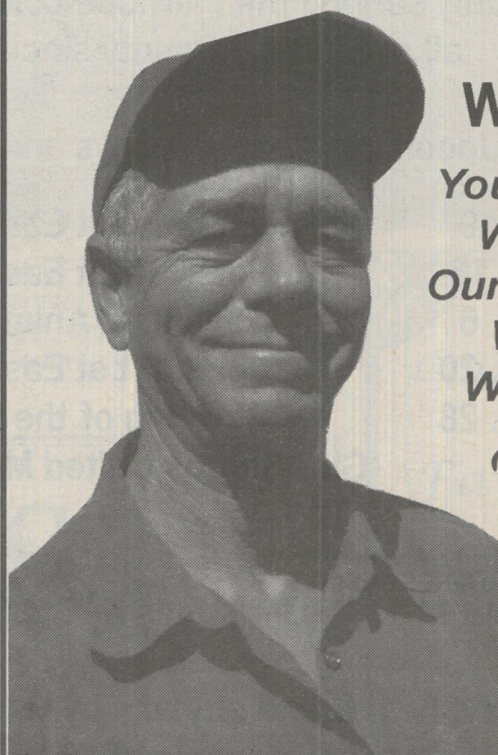
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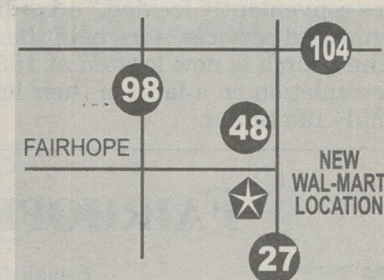
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Present-day potters carry on the tradition

n Their utilitarian wares are still popular

By Curt Chapman

Staff Writer
cchapman@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

In Fairhope's early days, French potter Augustin Mareschal and his family produced a variety of utilitarian pottery using a wood-fired kiln standing along the banks of Fly Creek. His first material of choice was the rich, pliable clay found in Ecor Rouge (red bluff).

But, the Mareschals also used other quality Eastern Shore clays to make bowls, pitchers, pots and jugs. According to historical accounts, they were all fired after a salt glaze was applied, typical of the pottery of that era throughout southwest Alabama.

Donnie Barrett, director of the Fairhope Museum of History, said Mareschal came to Fly Creek in 1835. Two other Frenchmen settled in Montrose, and Mareschal moved there in the late 1840s.

"After he left, Martin Gabel came along and started potting on the (Fly Creek) site," Barrett said. Joseph Gabel succeeded Martin and later moved the operation to Clay City, where it was wiped out by the 1906 hurricane.

Barrett said, "Mareschal's wares were a European style, a 'figoid' shape with double-strip curly-Q's for handles. They sometimes had a double spout, or a little zigzag design with pinched area and little decorative things. A lot of his wares he really slopped up

with that cobalt blue. That was his style."

Although somewhat elaborate decoration was beginning to be part of the equation at the time, Eastern Shore pottery had to be functional, first and foremost.

"Mostly what people were making were utilitarian wares," Barrett said. "When you excavate 19th century home sites, you find food vessels, crockery jars and stoneware." He noted folks needed containers that held liquids, including syrup, that could be used over and over.

Pottery produced by Mareschal, who later changed his name to Marshall, is no longer used for storage, but the pieces are still prized by locals, collectors and museums around the country.

Barrett said Daphne became the center of pottery production in the late 1800s, and many pieces found by archaeologists these days on the Eastern Shore and in Mobile originated there.

"Their dishes were made in New England and England — some Chinese pottery," he said. "That's what people were eating on. Everything else was food vessels."

Barrett said there is a large vein of high quality clay running from Fairhope to

Clay City, enabling other potters to carry on in the same tradition.

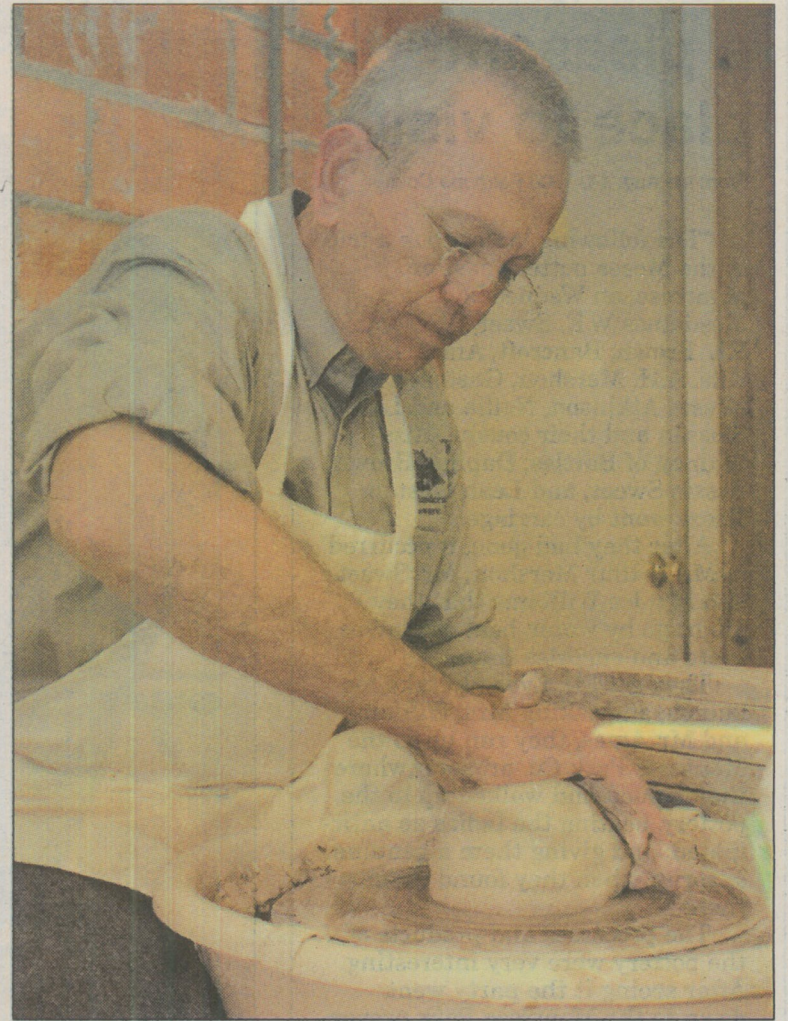
"The majority of my work is made to be used — 99 percent of what I do is utilitarian," said Clay City potter Tom Jones. "That's the way I was trained, that everything should have a function or provide a service."

Jones learned his craft from the late Edith Harwell, a renowned potter herself (owner of the Pinewood gallery in Fairhope), as well as a teacher at the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education. He attended school there as a lad, and took his first pottery class in ninth grade.

Jones said, "Mine is a little more decorative than some of Edith's, but it is reminiscent of some of her work." He now fires his kiln with natural gas while Harwell used wood.

"She wasn't a mass producing potter," Jones said. "She did a lot of work over the years, but she didn't pump it out. It's very collectible."

According to Jones, Harwell was influenced by Candler, N.C. potter Oscar



File Photo

Lifelong resident potter Tom Jones sets his hands to the task of shaping a piece of clay on his potter's wheel.

SEE POTTERY, PAGE 31

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Curt Chapman/Staff Photo
Clay City tile maker Frank Brown made this ornamental piece for a fireplace by using a mold of his design.

Pottery works a pleasant place to visit

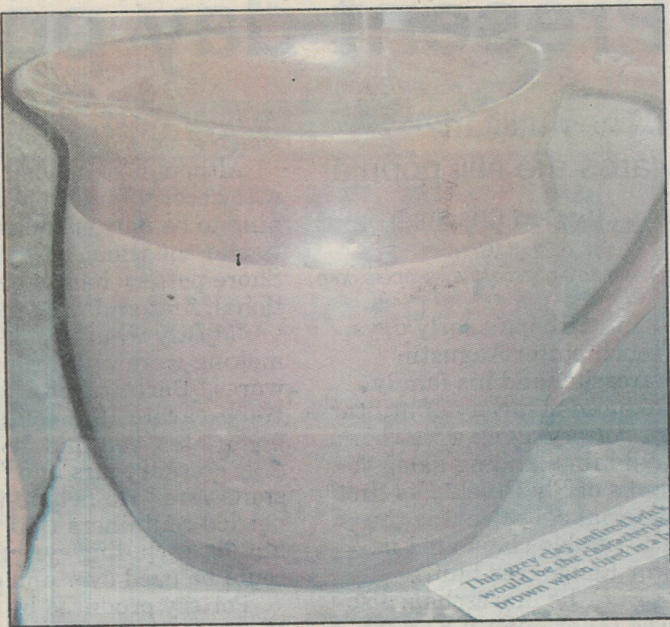
From the Aug. 14, 1908 Fairhope Courier

"The following ladies took a trip to the Moses pottery east of Montrose, on Wednesday: Mesdames W.E. Sweet, Slosson, F.L. Brown, Bancroft, Ames, Lyon, Kile, A.H. Mershon, Gaston, and Misses Atkinson, Nellie and Lois Slosson and their cousin, Miss Widney, of Battles, Daphne Brown, Bessie Sweet, and Leah Gaston. These went by carriage.

After they had gone, it occurred to Mr. Arthur Mershon, Mr. Sweet and Mr. Joe Williams that they might go by water, beat the ladies there and surprise them.

They got Mr. Lyons to take his launch, and taking Mrs. Williams and Mr. Ames, they ran up to the Montrose Park Co. property, where they landed and walked up to the pottery, beating the ladies as anticipated, and giving them a genuine surprise when they found them there.

The processes and products of the pottery were very interesting. After seeing it the party went down to the Montrose Park property on the shore where they ate a picnic dinner and had a jolly time."



Curt Chapman/Staff Photos

The above pitcher is one of many utilitarian pieces made by Clay City potter Frank Brown, who began firing bricks on Morphy Street in Fairhope before moving his operation east of the city.

The salt-glazed jug with a "figoid" shape, at left, is considered a European style, but is marked "Alabama City," which indicates it was made by the French potter Augustin Mareschal, who later changed his name to Marshall. The piece is on display at the Fairhope Museum of History, and is on loan from the University of South Alabama.



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Resident motivated by love of community

n Film legacy continues to enchant viewers

By Mike Odom

Staff Writer

modom@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

The camera pans in tight along Fairhope's bayfront park and pier, then pulls back for a long shot, taking in the shimmering twilight waters of Mobile Bay.

The strains of a classical symphony swell as the first song on the soundtrack begins on "Fairhope Album," Curtis Willard's moving chronicle of the city's life and times from the founding in 1894 through the first half of the 20th century.

"It's the purpose of this film to show people and what they're doing, what they're interested in, and what they look like in 1962 and years past," Willard says at the start of the black-and-white documentary film he made in 1962 about Fairhope.



Mike Odom/Staff Photo

Film cans against a wall of movies in the Willard home, which contain the original two reels (3,600 feet) of "Fairhope Album."



Photos courtesy of the Willard Family

Curtis and Joy Willard

His voice-over has a friendly and reassuring tone like those heard in many old Disney movies, giving just a hint of the wry sense of humor that will surface throughout the film.

"I always told him that he had film running through his veins," Joy Willard said last week of her husband, who died in June 2006. "He would be so pleased that people are interested in his movie."

The back story of Fairhope's first documentary

The making of what local historians believe is the first documentary film of Fairhope started on the streets of Burwyn, Ill., where Willard was born in 1925 and grew up.

"Mother told me that 'electric light' were my first words,"

Willard says in an unpublished autobiography he wrote for his family in 1989. More than 100 single-spaced pages, the manuscript describes in compelling detail Willard's early years in Illinois and his later life in Fairhope, where he moved in 1936 after his father died when he was 10.

At the age of 9, on one of his "rare trips to the movies," he wrote, he saw a Paramount newsreel and began to get serious about the hobby that would play a central role in the rest of his life.

"By now, I had a Keystone movie machine with a Mickey Mouse cartoon in which Mickey cranked a cow's tail and musical notes came out of the cow's mouth," he wrote. "A little boy up the block had a whole attic filled with 35-mm movie film. His dad must have worked at a

film exchange, because they had a lot of newsreels and clips out of the movies of the day. The boy and I cranked lots of that film through his projector and had a great time."

Showing his early fascination with the technical side of movies, he said he talked with his father, an engineer with an electric company, "about how

optical sound worked in the movies, about lenses and light sources," and that he "had become familiar with the Geneva Intermittent movement for 35 mm and the shuttle systems used in 16 mm."

Twenty-seven years later, he

SEE WILLARD, PAGE 21

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WILLARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

would make his own 16 mm film, possibly one of only three documentaries made about Fairhope.

Willard's film has become something of a legend in the area, but it has received few public showings over the years.

Behind the scenes of "Fairhope Album"

"We ran it at Fort Riel (National Guard) Armory in 1963," Joy Willard said. "There were about 250 people there. We charged about 40 cents."

The only other times the movie has been shown in its entirety, apparently, have been at class reunions of Fairhope High School and in private homes. A few copies of the film passed from hand to hand in the community over the years but mostly stopped when the family began seeking to copy-right the film recently, which has not occurred yet.

Some brief footage of the film was shown earlier this year as part of the city's centennial celebration on the campus of Faulkner State Community College, with short clips shown outdoors at night during several Saturdays in February and March before the viewing of feature-length movies on the college's Fairhope campus.

"A lot of people could be heard pointing and saying, 'I remember that building there or that one over there,'" said Alex Robinson, city special events coordinator who organized the "Music and Movies" events. "The mayor and his wife were also in the audience one night, talking about their memories as the clips ran. A few people asked me where they could get a copy."

Parts of the film also appear in the other two known documentaries made about Fairhope.

"I couldn't have done it without him," said Dean Mosher, a Fairhope artist, who made a short film about Fairhope for the centennial anniversary of the colony's founding in 1994.

More recently, parts of the Willard film appeared in the 2002 documentary, "A Fair Hope," produced by the Center for Public Television in Tuscaloosa.

"We met with Curtis and he gave us the footage," said Mike Letcher, who wrote and directed the film for CPT. "We came down and got the film and brought it back to him. It's relatively rare to find on the local level a motion picture for that era. It played a significant role in the production of our documentary. It was a great treasure to us."

Joy Willard said that her husband made the documentary as an experiment, thinking he might need to make a living at it. She said he was concerned about the future of his job as chief engineer at WKRG-TV in Mobile due to union issues, which ultimately resolved themselves. In 1988, he did take early retirement from the television station after 32 years in the business. He was 62, according to his autobiography.

But, at the age of 37, he would make the movie that some people believe is his lasting legacy to the place he loved.

"He wanted to document Fairhope from its beginning and found there was no one who had done anything like it before," she said. "So, he decided, 'I'll just do it myself.'"

Joy Willard said she helped him by carrying equipment,



Photo courtesy of the Willard Family

The Fairhope Theatre as it looked when Willard worked there — about 1937 to 1942.

and that their children tagged along and sat by waiting while he filmed.

"He filmed all over town," she said. "He interviewed Mabel Gray, the town's first school teacher, who said she was so happy to be contacted because no one had ever interviewed her before."

One poignant part of the film is near the beginning when the camera pulls in tight on the picture of what might have been the first school class in the young town in about 1897. It was that class Gray taught, the movie dialogue states.

The camera moves slowly across the faces of each of the young students, stopping on one student who is holding a dog. Willard's voice-over returns to that scene later in the movie, when he finds the same boy at a later age in a different photograph.

It is reminiscent of a scene in a movie made several

decades later, "The Dead Poets Society," where the teacher (played by Robin Williams) has his students lean in close to a similar black-and-white photo, the camera examining those faces of an earlier era, telling his students to listen close, to

hear the message that photograph holds.

In that movie, the teacher tells the students the message the images sent from the past

SEE WILLARD, PAGE 22

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WILLARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

was "carpe diem," or "seize the day" in Latin.

Willard's film has a similar impact throughout, as it moves from classroom, to main street, to the old water tower, to the first doctor's offices and medical clinic, to life at the wharf, the railroad tracks leading into the heart of downtown, the football fields, the playhouses, the bands, the parades, the folk dancing, the barber shop, the historical buildings and countless shots of storefronts and houses throughout the city.

But more than anything, it is a film that uses archival photographs, old home movie footage, and the film that Willard shot himself, to show the people of Fairhope, in all their walks and activities of life, from the late 19th century through the early 1960s.

Several times, during the film, the camera would stop on a photograph, mention the names of some of the people in it, and Willard's voice could be heard quietly to say: "And many of these people are no longer with us."

It's as though Willard is telling the viewer to remember the messages those pictures hold from Fairhope many years ago.

"You have to remember how stories were first passed down," said Dwight Cameron, who teaches documentary filmmaking at the University of Alabama. "They were passed on in an oral tradition. If you wanted to learn something, you were told to talk to a certain person in that community. As we have become a more modern society, especially in terms of technology, we don't communicate that way as much anymore, and that oral tradition has been lost."

Cameron said the making of Willard's film is extraordinary, and its value is significant.

"A documentary like his gathers persons in a community in order to collect and tell their stories," he said. "The movie's producer can bring a perspective and give a complete history of the area, using all of the tools of modern technology of video and film so that those people's stories are not lost, so that they are preserved forever."

Curtis Willard's legacy

Joy Willard opened the door last week to the upstairs "home theater" that was her husband's office and screening room. The walls are lined with floor-to-ceiling shelves holding thousands of movies, mostly VHS copies, but also DVDs, and cans of older film. A large screen is at one end of the room with a couch and comfortable easy chairs arranged in front, behind a professional projection machine aimed at the screen.

"He had probably the first home theater in the area," she said, referring to the one that was in the house they built by hand, which is located next door to the current house several miles east of Fairhope. "We ran movies for children. He loved his theater."

Willard's love affair with the movies started in Illinois but traveled with him when he moved to Fairhope.

He wrote in his "autobiography," entitled "A Letter to My Kids, Or It Wasn't So Funny at the Time," that when he was 12, he went to the Fairhope Theatre on Fairhope Avenue and asked for a job.

"Within a week I was running the candy stand at \$5 a week," he wrote. "But within two weeks, I was assigned to

'A letter to my kids ...'

Excerpt from Curtis Willard's unpublished autobiography. Used with permission.

I used to walk down to the Century Theatre (in Illinois) every week or so. They had big stage shows and I saw W.C. Fields and Roscoe Ate there. I used to go to the projection room and the operator would let me look at the big machines and watch him make a changeover. In those days the projection reels were only 900 feet of less, which kept the operator pretty busy, making changeovers, threading film, trimming carbons and rewinding film. I saw "A Night at the Opera: with the Marx Brothers... Laughed for week.

Television had a commercial the other day stating that the "Wizard of Oz"

is 50 years old... I remember clearly running the first showing of that picture, the color, the music. Over the Rainbow and all of that. But fifty years ago, au, come on now, couldn't be... Could it?

Time has a way of moving on, somehow perspective broadens each day... I don't if I'm any smarter, but if I am it's a shame that it's taken 64 years.

Now I have time to sit in my swing at night, remember that same moon, listen to my crickets and the thousands of frogs in the pond behind Mr. Cink's field. I hear the birds calling and the bees buzzing. [If I listen carefully I can hear ... the singing and the fussing... the sounds of a family growing up. Everything has turned out so well.



Photo courtesy of the Willard

Curtis Willard on Sept. 3, 1994, as photographer at the wedding of his daughter, Donna Wilhelm. Wilhelm said she used the photo in the DVD she made about her dad and family and gave to her mother this past Christmas, entitling it, "Never without his camera."

the projection room, where I would remain for most of six years."

He said that over time, more and more duties were given to him, until he was the "chief" projectionist at \$7 a week.

Willard also worked in theaters in Mobile, Loxley, Summerdale and Foley, according to his manuscript, and

then, in the early 1950s, he became owner of the Beach Theatre south of the Fairhope pier. It was an open-air theater with the screen nestled against the high bluffs, with benches for several hundred people, a concession stand and a projection room, his wife said.

"Well, I was 19 years in the movie theater business, in one capacity or another, often in

several capacities at the same time," he wrote. "I made a living at it, enjoyed most of it. I was really a technician, not a showman, not really in 'show business,' but when things got dull, as things are apt to get now and then, there was always a technicolor musical with Betty Grable, June Haver,

SEE WILLARD, PAGE 23

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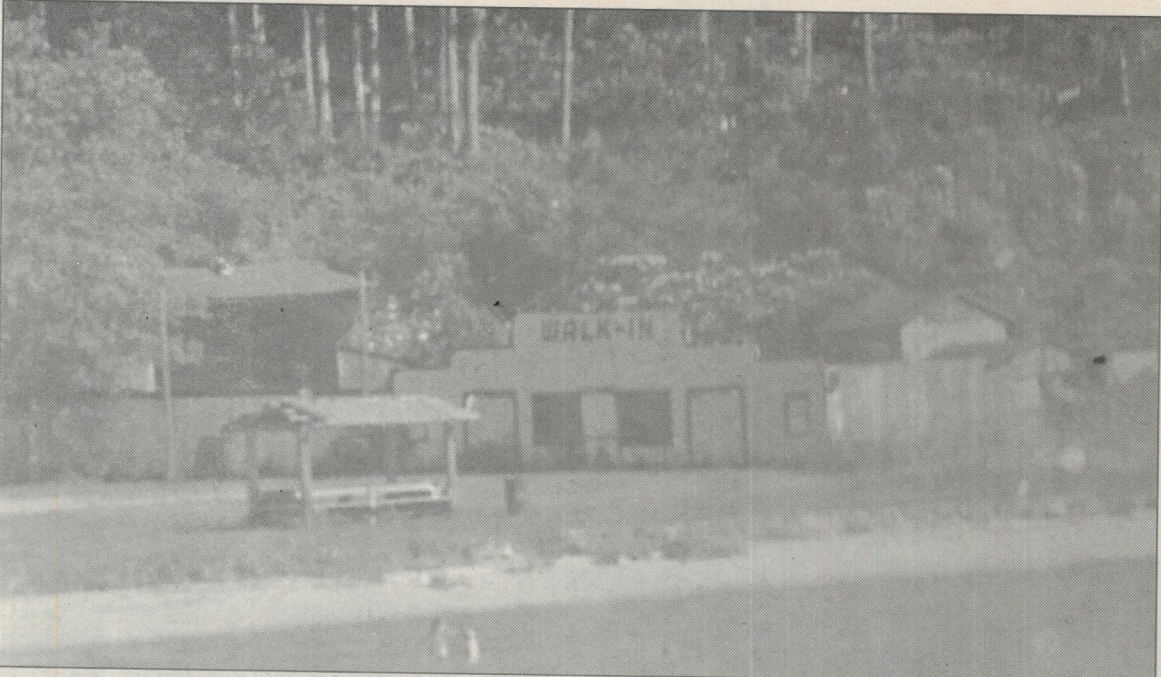


Photo courtesy of the Willard family

The "walk-in" Beach Theatre at the Fairhope municipal pier park.

WILLARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Judy Garland, and many others ... not many office workers, bank tellers or carpenters had such great alternatives."

As Joy looked about the room, which is difficult for her, she said, because of the memories and the loss only two years ago of the "heart of her heart," she found the large can that holds the original reel of the documentary he made in 1962.

Lifting the reel out, she finds beneath it a letter dated April 10, 2001 that sets out instructions for how the film is to be handled.

Letcher, who directed the documentary for the Center for Public Television, believes this was the letter that accompanied the film he took that year to make his movie that was released in 2002.

"Please do not cut this film, but rather dub to a tape and edit from the tape," Willard

wrote. "You are welcome to use any portion of this film that you wish. When finished please return this film as received."

Joy said that Willard was "the most generous person, and he made the movie because of his love for the community."

As she passed through the door to her late husband's home theater, she pointed at a framed movie poster hanging on the door from the movie "It's a Wonderful Life."

"That was really his favorite movie," she said.

This past Christmas, another Willard carried on the legacy that Curtis began.

His daughter Donna Wilhelm, director of marketing at Mercy Medical in Daphne, made a DVD of archival images of family photographs with music and printed script.

It was a present to her mother, who said it was given to her wrapped and with a box

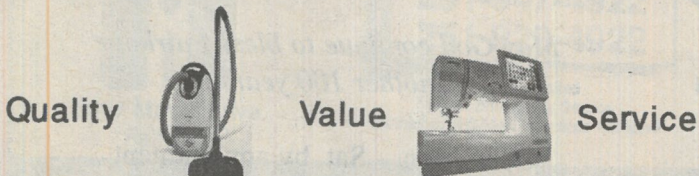
of Kleenex. She said her whole family gathered to watch it — and cry.

"I remember growing up and hearing about his Fairhope film," Wilhelm said. "I think it was something he was incredibly proud of. That is one of the reasons I did what I did because of his interest in film and history. My dad loved Fairhope. He would have never considered living anywhere else. The Fairhope film was a tribute to those who had a hand in making Fairhope what it is, a documentary that helps us all understand the roots of our town. The film was part of his legacy that he left for the rest of us."

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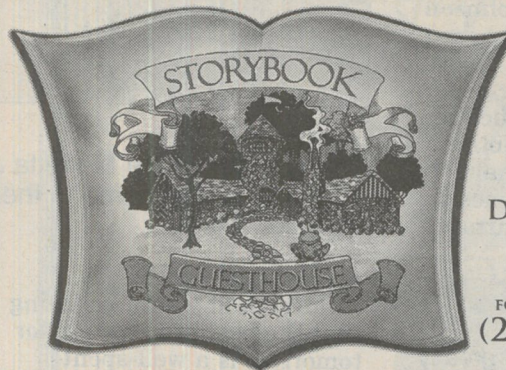
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Johnson's legacy lives on at Organic School

Editor's Note: This article was first published in the Dec. 29, 1993 Colony Centennial edition. Since that time, Dot Cain has died and a direct source to the days of Marietta Johnson has been lost. We hope you will enjoy reading about Cain's remembrances.

Shortly after the experiment in Single Tax community living was inaugurated with the settlement of Fairhope, another experiment was begun by Marietta Louise Pierce Johnson, a 43-year-old teacher from Minnesota.

As founder and director of the School of Organic Education, Johnson gave many children of fairhope a unique educational experience that the Marietta Johnson Museum is working to document through videotape interviews with former Organic School students, said Dot Cain, Marietta Johnson Museum founder and board president.

Johnson called her experiment "progressive education," distinguishable from other progressive educational philosophies of the times as being one that concentrates

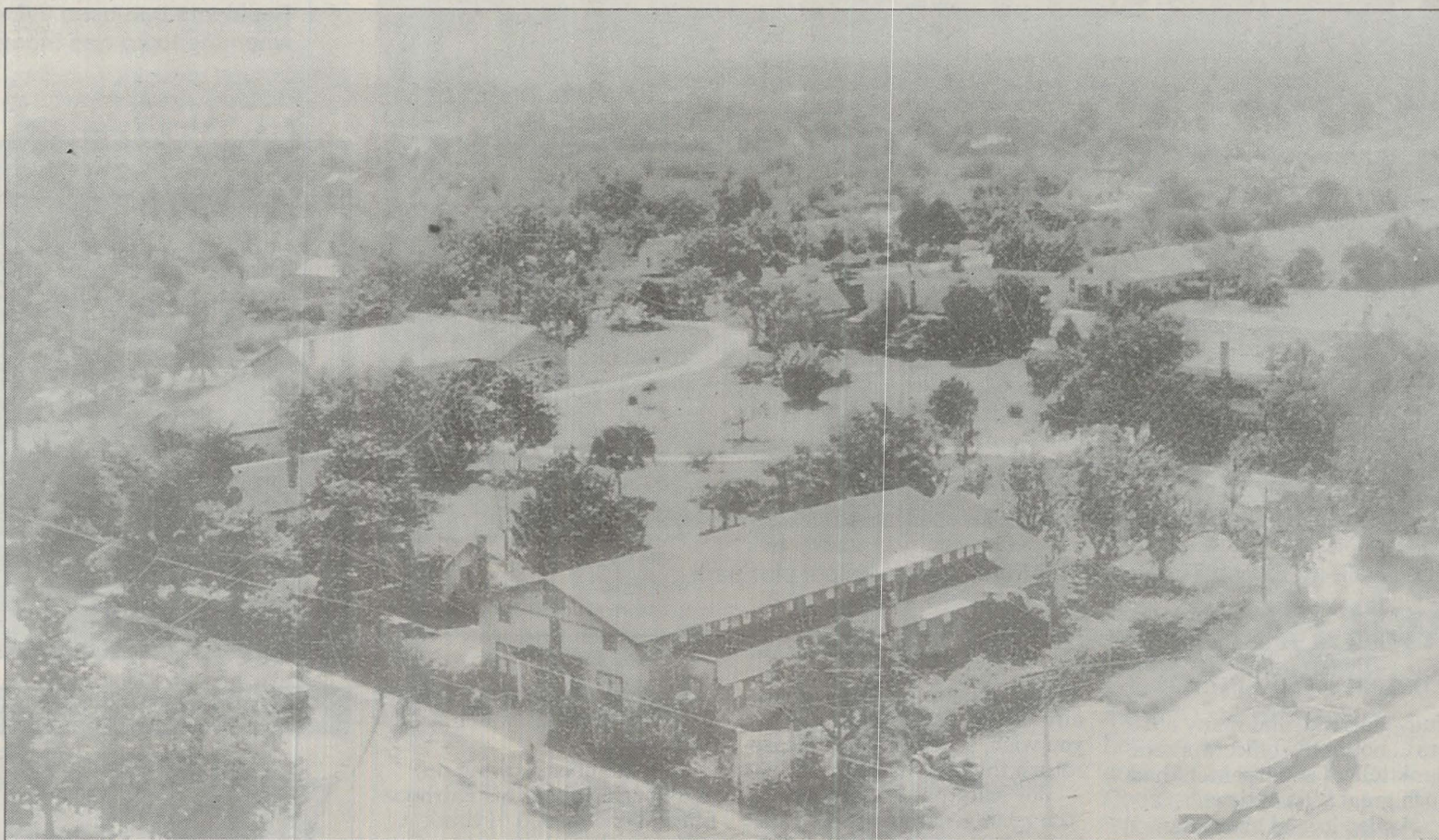


Photo courtesy of the Fairhope Single Tac Corp.

The campus of the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education when it was located at Bancroft and Fairhope Avenue. That site is now home to the Fairhope campus of Faulkner State Community College. The Organic School is located at 8 Marietta Drive.

'We varied greatly in our talents and backgrounds — we were a good cross section of the community — but the school helped each of us to grow to our potential," he said.

— Dr. Paul M. Gaston,
Organic School graduate

upon the present needs of children and youth, believing that the best preparation for tomorrow is a well-spent today."

She did not know herself how the experiment would end. Cain, who worked for Johnson at the school and considered her a friend and mother figure, recalled one woman asking Johnson, "Our children are so happy (at the Organic School) but it is like a fairy land; how will our

children do in the real world?"

"I don't know," Cain said Johnson replied.

Cain described Johnson as being rather stocky in frame with deep golden brown hair and light brown eyes that showed all her expressions.

"You couldn't be with her without smiling," said Cain.

Johnson was already an experienced educator when she arrived in Fairhope. Although she had taught every elementary school grade and at the high school level, she said her favorite job

was training teachers, in her book *Thirty Years With An Idea*.

"I enjoyed a measure of success and used to pity those who had never taught

SEE MARIETTA, PAGE 25

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MARIETTA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

school. It was the most thrilling work I could imagine," she said.

Reading Nathan Oppenheim's *Development of the Child* and C. Manford Henderson's *Education and the Larger Life* proved to be an epiphany for Johnson.

"This idea (regarding the education of children) took possession of me, and I could not rest until I had started a school," she said.

The school, which began modestly with six children in 1907, grew and matured to provide students a kindergarten through 12th grade education that included Latin and French, science, history, arts and crafts, nature studies, and folk singing and dancing, a "two-year training course for teachers, and a six-week course for parents of students," according to a memoir of George Allen Brown.

The residents of Fairhope were quick to accept Johnson's experimental school because they had been pleased with her management of the public school from January 1903 to April 1905, according to *Women of Fairhope*, by Organic School graduate Dr. Paul M. Gaston.

"We varied greatly in our talents and backgrounds — we were a good cross section of the community — but the school helped each of us to grow to our potential," he said.

The main problem for the Organic School was the same one that faces public education today, funding. Because the school had no tuition, only boarding students paid a nominal one, Johnson spent a lot of time securing patrons,

and her firm determination to prevent financial backers from having control over the school cost her dearly at least twice, said Cain.

When Joseph Fels, who had given the school \$11,000 over a period of years, requested that Johnson limit the school to children of single tax residents, she refused and lost his financial support, Cain said.

"Mrs. Henry Ford thought she (Johnson) was really something and wanted to support her liberally but insisted on the establishment of a foundation board, which Johnson thought would dictate and exert control over the school, which she could not allow and declined the offer," said Cain.

In addition to the Organic School in Fairhope, Johnson provided the impetus for the development of 15 other organic schools that used no tests, report cards or other external rewards.

"No one failed at our school; and, with no failure, the roots of fear were cut off," said Gaston.

She travelled extensively in America and Europe to work with the other schools, lecture at various educational meetings and seek patrons. These activities brought her into contact with many famous and influential people of the times including Mrs. Getty Sr., Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Alexander Bell, Fiske Warren and William Howard Taft.

By the 1930s, funding was a problem and the Great Depression was a serious blow to the schools' fiscal soundness, according to Gaston's *Women of Fairhope*.

"I don't think the stress to raise money is what killed

her; it was just her heart condition," said Cain. Johnson thrived on the hectic, busy schedule she maintained, Cain said.

Johnson revealed a little of her personal philosophy one day when Cain asked her advice about something that was bothering her.

"Doddie," she said Johnson replied after looking thoughtful for a moment, "when my family lost everything during an ice storm, I determined that I would never again let the loss of material things get me down, and when I lost my son, Franklin (he died at the age of 2 shortly after Johnson started the Fairhope school in 1907), I determined I would never again let the loss of a loved one get me down. You must always have a purpose and live for that," Cain said.

Dr. Pierce Frederick, Johnson's grand nephew, has many fond memories of Johnson. He was a sophomore living at the Organic School Home when Johnson died and recalls the bouts of angina she suffered prior to her death.

"Sometimes at night, Johnson would yell for my mother to bring her her pills," he said.

Johnson came to Ken and Dot Cain's home Oct. 8, 1938 to celebrate her birthday. It was the last time Dot Cain saw her alive; she died Dec. 23, 1938, in her room on the first floor of the School Home, where the Faulkner Community College gym was later built.

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Merits of the Kudzu vine a topic of interest in 1908

Staff Report

Marie Howland was an early resident of Fairhope. She was a stalwart supporter of the town's effort to establish a library. On Sept. 9, 1908, the new library building was dedicated and Howland's book collection turned over to the Colony Corp. It formed the nucleus of the new library.

Howland also made the news a few times for her Kudzu plant. Today, columnists opine about this plant, which is frequently called "the plant that ate the South," and researchers look for ways to utilize it. A hundred years ago, it was also a topic of speculation.

From the June 26, 1908 Fairhope Courier:

"The Japanese Kudzu vine is now being exploited as one of the most wonderful soil enriching plants for the

south, rivaling the cow-pea and the velvet bean.

In the last issue of the Onlooker is given the opinion of C.E. Pleas, of Chipley, Fla., upon this plant. He grew it a couple of years as an ornamental plant, without thinking of its feeding value until his horse accidentally got to it and ate it with great relish. He then cured some and sent a sample to the state experiment station where it was analyzed and reported a little better than cow-pea or velvet bean but not so good as beggar weed.

Unlike the cow-pea and velvet bean, the root of the Kudzu vine is perennial; indeed, in ordinary winters here the vine does not die above ground, losing only its foliage and leafing out again in the spring.

It is claimed to yield at successive cuttings an enor-

mous quantity of excellent forage and as a soil enricher to surpass other legumes as indicated by the great quantity of bacteria nodules that are found on the roots.

It is also stated that it will stand pasturing without serious injury to the vine.

Readers of the Courier will remember several mentions in the paper of the great Kudzu vine on Mrs. Howland's place. It grew to the top of and covered with a dense pillar of foliage a pine fully 60 feet high in one season. There is no question but that it will grow luxuriously here. If as valuable as claimed for feeding purposes, it is a discovery of great importance.

The velvet bean was grown in Florida for years as an ornamental vine before it was thought to be of commercial value."



Photograph courtesy of the Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

Marie Howland seated in the garden at her cottage home in Fairhope.

Town's first arrest was for drunkenness

Staff Report

The photograph at right of the building that was renovated and opened this spring as the Fairhope Museum of History was taken in 1928. It shows the building when it was used as City Hall. The structure at the extreme right of the picture was Fairhope's Public Service Building. In 1908, the town's first elected City Council was working to establish city services, including police protection and a location for a jail that the fledgling municipality could afford.

In the July 10, 1908 Fairhope Courier, the town's first police report was published: "Police powers of the municipality were brought into play for the first time on Wednesday, when one of our young business men was arrested on the charge of drunkenness and disorderly conduct and on trial fined \$5 and costs by the Mayor. An appeal was taken to the county court. It will not be the policy of this paper to report such occurrences, unfortunate and embarrassing as they are for individuals and the community. The necessary publicity of the court proceedings should be sufficient."

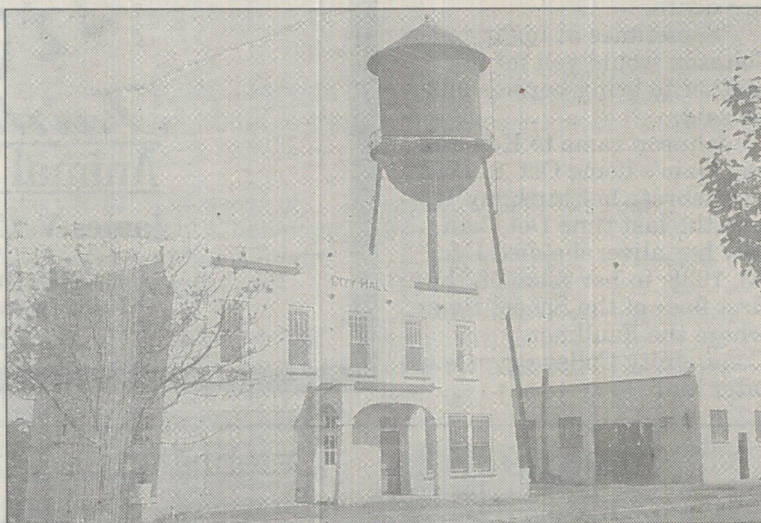


Photo courtesy of the Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

The old Fairhope City Hall

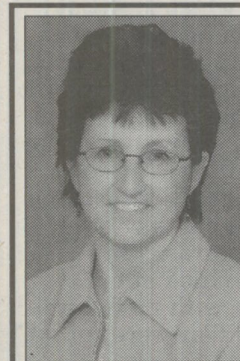


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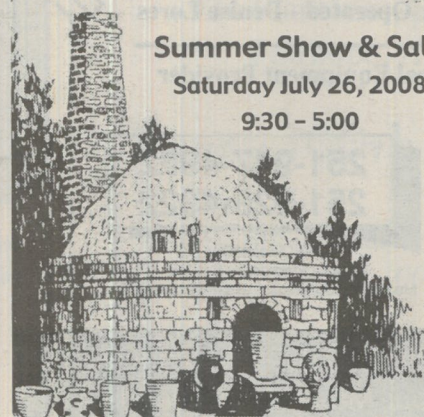
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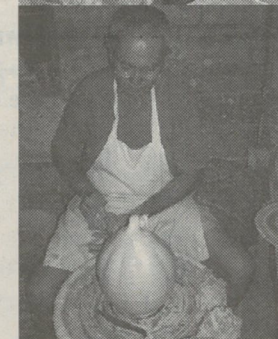
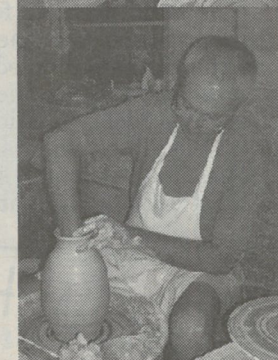
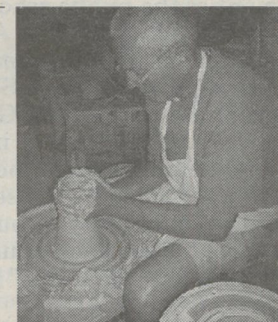
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Gullies: trashed and treasured in Fairhope

Editor's Note: This article was first published in the May 25, 1994 Colony Centennial edition.

The gullies of Fairhope have been the backdrop for a variety of activities over the past 100 years in addition to their function in water drainage.

They have been the sites of play and recreation, education, classical drama, hunting, tragic accidents, robbery escape routes and, more recently, dumping.

Frank Stewart, "The Picture Man," is responsible for most of the pictorial record of Fairhope's gullies in the early days of the colony. Several of his picture post-cards reveal their natural beauty.

Near the turn of the century, a foot bridge was constructed across Stack's Gully that rose 33 feet above the gully floor and was 100 feet in length. The early settlers appreciated their beauty and usefulness as natural water drainage routes. By 1907, the colony had spent "much money" on gullies, according to a book chronicling the local single tax experiment, *Fairhope, 1894-1954*.

When the Single Tax Corp. deeded the park lands, public beach and wharf to the municipality of Fairhope in the early 1930s, the instrument stipulated the gullies were to be used as natural "drainage ways for water from streets and other public and private lands."

Marietta Johnson's Organic School made broad usage of the gullies in their educational program. Sandstone walls became outdoor chalk boards, clay banks sources of pottery material. Pictures and articles of Organic lasses held in Fairhope gullies appeared in national media, including the March 16, 1913 issue of the New York times and April 8, 1928 issue of Hearst's Sunday American.

Gully flora and fauna became stage backdrops for the school's annual Shakespeare Festivals held in the spring. Students, dressed in period costumes, performed comedies and tragedies by the revered Bard for more than 10 years in various gullies like Bayou Charbon and LeBayou Vert. Two kindergarten stu-

dents from the Organic School were killed in a cave-in at Great Gully Jan. 12, 1916, according to the edition of the Fairhope Courier dated two days later. Martha Gilmore and Elizabeth Howard were smothered to death when one of the sandy gully walls collapsed, burying the children who were playing at its base.

Bayou Charbon became an escape route for at least one of two Robertsdale men who robbed the Fairhope SouthTrust Bank Wednesday, May 20, 1987, according to the account given in the May 24, 1987 edition of the Eastern shore Courier.

Police sealed the gully that runs along the west side of Fairwood Avenue after John William McGraw, 27, entered it. Shots were exchanged and McGraw's right thumb was wounded before he was handcuffed and arrested.

"He reacted so violently to the arrest that police on the scene described him as appearing 'doped up,'" the article stated.

He was taken by ambulance to Thomas Hospital where he died of an apparent drug overdose at 11:50 a.m.

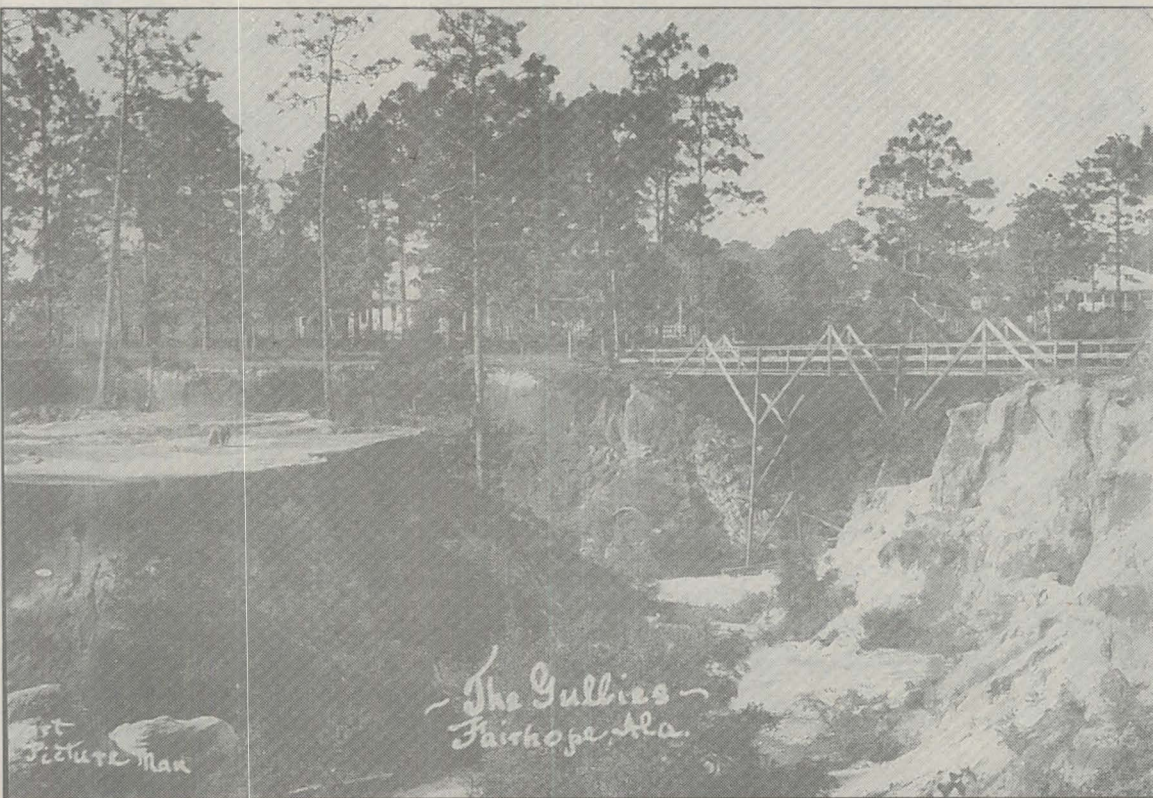


Photo courtesy of the Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

Residents of Fairhope soon built foot bridges over the gullies in the area to facilitate getting from Point A to Point B.

the next day.
James C. Lambert, 29, was arrested in Robertsdale May

SEE GULLIES, PAGE 28



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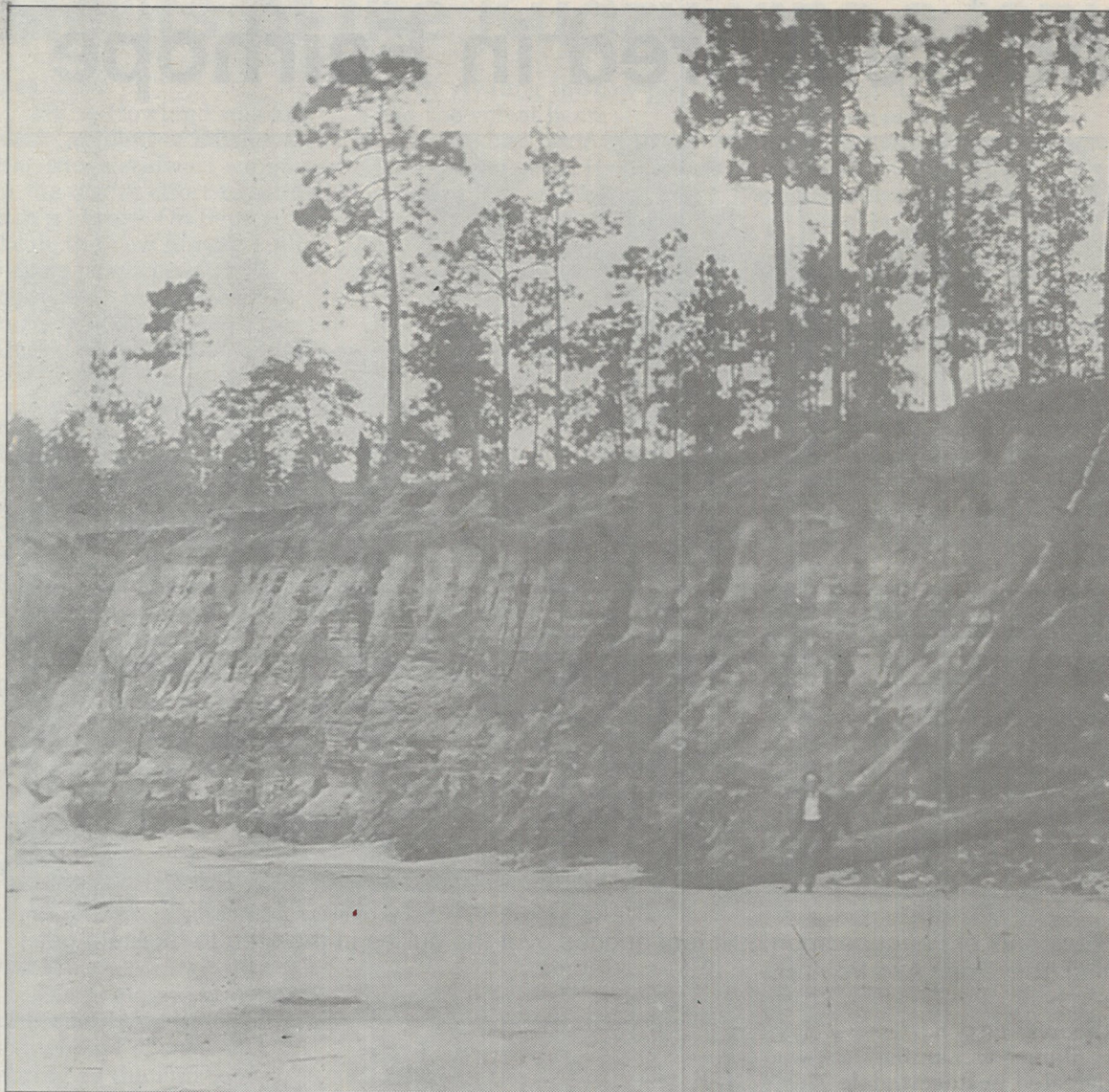
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Photos courtesy of the Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

These two photos show dramatically the size of the gullies of Fairhope when compared to the human occupants in the pictures. The photo above right depicts students of the Marietta Johnson School engaged in a learning activity at one of the town's gullies.

GULLIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

22, 1987 in connection with the robbery.

In the early 1990s, one gully in particular was the focus of some proposed building projects.

A concept was presented to the Fairhope planning and zoning committee to build apartments around the gully just north of the Colonial Inn back to Bayview Street, said Charles Ingersoll, single Tax Corp. president.

It was determined that the density of the project was too much for the area, and the land drainage preparation too costly, he said.

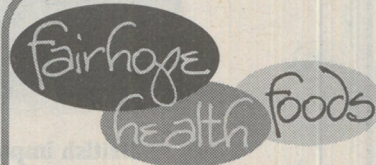
Another idea that was briefly considered in 1991 was constructing a glass-walled conference room with dining facilities over the gully that would connect the Colonial Inn and Patlynn apartments. This concept also called for the gully to be ter-

raced and made stable for use as a parking lot, he said.

Most recently, a gully near Equality Avenue was used, with city permission, as a dump by the Alabama State Highway Department, according to the Eastern Shore

Courier of Nov. 27, 1993.

The gullies of Fairhope have been treasured and trashed since 1894. How the residents and civic leaders treat them from this day forward will be an unfolding story.



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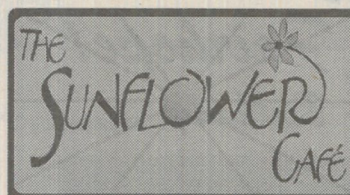
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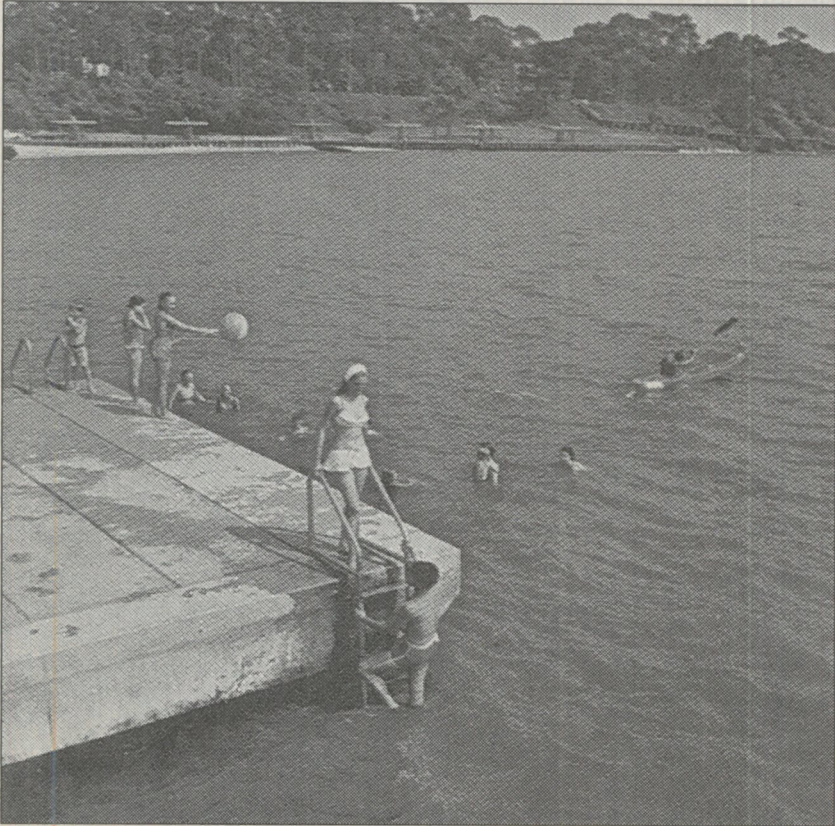
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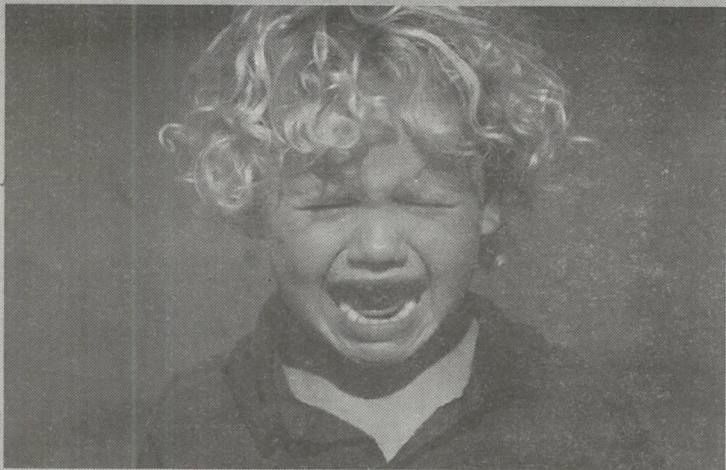
SUMMER FUN IN FAIRHOPE



Photos courtesy of Fairhope Single Tax Corp.



From its earliest days, residents of the Fairhope area knew how to enjoy Mobile Bay in the good old summertime. Thanks to the photographic record of Stewart the Picture Man, folks in the 21st century can see the activities their predecessors engaged in and how they dressed. The photo at left is much more recent but the cement platform area midway down the pier has changed yet again.



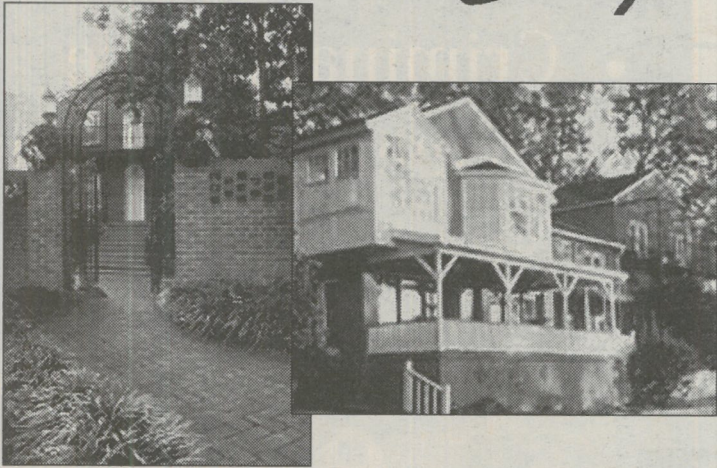
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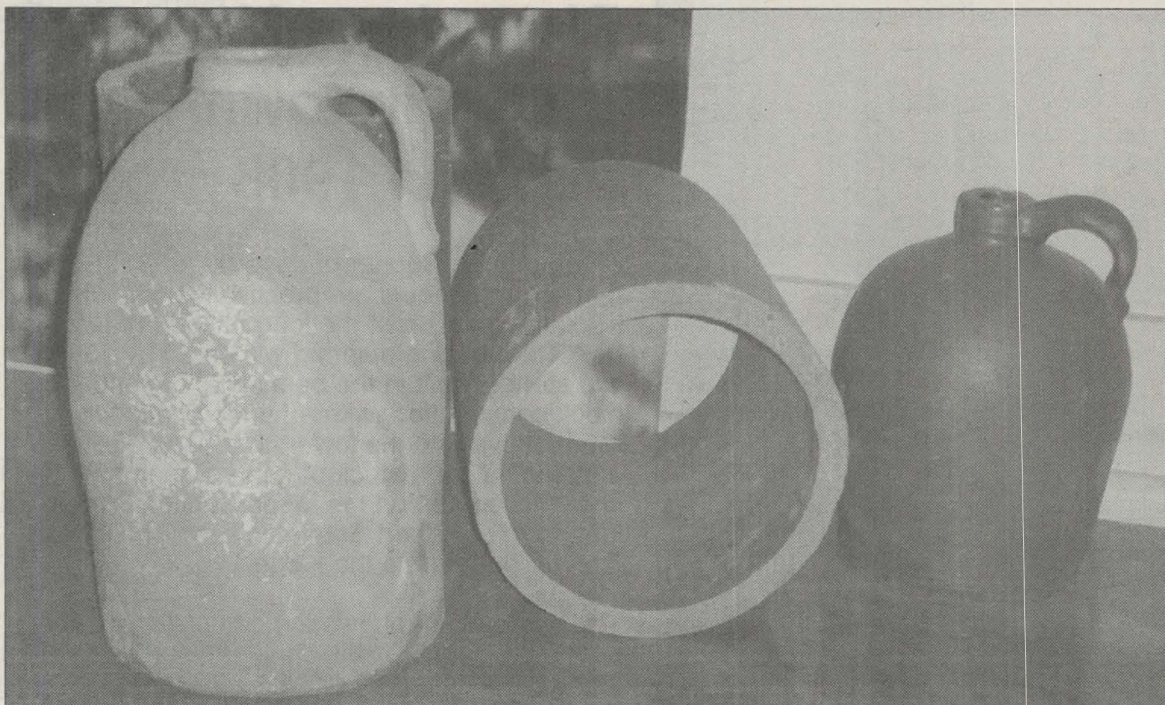
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Curt Chapman/Staff Photos

The jugs and sewer pipe are just a few examples of the many pieces of utilitarian pottery produced by Frank Brown at his Fairhope and Clay City kilns. He was also known for the production of Clay City tile, used in many of Fairhope's original buildings

POTTERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Louis Batchelder (1852-1935), whose pieces of Omar Khayyam Pottery are also still in demand by collectors.

"Edith's husband, Converse, was the one who was going to take up pottery because women weren't supposed to do that," he said. "But, he wasn't very good at it."

Instead, Converse set up her kiln for each firing, and worked elsewhere behind the scenes while Edith produced utilitarian pieces still in use today. Jones said Fairhope potter John Rezner has one of Edith Harwell's original clay recipes.

"I don't mass produce my clay like I once did," he said. Unlike many before him, Jones no longer uses the native clays exclusively. Some of his supply is commercial clay he has shipped to his studio on Clay City Road, near Fish River.

Jones' offerings include dishes, cups, bowls, cake dishes, pickle crocks, candle holders, vases, steamers, pitchers and decorative planters.

"I still occasionally make flowerpots," Jones said. "They're basic, with a little decoration. They make really good planting mediums. Plants seem to like them." Although he now hand-makes them whenever he feels the urge, he retains a machine that was used to stamp them

from clay.

One of the buildings Jones' studio currently occupies once housed the operation where Frank Brown and his family cast Clay City tile, the bricks that were used in many early Fairhope structures. One of the old beehive kilns built in the 1940s still stands on the property, but is no longer used because the opening is too small to meet Jones' needs.

"I still have a real loyal following," Jones said. "But, there's an ebb and flow of popularity. You'll go through periods of time you don't see a lot of pottery being offered. Then it will surge, and a lot of people will be interested in learning how to use clay."

The Christmas season typically brings inquiries from

people wondering where to take classes, purchase a potter's wheel, along with the other supplies and equipment needed to make pottery.

Jones' popularity as a potter extends to the families of some of his longtime customers. He said, "As people go on, others inherit their collections, and I have people asking if I still make a certain piece. People want to add to the collection."

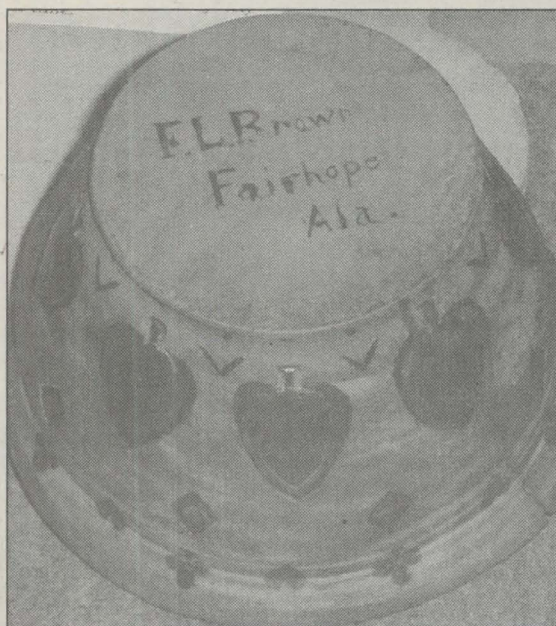
Some hope to replace a broken or cracked piece, and also turn to Jones for help, keeping him busier than he ever thought he would be.

He said with a laugh, "It's a wonderful craft, and so I've been told, very therapeutic."



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This bowl from the collection of the Fairhope Museum of History was thrown by Frank Brown, maker of Clay City tile. Brown fired the bowl soon after he acquired an interest in producing utilitarian wares.

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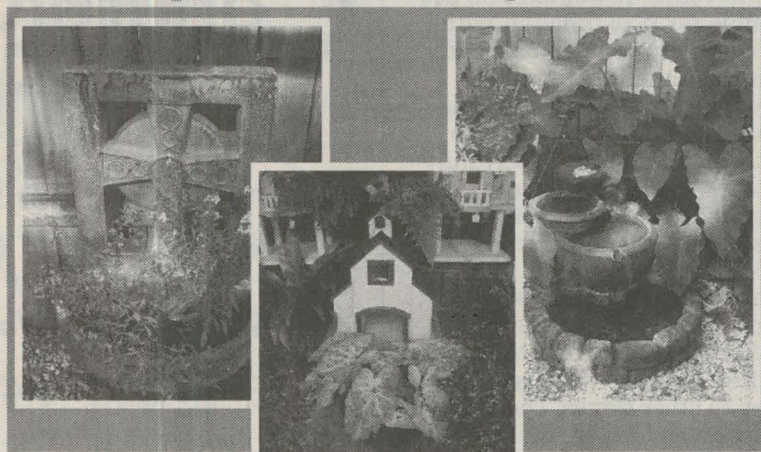
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Photo courtesy of Single Tax Corp.

Plans for a Masonic Lodge in town were made in 1908

The Fairhope Courier of June 5, 1908 reported that "arrangements are practically completed for the early erection of the long talked of Masonic hall. The building planned will be 30 by 75 feet, two stories, built in the best style, of concrete block construction, with a handsome lodge room above and the lower floor used either for a public hall or a stock of general merchandise. It will be located on the lot on Section Street, just north of Robert Stapleton's, which Dr. Greeno donated to the lodge."

The photo at left shows the completed Masonic Lodge building in 1928. By that time, it was being used as a post office.

DITTO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

lodge (scouting's honor society). In fact, several regional and national OA leaders have come from Troop 47. The troop itself, being run by the youth, offers leadership positions much the same as other troops. But with such a large number of active members, troop leadership positions often require additional effort and preparation. Although the troop is ultimately run by the youth, it wouldn't be possible for it to function without the supervision and guidance of adult leadership.

Men of all occupations join together every week to give their children the opportunity to grow and develop into great members of society through the scouting program. But the leaders who are even more amazing to me are those who remain to serve in the troop despite the fact that their children have grown up and moved on to other things. Their dedication and experience are an example and encouragement not only to the children, but also to parents who volunteer in the scouting program.

One scoutmaster stands out among the rest in Troop 47 as not only a wise and helpful guide, but a great mentor to youth and adults alike. The scoutmaster of the troop, Seth Peden, has made a great impact on the lives of many scouts through his devotion to

the cause of scouting and his care for each and every scout. For me personally, Mr. Peden has been a great mentor and source of wisdom. I know I would not have accomplished as much in scouting as I did without his helpful insight and encouragement. Without a doubt, Mr. Peden is one of the greatest scoutmasters I have

had the privilege of knowing and working with throughout my scouting career.

This organization, now 80 years old, is a great asset to the community and beyond. Troop 47 has given me more than I could ever repay, and the wisdom and knowledge I have gained from it are priceless.

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TROOP 47

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Over the years the Eagle Scouts have completed projects for a variety of organizations and entities in Fairhope. See a complete listing on Page 33.

Scouts may also be selected for the Order of the Arrow, which honors members who have achieved the rank of First Class and have 15 nights of camping.

Troop 47 has been sponsored by the Fairhope United Methodist Church for the past 55 years, Peden said.

The Fairhope troop, which is the oldest scout troop in continuous existence in Alabama, currently has 60 youth members and 40 adult volunteers, Peden said. It is also the largest troop in the Mobile Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, which is comprised of Baldwin, Mobile Clark and Washington counties.

An annual birthday party is held for Troop 47 on the first Saturday in October. Peden said that while the group was chartered in January 1928, they hold the

party in October because "the weather is generally nicer." Maintaining the same date year after year also helps out-of-towners, who would like to attend, plan their trip.

"People come back from all over the United States," he said.

Troop 47 meets on Monday, 7 p.m., in the Louis E. Dantlzer Memorial Scout Lodge, located at the Colony Nature Park on County Roads 13 and 44. Anyone interested in learning more about scouting should contact Peden at 928-9427.



Photo courtesy of David Hale

Scoutmaster Seth Peden with Alex Vance, both of Troop 47, share a humorous moment at a troop campout held at Camp Pushmataha in Citronelle last February.

TROOP 47 EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Editor's note: The projects completed by Troop 47's more than 100 Eagle Scouts have benefited a wide variety of organizations on the Eastern Shore and elsewhere. They are listed below.

SCHOOLS

Anna T. Jean School for the handicapped
B.C. Morgan School
Bayside Academy
Baldwin County Alternative School
Christ the King School
Fairhope Elementary School
Fairhope Intermediate School
Fairhope High School
Fairhope K-1 Center
Fairhope Middle School
J. Larry Newton School
Marietta Johnson Organic School

CHURCHES

Beckwith Lodge
Cook Memorial Presbyterian Chapel
Eastern Shore Christian Center
Fairhope Christian Church
Fairhope United Methodist Church
First Baptist Church
Macedonia Baptist Church
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
St. James Episcopal Church
St. Lawrence Catholic Church

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Alabama Coastal Foundation
Blakeley State Park
Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Wintermeyer Pitcher Plant Bog
shelter for orphaned cats
wood duck habitat program

MISCELLANEOUS

AHEPA Apartments
Alabama State Troopers
City duck pond bridge
City of Fairhope
Colony Cemetery
Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce
Ecumenical Ministries/Emmy's Thrift Shop
Fairhope Municipal Pier
Fairhope Public Library
Henry George monument landscaping
James P. Nix Center
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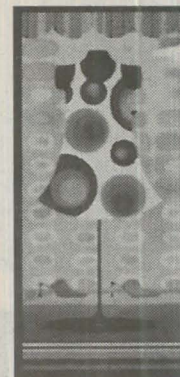
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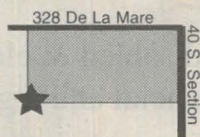
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ESCS supports music programs in the public schools of Baldwin County.

For more information call Stephanie Crowe 929-1896

Volunteers play a role in annual celebration

Fairhope's Fourth of July festivities got its name in 1968 from the Eastern Shore Jaycees

Editor's Note: Civic organizations and resident volunteerism have always played a large part in Fairhope's celebration of Independence Day. Some think the zenith of these local celebrations took place in the mid-1960s and 1970s, when the Eastern Shore Jaycees began sponsoring the annual Water Festival held each May and moved this celebration to July 4th. Courtesy of Jim Merrihew, president of the Eastern Shore Jaycees in 1966, here is the story of Fairhope's Fourth in those days, when it was called the Water Festival, and the role the local Jaycees played in sponsoring it.

The following article, origi-

nally published in the July 2, 1970 edition of the Fairhope Courier, describes the festivities.

There will be fun for all ages at the Fairhope Municipal Pier. These festivities are an annual project of the Eastern Shore Jaycees.

"The activities this year will include power boat races, sail boat races, swimming contests, skiing contests, games, watermelon eating contest, a fishing rodeo, as well as demonstrations and displays. The popular fireworks displays, concessions, swimming, and beaches will provide fun for all ages. There will be a Mystery Prize.

Eight power boat races will include two classes, racing

hulls and fishing craft. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to winners. These races will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. on the morning of the Fourth.

Sailboat races will last for three days. These races will be for the large sailcraft, trophies will be awarded to winners. On the Fourth there will be other sail races for Dolphin class sail boats.

The fishing rodeo will begin early on the morning of the Fourth and will continue until a weigh-in at noon. Other morning events will include swimming races. Trophies will be awarded winners in both events.

The afternoon of the Fourth will feature the skiing contest and a watermelon-eating contest. The ski-contest winners will receive trophies. The watermelon-eating contest promises plenty of ice cold melons and fun, as well as a prize.

As in the past years, there will be prizes. This year the Mystery Prize will be in a box displayed on the Fourth. The 25-cent prize tickets are available from now through the drawing on the evening of the Fourth from any Eastern Shore Jaycee.

During the entire day, there will be available for your entertainment, games, demonstrations and displays. The games will test your skills. The

demonstrations and displays will include a special feature — the large display trailer of the Alabama State Department of Water Safety. Swim and beach areas will be open to the public all day.

The Jaycees will provide for your convenience a concession wagon. The menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs, corn dogs, cold drinks and other picnic favorites. The wagon will be located at the head of the pier.

The big event of the evening will be the gala fireworks display. This favorite of past years is sponsored by the city of Fairhope. The fireworks will begin just after sunset. Be on the Pier area for best, unobstructed viewing."

FOURTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Mrs. Marietta Johnson.

At 12:30 p.m., everyone was to enjoy a picnic dinner followed by an exhibition drill by the Knights of Pythias. At 2, a full round of games were planned: "Jolly Sports," consisting of obstacle races, potato races, thread the needle races and three-legged races, to name a few. Next came a baseball game between the Merry Widow 9 of Fairhope and a Mobile team. After the game, water sports were played, including a rowing race, swimming race and a tub race.

July 4, 1908 brought with it intermittent rain. While the newspaper later reported the precipitation interfered with the program schedule organized by the Beach Improvement Association,

many of the activities were completed. The temperature remained moderate all day, staying in the high 70s. While the parade was cancelled, the program was held at Powell's "spacious" pavilion. The afternoon races were held, and Fairhope residents did not cheer in vain at the baseball game. Fairhope won the game 9 to 6. The fireworks and a dance closed out the day.

The Courier reported that many in Baldwin County drove in for the day. While the rain may have dampened the size of the Mobile crowd, the steamers Fairhope, Pleasure Bay and Carney delivered about 175 across the bay.

For more information on the 2008 Fourth of July events, contact the city at 929-1466.



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American Legion celebration

American Legion Post 199 will be holding a barbecue on the Fourth of July. In addition to food and beverages, the post will host a horseshoe tournament and a concert with Reflekshun7 band. Visit www.AmericanLegion199.com for more details.

If You Were a Pizza, What Pizza Would You Be ?

Breaking News... Papa's Pizza in Fairhope did not serve pizza at the 1908 Fairhope celebration!!!

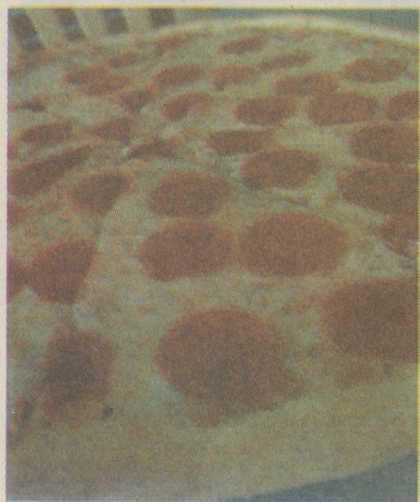
Imagine being a pizza. Now, what pizza would you be? **Papa's Pizza**, of course:

Papa's Pizza is ideally located in the heart of Fairhope at the corner of Fairhope Avenue and Church Street, a fantastic gathering place for friends and families. Papa's Pizza is celebrating 15 years of serving the Fairhope community.

Come on in and enjoy a slice of New York style pizza, homemade lasagna, original buffalo style wings, low fat spinach lasagna, calzonies, strombolies, chicken parmesan sandwiches, Philly steak sandwiches and great beer prices. Papa's Pizza has got it all and what they don't have Papa's Place does.

Come often.
Bring the family and meet friends.

Papa's Pizza --- A slice of family fun!!!



The Future Of Papa's Pizza?

Eli (image next to Papa) is the newest member to the Papa's family.

It's funny how we start our lives looking a certain way and it seems we head out looking almost the same.

This little man loves his pizza, spaghetti and his bread sticks. Be sure to look him up when visiting Papa's Pizza in Fairhope.

You know, Eli may be the next Papa.. Now that's a family business.

The Future Is So Bright I've got To Wear Shades!!!

How Are the 2 Restaurants Connected?

Janice Nicholson, the owner of Papa's Pizza in Fairhope and Terry Nicholson, owner of Papa's Place in Daphne, have been a great husband and wife team for over 38 years... They have said, "There have been over 40 family members come to call the Eastern Shore home and over 10 Restaurants within a 50 mile radius".

So how did it all start and with who? Papa, of course! Papa and his wife Genea stopped in Fairhope on a trip to Florida and never left. As luck would have it, they called a cottage by the bay home for two years. They never made it to Florida. Papa's image (below) is who it all started with.



Smells like success to me....
Way to go to the Nicholson Family for their many years of service to our area...

Our connection is -- We're One Big Happy Family!!!

If You Were a Place, What Place Would You Be ?

If You Could Be Anyplace, Where Would You Be?

Terry Nicholson, owner and operator of Papa's Place for over 7 years now and kitchen manager, Danny Greer, were both trained by Papa (Chef Comeau) himself.

Picture this, hand cut steaks in Papa's original marinade sauce, seafood pasta and the best crab claw alfredo appetizer ever. Italian cuisine, like mouth watering chicken parmesan, chicken alfredo, chicken marsala, and freshly cut oven roasted vegetables are just a few examples of the best food on the Eastern Shore.

If you are looking to impress anyone, Papa's Place is the place to do it. The cuisine is world class.



Papa's Pizza 990- 9600



Papa's Place 626-1999

The best part of Papa's Place in Daphne is "Bring Your Own Bottle"...yah! Now there's a winner!

When eating at Papa's Place in Daphne our tab is without alcohol. This creates a better night on the wallet...

With Kathy's package store right next door, the alcohol purchase is at a much lower price and with gas prices as they are, the loyal Mobile crowd is appreciating Papa's 20 year policy of bring your own bottle.

The newest buzz at Papa's Place is Papa's new Private Party Room that seats 45. Terry and Danny are booking parties and have mentioned how great the room is for weddings, rehearsals, birthdays parties, business gatherings, etc...

Reserve your party today!

Papa's Place. Sounds like a Party tonight!!!





Fairhope Single Tax Corporation Executive Council

When our Founders created Fairhope in 1894, they envisioned a model community with beautiful parklands, wide avenues, and a sense of cooperative individualism. Because of their vision, sacrifice, and faith in this dream, Fairhope is the oldest community of its kind in the world, with a strong committment to preserve and enhance their vision.

We salute the City of Fairhope as it celebrates its centennial and look forward to continuing to work together to keep this wonderful city such a great place to live.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CITY OF FAIRHOPE!

