FOUNDED 1907

MARIETTA JOUNSON, FOUNDER

DECEMBER 12, 1957

Mrs. Marietta Johnson - Founder Of School Of Organic Education

First Classes Started In April 1907 With Mrs. Johnson As Teacher

Mrs. Marietta Pierce Johnson was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, October 8, 1864 — died December 23, 1938 in Fairhope, Alabama. One son, Clifford Ernest Johnson, now resides in Florida and another son, Franklin Johnson, died at an early age. She married John Franklin Johnson in 1897.

Mrs. Johnson was educated in the St. Paul Schools and taught in Moorhead Normal College of Minnesota and the Mankato Normal School. She was dissatisfied with the teaching method used then, so with Mr. Johnson went to North Dakota, Montana, Mississippi and finally on to Fairhope, Alabama, where they decided to spend the winter. That winter of 1903 Mrs. Johnson took over the public school teaching, organized a Parent's Meeting and presented new ideas at the Teacher's Institute, from the teachings of C. Hanford Henderson and Oppenheim. The public school that year



MRS. MARIE A JOHNSON

was very successful with sixty-two pupils and thirteen graduates, the first class formally graduated in the county.

The Johnsons decided to settle on a pecan farm at Barnett, Mississippi, not far from Meridian, Mississippi, in the spring of 1904. Mrs. Johnson would spend short periods of time in Fairhope to conduct a Teacher's Institute, and it was during this time that Superintendent Lambert appointed her as Normal Instructor to the teachers of the county. In 1906 she conducted a four weeks summer school with Mrs. L. J. N. Comings as Secretary and Manager.

In 1907 the Johnsons settled in Fairhope, and in April of that year opened, in a small way, the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education. Mr. Johnson worked with her in the school until his death in 1919.

In 1922-1925-1927-1933, Mrs. Johnson was sent to Europe to represent American education before the leading educators of Europe. This was a great honor as only two or three educators have been so selected.

WHAT IS ORGANIC EDUCATION?

Excerpts From Mrs. Johnson's Explanatory Speech

Education is life; growth! Therefore the school program, to be educational, must be life - giving to body, mind, and spirit - the complete organism. The child is a reacting organism; he reacts to his environment. The test of the environment is the way he reacts. Hence all true education is ORGANIC, that is - designed to meet the needs of the growing organism; to secure the child's best development.

Following is a statement of these needs:

- 1. Music and rhythm, dancing, singing.
- Fullest self-expression through an abundance of handwork.
 - 3. Nature study, which may be called science in later years.
- Stories of history and geography that later become the social studies, literature and languages.
- 5. Fundamental conceptions of numbers which naturally grow into all mathematical work.

Our experience, and the resulting beliefs, justify the following practices in our school:

1. Nothing which violates the order of development of the nervous system, may become a part of the school program. Therefore a great mass of the closer formal work is postponed until the child reaches the age of 8 or 9 years, since these subjects require too mature a control of the nervous system of young children.

2. No child may be unduly accelerated — pushed ahead without danger to his nervous system. To prevent acceleration

our servor groups emidren according to circulological age, giving to each group the subjects and activities which our experience as shown to be suitable; special attention is given to individual needs. This grouping also prevents self consciousness.

3. The interests of children must be respected if they are to evelop fine thinking power. This requires experiences vital to e child himself. All children are interested in things of the enses, things to do, things to create. Therefore the shops occupy a large place in our curriculum and on our grounds. Singing, dancing, dramatics, stories, and nature are also vital experiences and are given a prominent place.

The foundation of character and spiritual development sincerity. This means singleness of purpose. Working for rades, marks, promotions, or for some other reward than the oy of learning, develops double motives. Instead of the child's ttention being concentrated on the subject, allowing him to enoy the process of learning, he is more often concerned with the uperficial thing, the record, the grade, the passing, the prize.

5. Grades and marks also develop self-consciousness; that is, the child is thinking of what others are expecting of him rather than of what he, himself, is trying to do. This self-consciousness is a subtle form of fear, and fear is always weakening, unlermining to health, and interferes with clear thinking. Often t tends to destroy moral integrity.

The aim of the work in our school is to provide activities and exercises that will minister to the health of the body, develop the finest mental grasp, and preserve the sincerity and unselfconsciousness of the emotional life.



LIBRARY-SCIENCE BUILDING

The School Library and Science Department

TODAY AND TOMORROW

The Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education, a tax exempt corporation, is operated today by 15 man Board of Managers to erve students from the kindergarten through the high school level Today there are some two hundred students in the school instructed by a faculty of eighteen on a camfor fifty years. The school "home for it is known by that name today and has been thus designated for ever so many years, houses boys that hallowed center of community culture, is today being reworked and is being made truly habitable for the many activities germane to

chool and community life. The Campus, bounded by Fairope Avenue, School Street, Morphy, and Bancroft, shows daily new life from Rabold Field on the South to Comings Hall on the Northwest. on of instruct space are arisgrowth of class-

Folk Dancing Annual Field the Pan-Amere year's physi-ure reminiscent iniscent of the

older groups ophetic of the ackgrounds for nship, complete he scientific and pments which iteria for indiand behavior h objectives, we

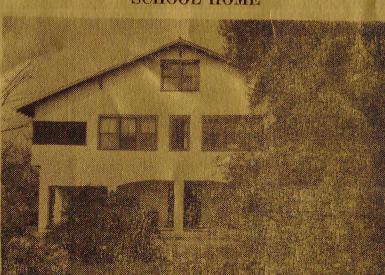
istic of this existing institution. The necessity of a strong drive for future expansion thus becomes read-

ily apparent.

We look to an ever broadening purpose and usefulness - a purpose which, arising from the convictions of the people, their concepts and their folk ways, call to us, conditioned by our half century, to renewed devotion to our youth in a changing world. May we produce the youth which learns to nake wise decisions independently — and thus carry on those wise decisions made fifty years ago by an intellect and a heart imbedded

Many, many thanks to the fine ladies of the round table of the School of Organic Education who have been so helpful in making this

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tion which has

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Alumni Of School Of Organic Education

1910 Anderson, Daphne (Brown) Bell, Jessie Irene Caldwell, Daisy Gaston, Cornelius A. Warner,, Bessie (Littlefield) Vorcester, Olive

1911

Buell, Irene (Lucier) Caldwell, Eva ayne, Hazel (Williams) Barrett, Maude Sercombe, Leontine (Possien) Stewart, Lillian

Clowers, Erma (Rockwell) McGill, Leah (Gaston)

1913

1914

Anderson, Anna (Linder) Beaty, Irene (Edmundson) Brown, Augusta (Crawford) Higgins, Alice (Coutant) Gaston, Arthur Klumpp, Minerva (Riel) Johnson, Hattie Mae ohnson, Catherine earson, Anna well, Elsie (Kerr) atterson, Ford uveson, Florence (Russell)

Rockwell, Helen Bell (Lucier) Allen, Ethel

Davis, Bernice (Martin)

Rockwell, Reuben Smith, Curtis

Knox, Edna

Guthrie, David ge, Howard Wood, Raymond

1917

Head, Loretta (George) Worcester, Rosa

Frederick, Esther (Pierce) Roodrich, Frances (Kerr) Leener, Esther (Cilmore) Nelson, Beulah (Pierce)

1919 Brown, Lucille (Wienand) Dryer, Kathleen (Dickson Gender, Mabel (White) Johnson, Clifford Ernest Roberts, Mildred (Wienand Sauter, Louis Schuster, Ruth (Nevison) Bonnell, Camilla (Roberts)

1920

Dyson, Raymond uthrie, Blachard Hadley, Ruth Rockwell, Louise (Porter) Hedden, Owen Lee, Mildred Mershon, Ronald B. Van Zandt, Mildred (Russell)

Carpenter, Wilma (Logston) Davis, Helen (Nevison) ond, Mary (Lee) lardy, Alice (Brady) ledden, Lyman Gaston, Margaret (Nichols) Crowley, Mildred (Mershon) Huffman, Lorena (Nichols) Sheldon, Edwin A. Jr. Stimpson, Stanley

1922

Beasley, Erma (Gilmore) Hess, Jack LaGrutta, Tessie LaNicca, Ruth (Mershon) Mershon, Arthur Clyde Lord, Barbara Nichols, Lawrence Nichols, Marvin Pierce, Victor

1923

Barlett, Ethel ellis, Ethel (Parsons) dreen, Rowena ighter, Elizabeth (Branden Wharton, Kirby Winberg, Glen

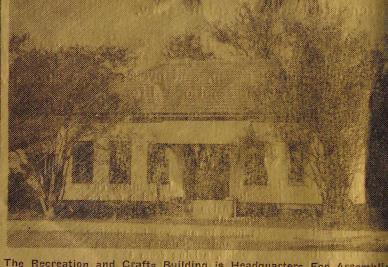
1924 andiford, Erma (Byron) eorge, Raymond

Hawes, Norman Ingersoll, Sadie (Winberg) Clark, Constance (Lord) Green, Lavonne (Walmark) roby, Smith Mitchell, Thelma (Tucker runk, Alice (Logsdon)

1925

Armagast, Mrs. M.

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rue, Marie (Beiser) erglin, Marvin arter, Eloise yson, Sam ohnson ,Elsie (Gilmore) lauser, Lyle rnberg, Ray lingensmith, Thomas inberg, Ethel (Davis) rnton, George e, Mildred stter, Grace (Curtis) son, Helen (Porter) est, Frances (Perkins) ttle, Robert

rrey, Grace (Forster) ead, Elizabeth idt, Philip es, Mabel (Steele) delius, Carl Iwin, Elizabeth (Thornton)

aker, Mildred rman, Ellen (Hougesen) nolds, Isadore

Mannah (Southerland) r, Lawrence y (Tone)

Louise (Hammet) dys (Hedden) Elizabeth (Shields)

n, Jack , Susan (Swift) er, Josephine (Tone) ock, Dorothea (Vanston)

1930 Hadys (Gilmore) n, Dorothy Blanche

Beiser, Carl

Cain, Dorothy (Beiser) Byrons, Clarice timpson, Jean (Ems) Brubaker, Winthrop Klumpp, Dorothy (Fondren) Scott, Madeleine (Gibbs) looney, Dorothy (Hamill) lagg, Homer

eupp, Francis Lloyd, Georgia (Brendt) Malito, Francis Johnston, Wellington Rahe, David F. Riegger, Harold Stapleton John Swedelius, Adele Sullivan, Cornelia (Tone) ray, Claire (Totten) Rittenhouse, Dorothy (Tiffany)

1931

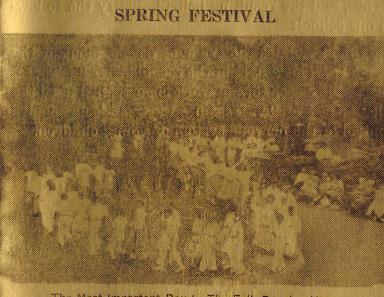
1932

Alexander, William Armagast, Robert M. Bean, Jennie Buell, Dexter Hedden, Walter McElreath, Preston Reynolds Fred Keller, Elizabeth (Rogers)
Spater, Dorothy (Swedelius)
Fitus, Robert John Vander Roest, William Wilkes, Anne (Vorisek) Hall, Anna Laura (Winberg)

Plagg, Raymond Stubblefield, Anna C. (Skinner) Stubblefield, Richard Stubblefield, Lawrence hompson, Clyde tobinson, Virginia (Thornton) Larkin, Dorothy (Wallmark) Worsham, Dick Tone, David

Albers, Francis Hunter, Helene (Beiser) Edwards, Kenneth Fuller, George Hooper, Kenneth Johnson, Charles Cier, Douglas Perry, Helen (Payne) Ponder, Maraget (Reynolds) Rockwell, Lucier Lawrence, Bernice (Starkey)
Waller, Ed.
Ems. Francis
Swedelius, Joe
Dyer, William
Steele, George

Tuveson, Robert Mershon, C. L. (Continued on next page)



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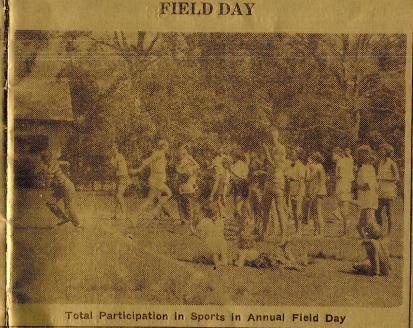
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rris, Edna (Rockwell)

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Wiggins, John

Bennet, Montagne hleborad, Rudolph Dougherty, David looper, Thaine AcGauley, Margaret (Lockwood) Cellogg, Florence (Lowell) AcKeuzie, Daisy M. Iontgomery, Lucille Radde, Paul Stubblefield Don Titus, Paul McFarland, Robert

ntosh, Winnie (Beaty) nichek, Beth (Beiser) chere, James odward, Jean (Gaston) olland, Cedric aly, Lois (Jowers) wis, Hayden kins, Janet adde, Henry uersel, Wm. Jr. Swift, Harriet Huxford, Bunny (Young) Verneuille, Walter Zundel, Anna Mary

Thomas, Jacqueline (Arnold) Cassidy, Leonard Campbell, John Harvey Campbell, John Harvey
Curtis, Robert
Curtis, Dolly Mae (Ivy)
Jansen, Ruby
Klumpp, T. J. Jr.
Bodden, Jeanne (Lowell)
Strehlan, Nancy (Stewart) Croll, Helen (Swedelius) Perron, Margaret (Stearns) Fitus, Eddie Bishop, Joyce (Totten)
Stubblefield, Leona (Winberg)

Anderson, Frank Astrella, Robert Beiser, Theodore Valentine, Rhoda (Allen) Dealy, Robert Fuller, Althea Gaston, James, Jr. Godard, Mary (Gaston) Choice, Nancy (Jimmerson) Fredericks, Maxine (Jowers) Klein, Helen Laraway, Emile Grace Newman, Edgar Ninneman, Genevieve Mitchell, James Fredericks, Paul

Boothe, Cabot Campbell, Richard Odell, John Reynolds, Daphne Journonville, Alice (Stapleton) Stearns, Harmon Totten, Don E Arnold, Patrick

Beaty, Raymond Newland, Quentin Payne, William H. Ninneman, Byron Fredericks, Pierce Goodrich, Everett Strand, Clarence Stillings, Marsha (Tuberville)

ennings, Beverly (Brown Batty, Bertha Beatty, Chester Saston, Barney Stimpson, Owen
Haylor, Gertrude
Tuveson, R. E.
Campbell, Malcolm
Urbanek, Margaret (Laraway)

1948 Arnold, Mordecai Castro, Marie Lowell, Marney Norris, Oney timpson, Laura

Northrop, Lorena (Goodrich) Hawkins, Marian (Huffman) Nichols, Caroline Smith, Jack Stuersel, Marietta Weatherly, Peggy (Wood)

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1947 Mary Emma s, Thomas Mary Katherine

e, Barbara inie Mitchell Woodrow e, Ret Marie (Wallace)

in, Helen s, William en, Karen lson, Patricia (Porter) therington, Katherine

ablatt, Barry nson, Dorothy ekwell, Donald illace, Dolores lson, Jennie Lee ung, Max V. 1951 lress, Joseph

George latt, Arnold vay, Frank anan, Ola Jean (Nelson) e, Alice (Pippin)

Cotten, Jean (Arnold) Kerr, Edward Murrell, Paul Odom, Wilburn Peacock, Fred Wallace, Doris Witherington, Arthur Taylor, Myrna Lou Vance, Robert

Cllis, Ann Bonnell, Jack, Jr. Bung, Robert Stewart, William stearns, Verna Lou Graham, Margaret (Smith) Smith, Sylvia Ann

Bung, Leslie

tenzel, Eleanore Joa

ebler, Walter Beiser, Delaine Wallace, Rosemary

Harrell, Faye Clark Haney, Robert Cain, Kenneth C. Stenzel, Philip

Crawford, Sally Doicu, Vivien Dyson, May Moss Gooden, Patti Horne, Linda Hunter, Suzanne Jones, Jeanette Newell, Jerry Timbes, Mary Lois

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Education on its fifty years of devoted service to

our community; and wishes to express its appre-

ciation for the unselfish service of Marietta J \subset

son, its founder, and of all who have contrib

Middle medical displayed

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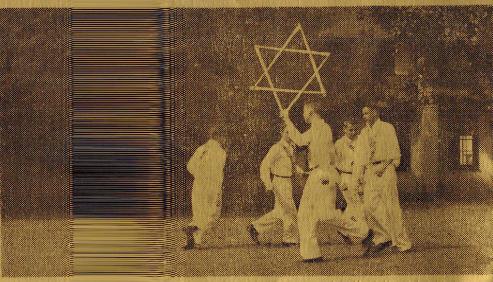
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any years in the nor of Minnesota, where reputation as an ad

officer, and as a teach r strength of mind and

e study of the subjects

coloring them with her and correlating them

e superintendent gave

on in the future would was much impressed point of view, and be-herself "What are the

vital way.

NEEDS of the unfolding organi-

, and HOW may the education-

anding is an Integral Part of the School Program

PAN-AMERICAN



World Understandings Are Stressed in Pan-American Week

ory And Progress Of School Of Organic Education

made a istrative who put he

he Child, sa this new

>hn-_ated

process meet these needs?" Another book that helped to inuence Mrs. Johnson in her deter-ination was manford Henderson's he lines of her new theory. When sked why she called her experi-nent "Organic." she said, "Because know of no better name. Educa on is growth, and true education intelligence of the mind, and eeps the spirit sweet and sincere.

In her book Thirty years with an no. Switzerland, in 1927. dea Mrs. Johnson says: "In the summer of 1907 Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Juffings asked me to come to Fair pope and open a free school, offering to provide twenty-five dollars was started in 1924, at Caldwell New Jersey and there was the onth. I was so anxious to try the idea that I should have month. I was so anxious to try the idea that I should have the idea that I should have ween willing to pay children to me and let me experiment. So accepted the \$25 per month, renting a cottage for fifteen, leaving the dollars per month for salary california, and the Manumit School.

and supplies. Six children came he first day. I did not know what to do. But it was the greatest joy of my life to have the privilege of trying out a theory which I felt to be absolutely sound; that education is life and that the school program, to be educational, must be ife-giving!

The twenty-five dollars per month put the school through the first year. The next year Mr. Joseph Fels visited Fairhope in the interested in what looked to him like a play school, and made inquiries about it. He gave the school was now moved from my own cotome thousand dollars. The school was now moved from my own cotome was now moved from my own cotome was now moved from my own cotome. In the 20's also a day school and made in the content of the school was now moved from my own cotome was now my own was now moved from my own cot-last to a small building, and an assistant was engaged. The enroll-ment reached about 35. Mr. Fels by parents in Greenwich, Conne

With an Idea, was of by an idea—the idea or a period of five year ol must fit the needs ing child. She was a was now incorporated ar acquired the present site of abouten acres, with a main building of three large rooms."

Mrs. Johnson now had the adde cuty of raising funds for the chool. She did this mainly by he ectures given all over the Unite States and abroad. Once when g ng to address a meeting of a Mot 's Congress in Pennsylvania, iscovered, after she was on rain, that she had no money. train, that she had no money. Sa appealed to a kindly gentlema who assisted her, and who prove to be Mr. W. J. Hoggson, one of the best friends the school even had. As a result of his interest a summer school was begun treenwich, Connectitut in 191

At the same time a Fairh League, whose prime purpose to support the school, was orgazed. In 1920 this league was named The Fairhope Education Foundation. In 1921 a special V Several years after her marriage, ter School for parents, teache she and Mr. Johnson moved to Fairhope, Alabama and Mrs. John-on undertook the consecrated task of some financial help to t

John Dewey, of Columbia University, was invited to come to Fat ope and investigate the sc His favorable report was of growth, and true education estimable value, not only in esta sing it in the minds of educator and others, but also in serving a great help in securing funds.

Mrs. Johnson lectured at an estimal content with the minds of educator and others, but also in serving a great help in securing funds.

Mrs. Johnson lectured at an estimal conference in Heidelbergers. nds to preserve and perfect cational conference in Heidelb entire organism; hence it is in 1925 and at the World Confanic."

SENIOR RINGS

Hearts For All Time

pies of education and supervised v her for a number of years. It now perpetuated in the annual spring Festival.

These years were outstanding in ctivities of all kinds—drama, rolk dance, handicrafts, nature study. Hard.y a year passed without a number of people of national prom mence visiting the school. During this period of the 20's the school concributed to the growth and pros-perity of Fairhope by attracting people from all over the United permanent or temporary. A few reside here.

It is interesting to speculate now far the school could have grown and developed had not the great Depression gotten in its tre-Lendously enervating work on Or game. Catastrophe then betell the senool—the depletion of the population of the boarding department; the tragic death of Mr. Rabold, Mrs. Johnson's right-hand assist nt; the withdrawal of a number of good teachers. Then began the ears of some financial strugle by Mrs. Johnson, which under

mmed her health and resulted in ner death December, 1938. What to do? After Mrs. Johnson's death the closing of the school seemed imminent, until a courageous and dedicated group of tac-uity members united in a co-opera-tive undertaking, without salary, to share equally in the administra-

might come in. This might not have been so successful without the variable administrative experitions. This selfless group, despite the imited funds available, immediately legan sorely needed improvements on the plant. How long the group could have carried on is doubtful had not the Fairhope Rotary Clab secured an N. Y. A. project which brought in an income,

in 1941 Dr. Wm. Zeuch was invit to become director of the school s main contribution was in the inancial field, one of which was the organization of a Sustaining Fund which proved invaluable in support of the continuation of the

Again in the Spring of 1947 the school appeared to be drawing its last breath but was revived by an alumnus (Sam Dyson) giving a liberal gift of money which made it possible for a dedicated group to reorganize and set the school on its feet once more. Then followed an upsurge of student and faculty activity in rehabilitating the buildings of the school. Comings Hall received a new oak floor laid by the child HAS to do.

nt. based on Mrs. Johnson's prin- high school boys under the supe vision of a skilled carpenter. was in the 20's that the famous leadership of a young faculty man winter Courses in Fairhope were reroofed three school building Legun, terminating each year with a restival which drew people from a wide surrounding area. This is tile-roof building into an attractive ecreation room; they sprigged Ra cold Field with centipede gras rom the Experiment Station; the

ques. All of these activities developed a priceless spirit of "community" so needed in our society nd one of the foundation stones the school laid down by Mrs. John son. In 1951 a group of business men of Fairhope united in a fund raising drive for the school, and cook the responsibility of superising its administration.

struggle to survive. It has been ortunate though in having a group of dedicated teachers, all of them nbued with the spirit of (to quo Mrs. Johnson) MEETING THE SITUATION. The students too posess a fine spirit of helpful co-ope tion and can always be depend

They take part in many group tivities — Clean-up Day, Pa American Day, Field Day, Hal owe'en and Christmas parties, and he annual Spring Festival.

Folk Dancing has always been regular part of the school program Folk dancers from the school wer olk Dance Festival at Constitu tion Hall in Washington, D. C., or several occasions. They have give might come in. This might not at the Spring Fiesta and St. Mar

paid for the use of the build- Selected Educational Aphorisms

THIRTY YEARS WITH AN IDEA By Marietta Johnson

No one need ever hope to know perfectly the signs of a languishing or flourishing child, but it is the

eived a new oak floor laid by the child HAS to do.



The Bell Building, Housing the Second Life, Third Life and Junior High School is a Fairhope Landmark

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON YOUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

GREER'S SUPER MARKET

"Greer's Got It"

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR

THE FUTURE

THE BANK OF FAIRHOPE

CONGRATULATIONS FAIRHOPE ANIMAL CLINIC Theodore L. Gail

> CONGRATULATIONS THE GRAND HOTEL Point Clear, Alabama

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF ORGANIC EDUCATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY THE FAIRHOPE COURIER

是1940/2010/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940/2010 1940

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

KAMPER'S NEWS

"The Friendliest Store In Town"

CONGRATULATIONS FOR FIFTY YEARS OF BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY AND EASTERN SHORE

PITMAN REALTY COMPANY

COMPLIMENTS OF

HUFFMAN—SLYE

REAL ESTATE and INSURANCE

Fairhope, Alabama

F CLOTHING

NEEDS FROM HEAD TO TOE

BEDSOLE'S To be seen that the same of the

CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR HALF CENTURY FROM ACROSS THE STREET SCHERMER'S

California, Alchema