

COURIER NEWSCLIPS 1179

## Single Tax

Dear Sir:

Just what is the Single Tax Colony and who was Henry George, is a frequent question asked by both dwellers on the Colony and deeded property.

The involvement of land and taxes is as old as the Bible, "Profit of the earth is for all" (Ecclesiastes). Thousands upon thousands of philosophers, economists, socialists and others have offered theories which range from "share the wealth" to "guaranteed income."

Henry George, who was a printer in Philadelphia traveled "around the horn" nearly one hundred years ago to San Francisco at the time of the gold rush and free government land grants, out of which grew great abuses. He was not an economist or sociologist, just a poor man without a job who began to have ideas about how to correct land grant abuses. The story of his life is long and turbulent, but he finally was able to start a little newspaper in San Francisco where he could espouse his theories and eventually write his book "Progress and Poverty." At first, it had no sale and he gave it away, printing copies in his shop. He envisioned a society which would be one great corporation with all sharing the profits, the only taxes being on the land. Recorded history of his book says parts of his thinking were plagiarized from

more learned writers (see p. 25, documentary listed below).

About this time, Samuel Gompers, a radical anti-socialist, started the labor movement. The union men did not see or care about the single tax feature, but were entranced with the "divide the wealth" idea. So the movement spread and spread with many different versions and plans. The name "single tax" was not attached to all the supporting groups.

Joseph Fels, the multimillionaire soap manufacturer, who gave two thousand acres to help start the Fairhope Colony, in my opinion, was one of the most avaricious and anti-American personalities in American history. He not only gave millions to help finance the Bolshevik Revolution but used the single tax theory to enhance his wealth (p-178).

Fels asked Oregon, which was then sparsely populated, to adopt the Single Tax plan in order to depress the price of farm land in the Willamette Valley so he could buy it for a song, then have the single tax repealed, and make big gains (p-178).

Most single tax advocates used the referendum as the democratic way to adopt or reject the single tax. Remember, at that time, there were no other taxes, such as sales, income, etc. Others took their charters to the Legislatures as

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did the Fairhope group. This was at a time when the country was churning over tariffs, free silver, gold, and many other problems. Through all of this, Joseph Fels was giving away money to promote land tax ideas in England, Denmark, Holland, Hungary, Canada and even Australia.

By this time, George got interested in politics, and with the theme, "masses against classes," and calling workers "enslaved toilers," he ran for Mayor of New York City, was defeated, ran for Attorney General, was defeated, and became known as a "radical agitator" (p-76), and was called "dangerous." However, he had followers, some of whom were writers and professors.

In the meantime, the single tax theory under different names and varying plans, was introduced in nine states. All were defeated one by one, and at the time of the writing of the documentary I am quoting, (1916) there were only three, of which Fairhope is one.

When Henry George was running for office, the Socialists and Single Tax movements came into contact with one another, 1886. The Union Labor party was George's support for Mayor of New York which later became the Progressive Labor Party which merged with the Socialists Labor Party whose aim was to destroy private property in capital. As a matter of fact, George dealt blows to his own bastion (p-309).

The original founders of the Fairhope group in 1894 consisted of five families who contributed \$200.00 each for membership. It was known as the Fairhope Industrial Association, but changed in 1904 to the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation. The group holds all land as "trustees." Not all Fairhope property is single tax. Here and there are pieces of deeded property, some right in the heart of Fairhope.

Fairhope has never been a colony made up of single taxers alone. Indeed, not all founders were orthodox single taxers in their faith, their number including Communists and other radicals. One of the single tax founders stated that all through our history, we have had with us probably a majority who strongly espoused the Communist faith. The history of the Colony has not been a record of harmony" (p-253). The fact that there is also a government with a mayor and councilmen creates duplicate governments, thus complicating the fiscal problems of the city's operation.

The dissenters label the members of the colony as "obstinately undemocratic" by denying lessees a voice in the deciding policies.

The present dissent attacks the increase in rents. A lessee who wrote to the paper stated

that the tax collector in Bay Minette taxed her property at \$28.00 a year, but the Colony collected \$220.00 from here. She is a widow on Social Security, thereby making her exempt altogether on her homesite, which the Colony disallowed. Other objections often voiced is, when the owner finds a buyer for his property, it is not uncommon for the Colony to tell the prospective buyer that the price is too high, and the sale falls through.

I claim no solutions to the complicated problems this country now faces, but I do admit that I was once a "probable" socialist, having been a student in Chicago in both sociology and economics with socialist teachers who used the text books of the famous and prolific Socialist text book author, Richard Ely. I was so fired up by those exciting and enthusiastic teachers that I thought all capitalism and free enterprise were evil that I felt I had to crusade the balance of my life to right the wrongs. When I went to work and cold reality dawned upon me, I felt that I had been taken. It lead me to read and read, and I sincerely believe that the Fairhope Single Tax Colony should make all lessees voting members, as well as opening their books so all may see the

uses of the profits which should have been properly audited by certified public accountants.

This outdated and socialistic scheme should be democratized or it should be dissolved.

Sincerely,  
Ada C. McDermott

Reference: Documentary "The Single Tax Movement in the U.S." Author Nichols Young, Ph.D., instructor in economics and social institutions, Yale University. Copyright 1916.

*Eastern Shore Courier*  
*June 7-1975*



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*Mobile Press 2/24/74*

## Single Tax meet set in Montgomery

FAIRHOPE, Ala. — The Single Tax Investigative Committee established by the Alabama Legislature will meet March 8 and 9 in Room 206 of the State Capitol Building in Montgomery, according to Rep. G.J. Higganbotham of Opelika, committee chairman.

Higganbotham told the Baldwin Edition that Montgomery Attorney Don Harrison and representatives of the lessees will meet with the committee on Monday, March 8, at 1 p.m. and Bay Minette Attorney Norborne Stone and representatives of the corporation will meet the following day at 10 a.m.

The committee was originally scheduled to return to Fairhope on March 1, but said Higganbotham, "We had such a problem of getting all the committee members together that we thought it would be better and more members would be able to attend if the meetings were held in Montgomery."

Higganbotham advised Monday morning by phone that the committee would ask both parties to submit their views on how the controversy, centering around what the lessees say are excessive rent increases, can best be solved.

# Specifics aired on firm's status

By GREG McDONALD  
Press Staff Reporter

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Does the Alabama Legislature have the authority to regulate the Fairhope Single Tax Corp.?

That question was the center of debate yesterday as a special legislative committee heard arguments on the status of the unique corporation on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

Attorney Ralph Smith of Guntersville said the legislature should settle a dispute between the corporation and lessees of corporation property who claim excessive rent rates have been imposed. Smith said since the legislature has the authority since the corporation was established by the legislature. He cited Section 238 of the Alabama Constitution of 1901 which states the legislature has the right to alter, amend or revoke any charter it ratifies.

Don Harrison, Montgomery attorney representing the lessees, told the committee he and Smith intend to prove the single tax corporation is a land monopoly and also somewhat like a public utility.

In answer to questions, Harrison said the lessees should be given voting rights in corporation policy and lease transferrals or that the legislature should regulate the corporation as if it were a public utility.

Bay Minette attorney Norborne Stone, representing the corporation, told the committee, "What they're proposing to do will kill the Fairhope Single Tax Corp. If the Alabama Supreme Court holds that the corporation is a public utility, then watch out cause you're going to have everybody in the state knocking on your doors."

Stone added, "When you try to regulate a lease or a contract that's been entered into, then you're on the thinnest ground you could possibly be on."

Milton Pearsons, director of public affairs for the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, said the Farm Bureau is in full support of the lessees.

Pearson said, in his opinion, the corporation had gone beyond its authority and is no longer adhering to the Henry George concept under which it was established.

Rep. G. J. Higginbotham of Opelika, committee chairman, said the committee still does not know if the legislature has authority in the matter.

The committee was scheduled to hear further arguments today but Stone said he would submit further argument on behalf of the corporation by way of legal brief.

The committee will review the information presented at the meeting yesterday. No further hearings are expected. Further recommendations, if any, will be made during the fifth legislative day after the legislature convenes in May.

# Court footnote aids officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — A footnote to a Supreme Court decision may make it easier for local officials to circumvent the federal Voting Rights Act when they redraw legislative and other district boundaries.

In a ruling on a Louisiana case, the court said Monday that reapportionment plans approved by federal district courts no longer must follow procedures outlined in the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Eric Schnapper of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund said in a telephone interview Monday that the court's ruling means civil rights groups will have to be more vigilant. "It can be kept from getting out of hand, but we will just have to work a little harder," he said.

Schnapper commented after the court struck down a redistricting plan for the governing body and the school board of East Carroll Parish in a rural area of northeastern Louisiana. The court said that under its previous rulings a plan of single-member districts should have been adopted instead of a plan for multimember districts.

In the footnote to its unsigned opinion, the court rejected Justice Department and NAACP arguments that the plan was invalid because it had not been cleared under the Voting Rights Act.

The act, which applies to seven Southern states and parts of five other states, has been extended by Congress to cover reapportionments that will be required after the 1980 census. The act requires changes in voting procedures to be approved either by the Justice Department or by a special three-judge federal court in Washington.

In 1971, the Supreme Court said reapportionment plans formulated by a federal court are exempt from this requirement because it would interfere with the responsibilities of the judiciary.

Monday's decision broadened the 1971 decision, saying the exemption applies to plans that, although not actually formulated by a court, are "adopted pursuant to a court order."

The Justice Department, arguing against such a ruling, said it could lead some governmental bodies to evade their responsibility to draw district lines so as to give fair representation to all racial groups. The department and the NAACP argued that officials might drag their feet and wait for a local federal judge to act or might get involved in trumped-up lawsuits designed to bring about a court ruling.

A spokesman for the Justice Department's civil rights division said the decision means that many plans the division thought had been covered by the act no longer are. But he said much of the effect would be canceled because most of these plans involved the kind of multimember districts the court refused to allow.

## Solons hear arguments in single tax case

By GREG MCDONALD  
Register Staff Reporter

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The special legislative committee investigating the unique Fairhope Single Tax Corp. heard arguments here at the Capitol Monday, from a Guntersville attorney who maintains it is within the legislature's power to regulate the corporation.

Attorney Ralph Smith told the five-member committee that since the legislature established the corporation it is only feasible that they settle the dispute arising from what the lessees call high rent increases and lack of voice in corporation policies. Smith cited Section 238 of the Alabama Constitution of 1901 which

states the legislature has the right to alter, amend or revoke any charter it ratifies. He further argued that the legislature even went so far as to single out the Fairhope Single Tax Corp. in its legislation.

"We do not seek to harm this corporation," said Smith, "but what we are proposing may serve to remedy a defect in the corporation." That defect, according to Smith, is that the lessees don't have a voice in the policies of the corporation and therefore in the economic affairs of their community. "That is unconstitutional, unjust and just plain un-American," said Smith.

When asked what he thought could be done by the legislature to intervene

in the conflict between the corporation and its lessees, Smith replied that the legislature should draft a piece of legislation that would give the lessees voting rights in corporation policies. "I believe that if they had a voice in their affairs, that would be all they need," Smith said.

Don Harrison, Montgomery attorney representing the lessees, later told the committee that it was his and Smith's intention to prove to the committee that the single tax corporation was a land monopoly and also somewhat like a public utility.

When asked what he thought the legislature should do, Harrison stated that the lessees should be given voting rights in corporation policy and lease transferrals or that the legislature

should regulate the corporation as if it were a public utility.

In rebuttal to Harrison and Smith's arguments, Bay Minette attorney Norborne Stone, representing the corporation, stated, "What they're proposing to do will kill the Fairhope Single Tax Corp. If the Alabama Supreme Court holds that the corporation is a public utility, then watch out cause you're going to have everybody in the state knocking on your doors."

Stone further stated to the committee, "When you try to regulate a lease or a contract that's been entered into, then you're on the thinnest ground you could possibly be on."

Also an important aspect of the hearing, was when Milton Pearsons,

director of public affairs for the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, stated that the Farm Bureau was in full support of the lessees.

Pearsons, speaking briefly to the committee, said, "I hope the committee will recognize that it is not just a few disgruntled lessees. He further stated that in his opinion the corporation had gone beyond its authority and was no longer adhering to the Henry George concept under which it was established.

Rep. G.J. Higginbotham of Opelika, chairman of the committee, said before closing the hearing that the committee still did not know for a fact if the legislature had the power to do anything. He added, "There's a very

serious problem that someone needs to do something about."

The committee was scheduled to meet Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. to hear further argument from the corporation but corporation attorney Stone told the committee that he would submit further argument or rebuttal to the committee by way of legal brief.

The five representatives and senators on the committee will meet privately to review information gathered in the Monday meeting. The committee is not expected at this time to hold further hearings in Fairhope or Montgomery. If recommendations are to be made by the committee, they will be made on the fifth legislative day when the legislature reconvenes in May.

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## Single tax proposals forthcoming

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Rep. G.J. Higginbotham, chairman of the Fairhope Single Tax investigative committee, said Tuesday at the Capitol, that the committee would make some recommendations to the legislature regarding complaints made by the lessees against the corporation. He declined to comment on just what those recommendations would be.

The committee, after hearing further argument and rebuttal from lessees and the corporation on Monday in the Capitol, met privately on Tuesday morning to consider information gathered and to discuss possible steps the committee and legislature could take to remedy the situation.

Higginbotham further stated that both the lessees and the corporation  
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# Single Tax

would be made aware of any recommendations before the legislature convenes in May. He also said that the committee was still awaiting further information yet to be submitted by attorneys for both parties in the form of legal briefs.

Higginbotham said he had hoped that both parties would be able to work the problem out among themselves, but, according to him, the corporation had made little effort, other than providing for a rent review board, to alleviate the problem.

On Monday, attorneys for the lessees presented arguments to the committee concerning what the legislature could do under the Constitution and offered several suggestions as to how the lessees might be given relief.

The legislature, according to the lessees attorneys, could regulate the corporation as a public utility and a land monopoly, as the corporation owns approximately 4,000 acres of land in and around the city of Fairhope. The attorneys further stated that revenues collected by the corporation were used to pave streets and construct sewer and water lines, all in the public interest. Legislation giving the lessees a vote in corporation policy and in lease transfers was also suggested, thereby giving the lessees a voice in the economic affairs of their community.

Norborne Stone, Bay Minette attorney, representing the corporation rebutted the arguments telling the committee that if the legislature intervened in corporation policies, contracts and leases, that it would have to do so in all corporations in the state.

Stone also told the committee that they would be walking on thin ground if they attempted to break or regulate leases and contracts. Stone stated, "what they are proposing to do will kill the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation." He later exclaimed, "You can't ask these people to compromise their theory."

Higginbotham told the Baldwin Edition that, speaking for himself, recommendations would be made to the legislature unless the "serious problems" were solved before May.

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legislature on the matter last week. But, apparently because of doubts about what really to recommend, the committee asked that the report be postponed for five legislative days. The committee was to meet again on Wednesday but only one representative showed up and nothing happened.

Kinsey has also pointed out he was not trying to overstep the committee's report or recommendation by introducing the bill and resolution requesting an opinion from the state's highest court. He said, in fact, the committee and State Sen. Dick Owen of Bay Minette approved his action in the hopes of obtaining an opinion from the Supreme Court.

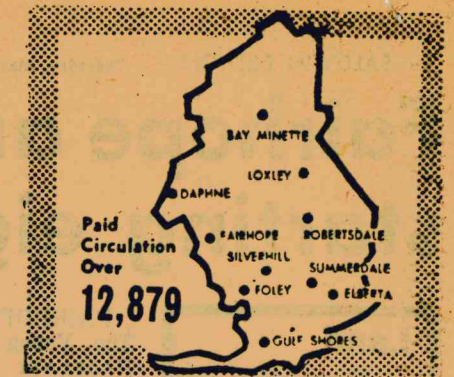
Kinsey said he had no idea how long the Alabama Supreme Court might take to consider the bill or if it would do so, but whatever the outcome, tensions are mounting on both sides of the single tax issue and corporation members and lessees will be apprehensively awaiting some action by the court.



# The Mobile Press Register

**BALDWIN COUNTY EDITION**

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Speculation varies after bill introduction

## What's fate of single tax now?

By GREG McDONALD  
Press Register Reporter

FAIRHOPE, Ala. — Since the recent introduction of a bill before the Alabama Legislature which, if ever passed, would give Fairhope Single Tax Corp. lessees a vote equal to that of corporation members, many Fairhope residents have begun to wonder about just what will happen to single tax.

Speculation has ranged from a statement of "simply nothing" to another statement made by a corporation member: "I would strongly consider the dissolution of the corporation if the legislature ever passes that bill...I think I'd insist on it."

That bill, which was introduced by State

Rep. Daniel Kinsey of Foley, applies specifically to the Fairhope Single Tax Corp., the only corporation chartered under Section 168, Title 10 of the Code of Alabama for the purpose of demonstrating single tax principles and the philosophy of Henry George. It says that upon passage, the corporation must amend its charter to give lessees a vote in corporation affairs just like that of corporation members.

The Alabama Supreme Court has been asked to render an advisory opinion on the constitutionality of the bill. Can the legislature intervene and change the corporation's charter in light of Constitutional amendments which prohibit the restriction or impairment of contracts and taking of land without due process of law?

There seem to be divided opinions on that issue. Rep. Kinsey has stated on several occasions that there are just as many attorneys who say yes as there are those that say no.

There's also a possibility the Supreme Court will not return an advisory opinion, which would then dump the controversial bill back into the laps of the legislature.

And again, even if the Supreme Court does declare the bill constitutional, there's no concrete guarantee it would be passed or even brought out of committee to be considered for passage.

The bill was introduced as the extreme measure the legislature might be able to pass in order to resolve the turmoil and conflict over what lessees say are exorbi-

tant rent increases imposed by the corporation. Its introduction is designed to test just what the legislature can constitutionally do.

Last week, there were about three different drafts of reports or recommendations on the single tax matter circulating in the legislature. One advocated the bill introduced, another advocated a rent control board and still another advocated some form of an arbitration board made up of lessees, corporation members and realtors.

The five-member committee, which has been investigating complaints made by lessees against corporation policies since December of 1975, was due to report to the  
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County had highest expenditures

# Fairhope single-tax colony remains example of community cooperation

FAIRHOPE, Ala. — In the winter of 1894-1895 the first colonists came to this Baldwin County site from Iowa with a vision and a concept to establish a model community free from all forms of private monopoly.

The group had been studying the writings of Henry George, particularly his book "Progress and Poverty," and had even investigated land in other states before deciding to settle on the Eastern Shore.

George's writings had convinced them that the ageless and universal problem of poverty and other economic and social evils might be cured by a simple fiscal reform.

As legend has it, one colonist speculated that "there is a fair hope that this will work". Thus the community got its name.

With the site chosen, an intensive campaign was conducted to increase membership in the Fairhope Tax Colony Association. Its founders wanted to be sure that those settling in Fairhope understood the theory of single tax.

The colony was to attract many who were not strictly singletaxers but who tentatively accepted exclusive land value taxation as one of several needed reforms. From its inception the colony and the community of Fairhope had to contend with the somewhat unnatural affinity of essentially conflicting schools of economic and political reform.

The colonists bought land at \$6.25 on the bay front and for \$1.25 per acre at the top of the hill where Fairhope's business section is now located.

The community was incorporated in 1908, having grown to a population of over 500, 125 homes, a school and library, waterworks system, hotels and small industry such as a brickyard, sawmill, blacksmith and printing shop.

Thus began the application of single tax principles to Fairhope land.

The colonists reiterated three main concepts: (1) land values were created by and consequently belong to the community; (2) that which the individual produces belongs to the individual; (3) voluntary cooperation is the preferred plan of distribution.

If the colonists quickly adjusted both to one another and to their new neighbors they had a much more difficult task in adjusting to basic economic realities and to certain of the original features of their plan.

The Fairhope pioneers settled in a very old community on land which had practically no market value. They did not migrate to a new country providing access to virgin prairie soil. The soil of the Fairhope hinterland was poor and the topography irregular. Economists would have no difficulty in agreeing that Fairhope land was marginal, if not sub-marginal, for agricultural purposes.

But today, even to the casual observer the evidences of relative material well-being within the Fairhope community are evident in the wealth of parks, the system of improved streets, an almost model sewage system, public and private schools, a library, an adequate and attractive commercial area and the general tone of most of its residential sections.

The urban community of Fairhope has outdistanced many small American cities both in material achievements and in those intangible, imponderable qualities which make a community worthwhile.

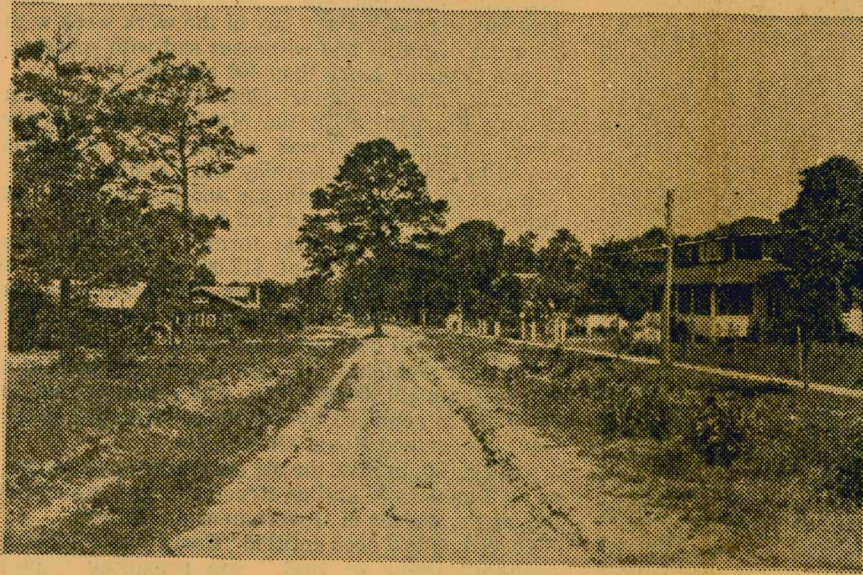
In its non-material colorations, Fairhope is superior to other small, middle-class income communities with a population that affords a high diversity of interests and talents.

One outstanding characteristic of

the community is a strong regard for individualism. It is less standardized, less tradition-bound, less dominated.

And it is with that theory that the single-taxer thrives as did the early

colonists who were genuinely convinced that people should be left free to think, believe and act as they choose, up to the point where they impinge upon the rights of others.



**EARLY FAIRHOPE** — An old photograph from the files of the Fairhope Single Tax office shows White Street in days gone by. The community was incorporated in 1908 as a model single tax colony by colonists from Iowa. Today, despite occasional opposition, Fairhope still thrives on the theory.

# Fairhope Single Tax Corporation Existence Threatened In Alabama Legislature

by GERALD POND  
Staff Reporter

ANOTHER ROUND IN THE perennial battle between the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation and its lessees opened Thursday, April 14.

Three bills affecting the Corporation were passed by the State House of Representatives. These bills would variously: require administration of corporate trust funds by a three member committee elected by the lessees; allow all lessees to vote on corporate matters; and revoke the corporate charter of the Corporation effective January 1, 1980.

Robert J. (Joe) Potter, president of the Fairhope Single Tax Lessees Association (claimed membership approximately 200 out of an estimated 1,000 lessees) was asked why his organization had requested this legislation.

He stated: "The Corporation sets arbitrary, excessive and capricious rents. Trust funds are not used for the equal benefit of all, and lessees do not have a voice in their own economic affairs."

Asked his reaction to the passage of these bills by the House, Potter replied:

"We would like to thank Representative Kinsey, Senator Owen and the Speaker of the House for their help."

Claude Arnold, vice president of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, when asked for his reaction to the legislation, appeared to have difficulty in understanding the motives of the legislators involved, saying:

"What does 'Nig' Kinsey have to profit by killing the Single Tax Corporation, and what does Dick Owen stand to profit?"

On the surface it would appear that John McMillan does not stand to profit, and he told me that he had been called off the floor when these bills were brought up out of order.

"We represent an innovative idea which is anathema to most real estate men due to their purposeful ignorance of the principles involved."

"In terms of real estate development the Eastern Shore is ripe to explode if it is 'properly handled.'"

"The Single Tax Corporation stands in the way of land exploitation on the Eastern Shore."

"We are not fighting a handful of dissident lessees."

"They are being used to destroy us. The Alabama Farm Bureau has also been tricked into opposing us."

It may be helpful to briefly review some of the past history of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation as an aid in understanding the present situation.

The Fairhope Industrial Association was formed in 1894 to prove the practicality of the economic theories of Henry George.

These theories basically state that land should not be held out of production as a speculative and profiteering venture, and that taxes should be based on the value of the land, not on any improvements which may be made to it.

Thus, whatever a man produces belongs to him, and should not be taxed.

In 1904, the Association incorporated and changed its name to the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

From the beginning a distinction was made between members of the corporation, who were "true believers" and contributed to the land purchase fund, and non-member lessees.

The corporate charter and the enabling legislation (Title 10, Article 9, Section 168 of the Alabama Code) both provide that the corporation is empowered to do a large number of things "for the mutual benefit of its members; and may admit such other persons to participate in its benefits as it may see fit and upon such conditions as it may impose."

This distinction between members, who were qualified to vote on corporate matters, and other lessees, who were not, caused almost immediate dissension.

A portion of a "Resolution Adopted by Objecting Lessees" in 1905 asked the Executive Council of the Corporation "to take such steps with as little delay as possible, to fix the legal limit beyond which the rating board cannot annually raise the rents to double and triple, quadruple and quintuple the rents of the year previous."

"This body is assured that there will be no peace until there is a limit fixed to this non-ending and excessive taxation."

This prediction seems to have come true.

There is no peace, and some farmers are complaining of rent increases of as much as 1,475 percent over a ten-year period.

Chiefly due to dissatisfaction with rapidly rising rental charges, a public meeting was called by Rudy Reznier at the Fairhope Middle School in May 1975.

Senator Owen and Representatives Kinsey and McMillan attended, and officers of the Corporation were invited to attend.

In a letter responding to the invitation, the Corporation stated that, due to a conflict with their regular scheduled business meeting, no representative of the Corporation would be able to attend.

With no representative present to answer questions, the meeting was little more than a recitation of lessee grievances.

Following this apparent break-down in communications, the State Legislature formed an Interim Investigating Committee to investigate the lessees' complaints.

"The Interim Investigating Committee did a one-sided job."

"They did not come to the Fairhope Single Tax Office. They did not ask to interview

any officer of the Corporation and they would not hear testimony from any corporate officer," Arnold charged.

However, Potter said, "Claude Arnold spoke at this hearing."

After this hearing, the lessees requested legislative action to compel the corporation to arbitrate disputed rent charges.

A portion of the brief which the lessee organization filed with the legislature stated:

"The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation admits and even proclaims that the increase in site value of the leasehold interest should inure to the benefit of the community rather than to the lessee."

"If this does not, as indeed it may, deprive the lessees of property without due process of law, if it is not a form of taxation without representation, it is at least an economic practice which is repugnant to the general economic laws of the commonwealth."

The question of site value taxation seems to be central to the disagreement between the Corporation and the complaining lessees.

Under site value taxation the annual rental is determined by location and the natural qualities of the site.

Thus, under site value taxation, rental value is determined by "highest and best use" rather than by present use.

A change in community services, a change in the character of the neighborhood, will cause a change in land value and thus a change in the annual rental.

This concept would not seem to be unique to Single Tax, since the same amount of tax is not charged by the County Tax Assessor for a vacant lot in downtown Fairhope and an equal amount of undeveloped rural farmland.

THREATENED  
(CONT'D FROM Pg. 1.)

However, Fairhope's outward growth in recent years has caused the Corporation to re-value some farm land as increasingly more desirable commercial or residential property.

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ACCORDING TO CORPORATION figures, some city leaseholds pay an annual rental in excess of \$500 per acre.

On the other hand, some farm land, which is appraised as farm land, pays an annual

rental of less than \$15 per acre.

Therefore, the re-classification of some farm land as residential or commercial property has caused extremely large rent increases on some properties.

The Corporation feels that the current unrest is caused by those lessees who became leaseholders without an understanding of the economic principles involved, and without a proper understanding of that portion of the lease agreement which states that rents shall be determined by the Corporation "under its avowed principle of so fixing the rentals of its lands as to equalize the varying advantage of location and natural qualities of different tracts..."

In support of this contention, Arnold stated that none of the nearly 200 members, who as one of the conditions for membership had to complete a course in fundamental economics given by the corporation, was involved in this protest of the actions and policies of the Corporation.

Potter confirmed that no member of the Corporation is a member of his Association.

Based on the findings of the Interim Investigating Committee and the brief filed by the Lessee Association, in 1976 the legislature passed an Act (S-635, H-1128) which required the Corporation to amend its charter to provide that the lessee may give written notice that he objects to the amount of rent.

lessee are then to each choose an arbitrator and the two arbitrators together to choose a third. These three are to conduct arbitration binding on both parties.

The act also provided that the lessee might be represented by an association.

This last provision appears to be the bone of contention.

Potter sent a letter to the Corporation naming the arbitrator for his Association. He received a reply which expressed the Corporation's willingness to work with individual lessees in the solution of problems.

The letter continued: "We do not recognize the validity of any legislative enactment which attempts to impose upon this corporation or any of its lessees an obligation to deal with or through any independent person or organization or to otherwise impair contractual obligations of this corporation or any of its lessees."

The Corporation takes the stand that the lease agreement already provides for arbitration under very similar conditions to the Act of 1976, but on an individual basis.

"No one has applied for a re-determination of land value for determination of rental charges in accordance with clauses three and ten of the lease agreement," Arnold said.

When asked about this non-compliance, Sam Dyson, president of the Corporation, replied: "We will not deny that."

Claude Arnold, vice president, said: "We are not complying because we feel that it (the act) is unconstitutional and we are willing to defend our view in court and abide by the decision of the highest court to which the matter is taken."

Faced with this refusal to comply with the Legislative Act, and apparently not wishing to test its validity in court, the Lessees' Association returned to Montgomery requesting additional legislative assistance.

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Asked why he had brought the bills onto the floor, Kinsey replied:

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"We passed an arbitration bill last year. Following that we had a meeting with the lessees and told them that we would provide additional relief if the Corporation failed to comply with the Act."

"Recently Senator Owens, Representative McMillan, myself and others met with Potter to discuss the Corporation's non-compliance and Potter requested the introduction of these bills."

Asked what his attitude would have been, had he been on the floor when the motion was made to bring the bills out of the normal order, Representative McMillan replied:

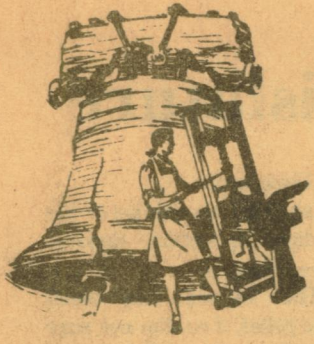
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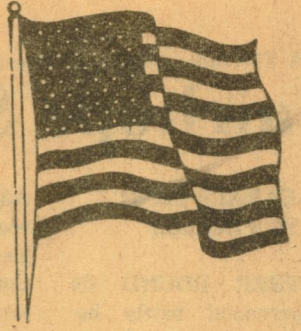
"Yet they [the members] are the ones most vigorously opposing the bill."

Arnold's statement was based upon the clause in the lease agreement which states that, if the Corporation dissolves, its assets will be divided among its members.



# THE INDEPENDENT

"Serving Alabama's Most Progressive County"



Vol. One No. 43

Robertsdale, Alabama

April 20, 1977

30 Pages In Three Sections

15 Cents

## Inquiring Photographer

Question: Are you disappointed that President Carter has decided against the \$50.00 tax rebate?



RAYMOND POPE  
Greenville, Alabama

I think he was stupid for proposing it to begin with, but he did and I suppose he figured Congress wouldn't go along with it. If he can't control his own Congress then he's not the man for the job.



JEFF ULLRICH  
Robertsdale

Personally, I like it because he decided not to. It wouldn't have done many people much good anyway. Fifty dollars won't buy much. A better idea would be to cut taxes. That would help. He could do that by eliminating some of the unnecessary programs that cost the taxpayer money.



THERESA STARR  
Robertsdale

I could have used it. I think it will be used now for programs which are probably useless rather than give it to the people who really needed it. I did get my hopes up though.



HOMER ROBERTS  
Robertsdale

I hadn't counted on it. Congress wanted to bargain with him on the Tenn-Tom, I think, so when that happened I figured it (the rebate) was down the drain. I didn't really think we'd get the \$50.00 so I wasn't disappointed.

# Loxley Scene Of Massive Man Hunt

## United Steel Workers Strike Bay Minette Plant

By PAUL EDHEGARD

MEMBERS OF UNITED Steel Workers Union of America, some 40 members strong who are employed at Eastwood Nealley Div. U.S. Tyler in Bay Minette, went on strike April 13 at midnight.

Both entrances to the plant are being picketed 24 hours a day by those striking employees at the two entrances to the plant which manufactures screen wire.

According to Harold Moore and Reba Knight, members of the negotiating committee, the strike was called when officials of the company refused to take action on the pleas of Union members for higher wages, increased benefits and better working conditions.

"We know that at the northern plant the pay of a trainee just hired is greater than a two year employee here locally," Moore said.

There are certain safety measures which need to be taken which have been brought to the attention of management, but no improvement has been noted, according to Moore.

One of the pickets at the south gate entrance was unhappy with the procedures used by plant officials to be eligible for holiday pay, when she said, "We used to have to work one day before a holiday and the following day in order to be paid for the holiday, but now it's four days before and four days after."

Moore and Knight said that as members of the negotiating committee, they are scheduled to meet with the management of the plant on April 25, at which time, "We will seek a substantial increase in wages and benefits," Moore said.

Meanwhile, when asked how long picket lines plan to stay up, the response was unanimous from the picketers, "We'll stay as long as necessary to get what we deserve."

Union members on the line noted that some eleven employees, referred to as "Scabs", had crossed the picket line and were on the job.

When asked to comment, Plant Manager Leonard Borowski refused to make a statement, however, a letter dated April 18 from T.A. Andolina, vice president of Manufacturing for W.S. Tyler, Inc. has been sent to all employees which reads:

Dear Fellow Employees:

Your failing to report to work is a very serious action that will affect the confidence that our customers have in us.

If you have the belief that

the company has refused to meet with the Union to negotiate a contract, I would like you to know the truth.

On November 11, 1976, you decided you wanted to be represented by the Steel Workers Union. During November to December and January, company and union representatives kept in touch with each other, and the company supplied much detailed information requested by the union.

When the union finally requested a first negotiating meeting, the company did not refuse but requested the union to provide a copy of this demand prior to the meeting so the company negotiator could be prepared to enter into serious negotiations at the first meeting.

The union refused. Communications continued between the company and the union during the month of February, and the parties mutually agreed to meet early in March for the company to finally receive the union demands.

At that meeting, the union announced that it would expect a strike the middle of April unless the company had sufficiently met its demands. Very frankly, this was a shock to the company because of the union's refusal to give the company negotiator its demands prior to the meeting.

Nevertheless, the company proceeded to negotiate by studying the union's many demands in scheduling follow-up meetings the first week of April.

At that time the company presented counter-proposals on basic contract language and changes mutually agreed upon were made.

The company stated it would make an economic offer as soon as the basic contract language was established.

The union again surprised the company by walking out of the meeting in the middle of the afternoon.

In spite of this poor behavior by the union, the company suggested the meeting continue in order that negotiating might take place.

A meeting was held the next day and further meetings were held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

The next scheduled meeting is April 25, but please understand the company was prepared to negotiate the rest of last week and all of last week.

Our plant is open and all employees are welcome to return to work on their regular shift. I urge you to do so.

## Edwards Says President Playing Tenn-Tom Politics

U.S. REP. JACK Edwards, R-Ala, said he was pleased that President Carter finally agreed that the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is a worthwhile project "but I am disappointed that the President has used this project to play politics.

"The advantages to our area of the country in increased jobs and commerce

should not have been too hard for him to determine and the support for the project was massive and widespread.

"However, he left this project dangling for weeks and enjoyed a large number of headlines before he made his decision known. I would think these tactics will serve to backfire on him," Congressman Edwards said.



SUMMERDALE POLICE OFFICER Male, one of the officers assisting during the hunt for the robber, stops a car at one roadblock late Sunday night. [Photo By Eugene Brannan]



MEMBERS OF THE United Steel Workers of America struck the Eastwood Nealley Division, U.S. Tyler in Bay Minette last Wednesday night, April 13. Here pickets block the entrance to the plant, manufacturers of

screen wire. Walking the line 24 hours a day, they say they will stay until demands for higher wages, increased benefits and better working conditions are met. [Photo By Eugene Brannan]

## Over 300 Federal Land Bank Stockholders Attend Meeting

R. SOLON POLK, vice president of the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, spoke to about 350 stockholders, participation certificate holders and guests at the Annual Meeting of the Federal Land Bank Association of Robertsdale, on April 15, 1977.

Polk reviewed the history of the Land Bank and the service it has offered to many people for 60 years. He referred to the Land Bank as being "The Band of Generations."

Emmett C. Gaston and Floyd B. Ellison were re-elected to the Association's Board of Directors. Julius Childress was also elected to serve.

George Kaiser, of Foley, was elected Stockholders Representative and will serve as his Association's delegate to this year's Meeting of Representatives of Stockholders of The Federal Land Bank of New Orleans. Lawrence J. Krauss, of Elberta, was chosen as an alternate.

Lawrence Lipscomb, of Robertsdale, Thomas E. Robinson, of Summerdale and Charles H. Williams, of Mobile, were elected to serve as the nominating committee for the ensuing year. Shooney Wallace and T.B. Rhodes, Jr. were elected to serve as

alternate members of this committee.

A plaque was presented in memory of deceased director, James J. Palmer. Mr. Palmer served as a director of this Association for ten years.

The Federal Land Bank Association of Robertsdale makes long-term loans to farmers and rural home owners in the counties of Baldwin, Mobile and Washington. Loan funds are obtained from The Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, a participant in bond sales to the investing public.

The present directors of the



R. SOLON POLK, president of The Federal Land Bank of New Orleans. [Photo By Paul Edhegard]

## Suspect Arrested After Shots Are Fired In Chase

### Police From All Central And South Baldwin Towns, State Troopers, Sheriff Deputies Aid In Search For Accomplice

ONE MAN IS in custody and at least one being sought following a robbery of a grocery store in Pensacola early Sunday evening, April 17.

Chief Deputy Jim Anderson of the Baldwin County Sheriff's Department, said Nathaniel Wyatt, 25, and an unnamed accomplice allegedly robbed Barnes Grocery Store at about 7:40 p.m. last Sunday at gun-point, taking about \$1,900 in cash. Anderson said immediately following the robbery, police officers in Escambia County, Florida and across Southern Alabama were notified.

At about 8:30 p.m. the get-away vehicle was spotted traveling west on I-10 near Loxley by police officer, Condie Langham.

When the fleeing suspect saw a Trooper car driven by Officer Larkus Smith on I-10, he attempted to out-run Smith unaware that Langham was following.

The vehicle left the Interstate and wheeled into the Flowerwood Nursery, where the driver, later identified as Wyatt, jumped and ran.

Langham fired a shot over Wyatt's head chasing him through the nursery grounds.

Langham said Wyatt doubled back in an attempt to return to his vehicle, but surrendered to Officer Smith.

In quick succession, a series of events took place.

In the heat of the chase and apprehension, it could not be determined whether Wyatt was the lone occupant of the vehicle or whether another

man or perhaps two had fled. According to officers at the scene, evidence indicated that at least one other person was at some time within the confines of the nursery, however he was never found.

Police officers from Loxley, Robertsdale, Summerdale, Foley, Elberta, Fairhope and Gulf Shores, along with sheriff deputies, State Troopers and Sheriff Deputies from Escambia, unsuccessfully combed the area south of the Interstate and north of U.S. Highway 90 searching for accomplices.

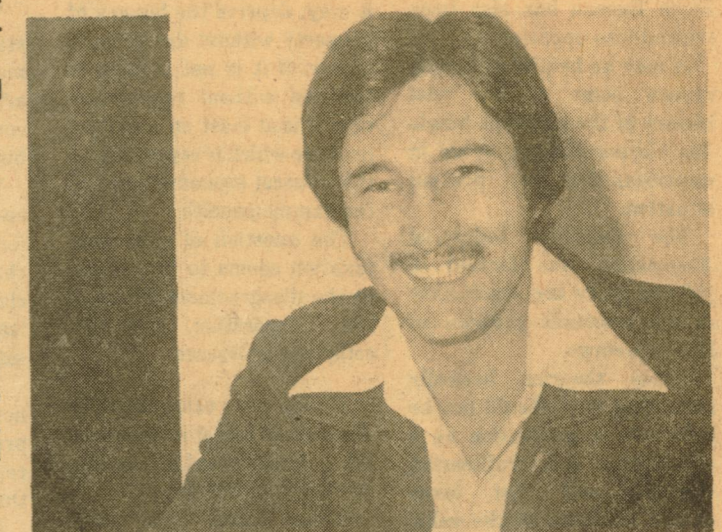
Through the night the officers kept a watchful eye on the area, setting up road blocks to warn motorists and check vehicles.

A .38 calibre pistol was found on the road on the nursery property which prompted another search of the premises. Langham also found a sawed-off shotgun which was loaded, cocked and ready to fire, and a large sum of money, presumably the loot taken in the robbery.

Evidence indicated that the suspect had attempted to shoot one of the officers but the weapon mis-fired. Langham said a shell bearing the imprint of the firing pin was still in the gun when it was found.

Wyatt has been extradited by Florida authorities.

Search still goes on for a black male just over six feet tall, slender build, between 27 and 30 years of age, last seen wearing dark trousers, a long sleeved green shirt and green hat.



RICK ALLEN PHILLIPS, former resident of Abilene, Texas, was recently named director of the Gulf Shores Tourist Association. Phillips, the 25 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Phillips of Bon Secour, Alabama, will complete work on his masters degree in recreation and park administration in June 1977 through the University of Northern Colorado Center for Special and Advanced Programs. He received a BS degree in recreation in June 1974 from the University of Northern Colorado. Phillips has been active in the parks and recreation field since August 1967 and is a member of the National Recreation and Park Society [NRPA]. Phillips and his wife Beth Ann, an elementary school teacher, were in Baldwin County on a visit when he was selected as new director by a selection committee consisting of Buck Duke, Jim Gray and Mrs. Andrew Cooper. Phillips will fill the position that Mrs. Tommie Werneth recently resigned from. [Photo By Marie Jacks]

## Pro's And Con's Of Fairhope Single Tax Controversy - - See Page 2

# Fairhope Single Tax Corporation Existence Threatened In Alabama Legislature

by GERALD POND  
Staff Reporter

ANOTHER ROUND IN THE perennial battle between the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation and its lessees opened Thursday, April 14.

Three bills affecting the Corporation were passed by the State House of Representatives. These bills would variously: require administration of corporate trust funds by a three member committee elected by the lessees; allow all lessees to vote on corporate matters; and revoke the corporate charter of the Corporation effective January 1, 1980.

Robert J. (Joe) Potter, president of the Fairhope Single Tax Lessees Association (claimed membership approximately 200 out of an estimated 1,000 lessees) was asked why his organization had requested this legislation.

He stated: "The Corporation sets arbitrary, excessive and capricious rents. Trust funds are not used for the equal benefit of all, and lessees do not have a voice in their own economic affairs."

Asked his reaction to the passage of these bills by the House, Potter replied:

"We would like to thank Representative Kinsey, Senator Owen and the Speaker of the House for their help."

Claude Arnold, vice president of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, when asked for his reaction to the legislation, appeared to have difficulty in understanding the motives of the legislators involved, saying:

"What does 'Nig' Kinsey have to profit by killing the Single Tax Corporation, and what does Dick Owen stand to profit?"

On the surface it would appear that John McMillan does not stand to profit, and he told me that he had been called off the floor when these bills were brought up out of order.

"We represent an innovative idea which is anathema to most real estate men due to their purposeful ignorance of the principles involved."

"In terms of real estate development the Eastern Shore is ripe to explode if it is properly handled."

"The Single Tax Corporation stands in the way of land exploitation on the Eastern Shore."

"We are not fighting a handful of dissident lessees. They are being used to destroy us. The Alabama Farm Bureau has also been tricked into opposing us."

It may be helpful to briefly review some of the past history of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation as an aid in understanding the present situation.

The Fairhope Industrial Association was formed in 1894 to prove the practicality of the economic theories of Henry George.

These theories basically state that land should not be held out of production as a speculative and profiteering venture, and that taxes should be based on the value of the land, not on any improvements which may be made to it.

Thus, whatever a man produces belongs to him and should not be taxed.

In 1904, the Association incorporated and changed its name to the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

From the beginning a distinction was made between members of the corporation, who were "true believers" and contributed to the land purchase fund, and non-member lessees.

The corporate charter and the enabling legislation (Title 10, Article 9, Section 168 of the Alabama Code) both provide that the corporation is empowered to do a large number of things "for the mutual benefit of its members; and may admit such other persons to participate in its benefits as it may see fit and upon such conditions as it may impose."

This distinction between members, who were qualified to vote on corporate matters, and other lessees, who were not, caused almost immediate dissension.

A portion of a "Resolution

Adopted by Objecting Lessees" in 1905 asked the Executive Council of the Corporation "to take such steps with as little delay as possible, to fix the legal limit beyond which the rating board cannot annually raise the rents to double and triple, quadruple and quintuple the rents of the year previous."

"This body is assured that there will be no peace until there is a limit fixed to this non-ending and excessive taxation."

This prediction seems to have come true.

There is no peace, and some farmers are complaining of rent increases of as much as 1,475 percent over a ten-year period.

Chiefly due to dissatisfaction with rapidly rising rental charges, a public meeting was called by Rudy Reznar at the Fairhope Middle School in May 1975.

Senator Owen and Representatives Kinsey and McMillan attended, and officers of the Corporation were invited to attend.

In a letter responding to the invitation, the Corporation stated that, due to a conflict with their regular scheduled business meeting, no representative of the Corporation would be able to attend.

With no representative present to answer questions, the meeting was little more than a recitation of lessee grievances.

Following this apparent break-down in communications, the State Legislature formed an Interim Investigating Committee to investigate the lessees' complaints.

"The Interim Investigating Committee did a one-sided job."

"They did not come to the Fairhope Single Tax Office. They did not ask to interview any officer of the Corporation and they would not hear testimony from any corporate officer," Arnold charged.

However, Potter said, "Claude Arnold spoke at this hearing."

After this hearing, the lessees requested legislative action to compel the corporation to arbitrate disputed rent charges.

A portion of the brief which the lessee organization filed with the legislature stated:

"The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation admits and even proclaims that the increase in site value of the leasehold interest should inure to the benefit of the community rather than to the lessee."

"If this does not, as indeed it may, deprive the lessees of property without due process of law, if it is not a form of taxation without representation, it is at least an economic practice which is repugnant to the general economic laws of the commonwealth."

The question of site value taxation seems to be central to the disagreement between the Corporation and the complaining lessees.

Under site value taxation the annual rental is determined by location and the natural qualities of the site.

Thus, under site value taxation, rental value is determined by "highest and best use" rather than by present use.

A change in community services, a change in the character of the neighborhood, will cause a change in land value and thus a change in the annual rental.

This concept would not seem to be unique to Single Tax, since the same amount of tax is not charged by the County Tax Assessor for a vacant lot in downtown Fairhope and an equal amount of undeveloped rural farmland.

However, Fairhope's outward growth in recent years has caused the Corporation to re-value some farm land as increasingly more desirable commercial or residential property.

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ACCORDING TO CORPORATION figures, some city leaseholds pay an annual rental in excess of \$500 per acre.

On the other hand, some farm land, which is appraised as farm land, pays an annual

rental of less than \$15 per acre.

Therefore, the re-classification of some farm land as residential or commercial property has caused extremely large rent increases on some properties.

The Corporation feels that the current unrest is caused by those lessees who became leaseholders without an understanding of the economic principles involved, and without a proper understanding of that portion of the lease agreement which states that rents shall be determined by the Corporation "under its avowed principle of so fixing the rentals of its lands as to equalize the varying advantage of location and natural qualities of different tracts..."

In support of this contention, Arnold stated that none of the nearly 200 members, who as one of the conditions for membership had to complete a course in fundamental economics given by the corporation, was involved in this protest of the actions and policies of the Corporation.

Potter confirmed that no member of the Association is a member of his Association.

Based on the findings of the Interim Investigating Committee and the brief filed by the Lessee Association, in 1976 the legislature passed an Act (S-635, H-1128) which required the Corporation to amend its charter to provide that the lessee may give written notice that he objects to the amount of rent.

The Corporation and the lessee are then to each choose an arbitrator and the two arbitrators together to choose a third. These three are to conduct arbitration binding on both parties.

The act also provided that the lessee might be represented by an association.

This last provision appears to be the bone of contention.

Potter sent a letter to the Corporation naming the arbitrator for his Association. He received a reply which expressed the Corporation's willingness to work with individual lessees in the solution of problems.

The letter continued: "We do not recognize the validity of any legislative enactment which attempts to impose upon this corporation or any of its lessees an obligation to deal with or through any independent person or organization or to otherwise impair contractual obligations of this corporation or any of its lessees."

The Corporation takes the stand that the lease agreement already provides for arbitration under very similar conditions to the Act of 1976, but on an individual basis.

"No one has applied for a re-determination of land value for determination of rental charges in accordance with clauses three and ten of the lease agreement," Arnold said.

When asked about this non-compliance, Sam Dyson, president of the Corporation, replied: "We will not deny that."

Claude Arnold, vice president, said: "We are not complying because we feel that it (the act) is unconstitutional and we are willing to defend our view in court and abide by the decision of the highest court to which the matter is taken."

Faced with this refusal to comply with the Legislative Act, and apparently not wishing to test its validity in court, the Lessees' Association returned to Montgomery requesting additional legislative assistance.

The three bills passed by the House last Thursday, were drafted by the Lessees' Association and introduced in response to this request.

The first of these bills, H-1173, would require that trust funds held by the Corporation be administered by three persons elected in an annual meeting at which all lessees would be eligible to vote.

This bill would seem to be in response to complaints that the Corporation was not abiding by that portion of the lease agreement which provides that all funds received as rent "shall be administered as a trust fund for the equal

benefit of those leasing its lands."

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"Joe Potter and a delegation claiming to represent a large group of lessees approached Carter, Folmar and myself and complained that the Corporation was not complying with the legislative act which required arbitration of disputes between lessees and the Corporation and requested additional legislation to force compliance."

The three new bills were brought out of the floor of the House, out of the normal order, on a motion by Representative Daniel Kinsey (Baldwin County) at a time when Representative John McMillan, Jr. (Baldwin and Mobile Counties) was absent from the floor on other business.

Asked why he had brought the bills onto the floor, Kinsey replied:

"I feel that these lessees have justifiable complaints and do need some relief."

"We passed an arbitration bill last year. Following that we had a meeting with the lessees and told them that we would provide additional relief if the Corporation failed to comply with the Act."

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Asked what his attitude would have been, had he been on the floor when the motion was made to bring the bills up out of the normal order, Representative McMillan replied:

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"Therefore, I would probably have let Representative Kinsey carry the ball since his district is the one affected."

Speaking of the possible effects of these bills if they are passed by the Senate, and in particular the bill requiring dissolution of the corporation, Arnold said: "Fairhope Single Tax Corporation members alone stand to profit if the Corporation is dissolved; less than 200 members will, after several years of litigation, divide ten million or more dollars between them."

"Yet they [the members] are the ones most vigorously opposing the bill."

Arnold's statement was based upon the clause in the lease agreement which states that, if the Corporation dissolves, its assets will be divided among its members. Although no one would consent to be quoted, informed sources stated that the intent of this legislation is to force the Corporation into compliance with the arbitration Act of 1976, and that, if passed, even the dissolution

bill could and would be repealed if the Corporation satisfied the complaints of the lessees prior to the January 1, 1980 effective date of the bill.

The next expected step is a public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee.

Senator Owens said that, due to other pending legisla-

tion and scheduled meetings of other committees with overlapping membership, he would be unable to set a date and time for the hearing prior to this paper's going to press.

However, he expected the hearing to be within a week.

Senator Owens stated that the House Bills would be

substituted for identical bills which had previously been introduced in the Senate by Senator John Baker (DeKalb, Jackson and Madison Counties), a member of the Interim Committee.

This would make passage of one or more of the bills possible during this session of

the Legislature.

Asked for his opinion of the pending legislation, Senator Owens replied:

"The lessees may need some relief, if so, I'm not sure what form this relief should take, and I'm reserving judgment until we have had the public hearing."

## Summerdale Gets Tax Check

A TAX CHECK totaling \$1,202.84 was presented to the City of Summerdale Monday night, April 12, by the president of the Baldwin County Electric Membership Corporation.

The check presented the cooperative's gross revenue tax for 1976.

A three percent tax equaling \$62.44 was levied within the city limits of Summerdale.

Tax levied of one and one-half percent equaled \$1,140.40 for the gross revenue from electric bills within the police jurisdiction.

In a statement, Don Sutherland, general manager of the EMC, said, "Baldwin County EMC is proud of the opportunity to serve the area around Summerdale. Together 1977 stands to be a banner year of growth resulting in a better way of life for all."



SUMMERDALE'S MAYOR GLENN Martz, left, is shown receiving a tax check for \$1,202.84 from president of the Baldwin County Electric Membership Corporation, George Engel. The check, which represented the cooperative's gross revenue tax for 1976, was presented on April 11.

[Photo By Paul Edhegard]

## April Proclaimed As Cancer Control Month By Mayor

MAYOR TYSON RECENTLY proclaimed April as "Cancer Control Month" and urged all citizens of Robertsdale to support the educational fund-raising efforts of the American Cancer Society.

Joe Williams with the Robertsdale Insurance Agency has volunteered to organize and direct the Robertsdale area drive.

Tyson is chairman of the Central Baldwin American Cancer Drive. Ralph Drew is assistant chairman.

The Mayor noted that the Cancer Society will concentrate its efforts in most of the state during the final two weeks of this month.

Over 10,000 Alabamians are expected to get cancer this year and about one-third of these cases will be cured. "But the Cancer Society says over half of these cases could be cured with already available treatments if people just found their cancer soon enough," Mayor Tyson pointed out.

Cancer-fighting volunteers will be knocking on doors all over the county not only to raise money but also to talk to their neighbors about the body's warning signals which can help find cancer early when it may be cured.

In his closing comments, Mayor Tyson took note that Alabama has become one of the major cancer research areas in the world. "Our city must continue to show our support as Alabamians in this fight against cancer," he urged.

Coordinators in Central



Wealthy ladies in ancient Rome sometimes washed themselves in a sugary mixture consisting of 20 pounds of crushed strawberries and two pounds of raspberries.

### baldwin county happenings

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 21

First grade registration for Fairhope Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children must be six years old on or before October 2. Birth certificates will be required. Alabama State Law requires Certificate of Immunization for diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DPT), polio, measles and rubella (German measles) or Certificate of Exemption.

Foley Elementary School Annual Field Day, 12:30 to 3:00 p.m., Thursday and Friday. Snowball relays, wheelbarrow races, snow cones, cotton candy, cokes and popcorn. Proceeds go to school.

Gulf Shores Town Council meets at town hall at 2 p.m. Robertsdale Hub Club Senior Citizens meet every third Thursday of the month, town hall, 6:30 p.m. Each member bring a covered dish. New members and guests welcome.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Senior Class of Baldwin County High School will present the senior class play, Cheaper By The Dozen, at Bay Minette City Hall, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Admission charged.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Order of Easter Star sponsors chicken dinner in Daphne, 11 a.m. until...\$2.00 per plate. Public invited.

Foley Chapter 142, Order of Eastern Star, sponsors chicken dinner at Masonic Hall in Foley, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Sports Car Club of America will have a slalom at Bronson Field Registration at 11:30 a.m.

SPECTACULAR  
**TIRE SALE**

H 78X15  
\$27<sup>25</sup>

G 78X15  
\$27<sup>00</sup>

G 78X14  
\$27<sup>00</sup>

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## Hearing On Bills Postponed Indefinitely

By GERALD POND  
Staff Reporter

THE SENATE JUDICIARY Committee, following a public hearing Tuesday, April 26, postponed indefinitely further consideration of three bills threatening the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

The hearing was scheduled for 1 p.m. However, during the morning, the time was advanced to 12:30, due to overlapping membership with the Finance and Taxation Committee and its scheduled meeting at 1 p.m.

Apparently, several legislators were not aware of the change.

At 12:30, the committee lacked an eight member quorum. Also absent was Senator John Baker, sponsor of the bills in the Senate and probable main witness in their favor.

Committee Chairman Senator Finis St. John decided to begin hearing testimony while messengers looked for three additional members to make up the quorum.

Mrs. Marjorie Hoffren, Fairhope Lessees' Association member, testified first in support of the bills. Most of her ten minutes of testimony concerned rent increases.

One lessee sold out in 1975 after the rent on ten acres had risen from \$97.04 in 1967 to \$1,500, she said.

The rent on her own leasehold had doubled between 1958 and 1970, had doubled again by 1972, and had almost tripled between 1972 and 1975.

The total change on 88 acres was \$429 in 1958 to \$4,930 in 1975.

The breaking point, she said, was 1975.

"We formed our association to see what we could do. We could not settle it in the court, and I always felt that we would have to come to the legislature."

Asked why the matter could not be resolved in court,

she replied that both the court in Baldwin County and the Alabama Supreme Court had ruled that they did not have a case.

So, since the legislature had given a charter to the corporation, they had turned to the legislature for help.

Next to testify, in opposition to the bills, was Sam Dyson, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation president.

"We now find, after 82 years of operation, there are a few lessees who do not want to abide by the lawful agreement which they entered into," Dyson said. "Further, these same individuals seem to expect the Single Tax Corporation to abide by both the spirit and the letter of its leases while they seek to involve the State Legislature in a plan to destroy the Single Tax Corporation."

Dyson also quoted from the report issued last year by the joint Interim Investigating Committee, which, he said, raised serious questions about the desirability or constitutionality of bills similar to those being considered.

Dyson told of a mail poll of lessees conducted by the corporation last year.

Some 1,000 questionnaires were sent and over 400 replies received.

An overwhelming majority of those responding were satisfied with their present rent, did not wish to buy the land they now leased, did not wish the colony dissolved, and did not desire limiting legisla-

tion, Dyson said.

Senator Oscar Peden moved that the matter be indefinitely tabled. Senator St. John, asked that it be phrased "indefinitely postponed."

Senator Albert McDonald moved that the motion be amended to a one week postponement. The amendment was defeated.

The motion to postpone indefinitely was passed by a seven to one majority with Senator McDonald casting the lone dissenting vote.

Voting in favor were Senators St. John, Mitchell, Clemon, Shelby, Powell, Vacca, and Peden.

The committee was preparing to adjourn when, at one minute after one o'clock, Senator Baker arrived.

"Gentlemen, I think you have done a great disservice," Baker said. "This is the most discourteous treatment of any sponsor of any bill, and of any people, that I have seen since I've been in the Senate. I don't think you realize what you have done. I don't think you realize how serious the problem that these people have is."

In response, Senator St. John explained the reason for the change in time. "The committee understands the problem," he said. "The majority of the committee feels that this is a question for the courts and not the legislature. So, your insult to the Judiciary Committee is not well taken."

SINGLE  
TAX  
CORPORATION  
THREATENED  
(Cont'd from Pg-2)

The Independent, Wednesday, April 27, 1977

The Independent  
Wednesday  
April 20, 1977  
Page 2A

### Three Bills

## Judicial Committee Hears Fairhope Single Tax Question

By GERALD POND  
Staff Reporter

THREE BILLS PASSED by the State House of Representatives Thursday, April 14, were scheduled for hearing before Senator Finis St. John III's Judicial Committee yesterday afternoon.

They would require administration of corporate trust funds by a three member committee elected by the lessees; allow all lessees to vote on corporate matters; and revoke the corporate charter of the Corporation effective January 1, 1980.

The bills were seen as a response to the Corporation's refusal to comply with a bill passed last year which required the Corporation to amend its charter to provide for binding arbitration in the event of disputed rental charges.

The bill also provided that the lessee might be repre-

sented by an association.

Meanwhile, there has been little surface activity on the part of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation or its opponent, the Fairhope Single Tax Lessees Association.

Beneath the surface both sides have been very active lobbying, holding committee meetings and preparing for yesterday's hearing.

Monday night the council of the Corporation met in open and closed sessions while, a few blocks away, an estimated 150 attended a meeting of the Lessees' Association.

Since this paper will have gone to press before the hearing occurs, it cannot be reported what happened yesterday in this issue.

However, it is expected that each side will be limited to two or three witnesses.

Expected witnesses for the Corporation are its attorney and Sam Dyson, Corporation

president. Witnesses for the lessees will probably include their attorney, Senator John Baker and Lessees Association president, Robert J. "Joe" Potter.

The Lessees are expected to attack the Corporation's rental charges and use of trust funds, and defend the proposed legislation.

The Corporation, on the other hand, is expected to attack the proposed legislation and defend its rental charges and use of trust funds.

There is a dim hope that a compromise agreement may be reached at the hearing. If it is not, it is not expected that a decision will be rendered by the Judicial Committee at that time. The decision will become apparent when, and if, one or more of the bills are released by the Committee with recommendation for passage.

Although no one would consent to be quoted, informed sources stated that the intent of this legislation is to force the Corporation into compliance with the arbitration Act of 1976, and that, if passed, even the dissolution bill could and would be repealed if the Corporation satisfied the complaints of the lessees prior to the January 1, 1980 effective date of the bill.

The next expected step is a public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee.

Senator Owens said that, due to other pending legislation and scheduled meetings of other committees with overlapping membership, he would be unable to set a date and time for the hearing prior to this paper's going to press.

However, he expected the hearing to be within a week.

Senator Owens stated that the House Bills would be

substituted for identical bills which had previously been introduced in the Senate by Senator John Baker (DeKalb, Jackson and Madison Counties), a member of the Interim Committee.

This would make passage of one or more of the bills possible during this session of the Legislature.

Asked for his opinion of the pending legislation, Senator Owens replied:

"The lessees may need some relief, if so, I'm not sure what form this relief should take, and I'm reserving judgment until we have had the public hearing."

APRIL 23, 1971  
Court hearing set Thursday

# Colony breakup blocked

by Gerald Pond

The continuing battle between the Fairhope Single Corporation and the Single Tax Lessees Association has intensified during the past few days. The court will take the corporation into Baldwin County Circuit Court on Thursday at 9 p.m.

Leading to the courtroom has been a chain of action/reaction which apparently began when State Representative Robert "Bob" Gullledge agreed to sponsor legislation requested by the lessees association. This legislation has now been introduced as Senate Bill 13 and would extend membership in the corporation to all lessees.

The Single Tax Corporation, learning in advance that this bill had been drafted and fearing additional legislation aimed at revoking its corporate charter, decided to "remove the corporation from the ever present threat of being abolished by the legislature." Corporation Secretary Mary Godard in a letter to members dated April 18.

The letter called for a vote of the membership to dissolve the present corporation "as established under the Special Enabling Act of the Legislature in 1904" and to "accomplish the establishment of" "a new corporation under the general laws of Alabama." Apparently, it was felt the corporation would be less vulnerable to attack as a general corporation rather than as one of the few incorporated under the special act. However, according to Gullledge, this would not prevent legislative action to revoke their charter since the corporate charter can be revoked.

Also, since membership in the corporation would terminate with dissolution of the corporation, it seems a dissolution action would have forestalled Gullledge's just introduced bill giving corporate membership to all lessees.

Along with the membership termination, the dissolution resolution contained a provision that each member could turn in his membership certificate for one share of stock in the new corporation.

In addition to the issuance of shares in return for

membership certificates, an initial issue of 10 shares at a par value of \$100 each was to be made to President Donald W. Gooden, Secretary Mary Godard, council members Thomas H. Brown, Charles B. Ingersoll, Frederick I. Boone, Robert G. Mason and John S.

Continued on Page 3-A

## Colony breakup blocked

Parker. The remaining three shares were to go to Mrs. J.E. Gaston Sr., Bartlette H. Jennings Jr. and Allen Hoffman. The only corporate officer or member of the executive council not included in the list to receive shares was Vice President Claude W. Arnold.

The vote on the re-structuring of the corporation was set for a special meeting on Sunday, April 22, between 2 and 6 p.m.

Upon learning of the proposed change, lessee Rudolph "Rudy" Rezner Sr. applied to Baldwin County Circuit Court Judge Harry Wilters Jr. for a temporary restraining order stopping corporation "from conducting a vote to dissolve the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation."

"I filed for a restraining order because I felt that a change in corporate structure would violate some provisions of my lease agreement with the Single Tax Corporation and would injure my interests," Rezner said.

The restraining order was granted and served on the corporation at about 4 p.m. Sunday. At that time, the balloting box which was in use was sealed and the voting continued with a new box "for information purposes."

Continued from Page 1-A

Corporation President Don Gooden would not reveal the actual vote figures but said he was "highly gratified. It has been years since we have seen the degree of unanimity displayed in this vote."

Questioned about the corporation's response to the restraining order and the request for an injunction which was filed Tuesday by Rezner as a class action suit, replied, "The corporation will file a motion on Thursday to dissolve the injunction on the grounds that it was improvidently issued, sufficient notice was not given of the filing of the application for a temporary restraining order. The corporation recognizes that it can do nothing to impair its obligation to any lessee nor does it intend to do so."

"What do lessees hope to gain from the legislative and court actions against the Single Tax Corporation?" The Independent asked lessees association President Robert "Joe" Potter.

"Lessees have been discriminated against in the application of the corporation's rent formula. We have only one objective, membership in the corporation for all lessees, so that we can have some voice in the rent structure and expenditure of trust funds," Potter replied.

Candidates qualifying for municipal elections on page 2

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*Recommended legislation less than Single Tax lessees seek*

## Arbitration panel proposed

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — An arbitration panel was recommended this week as the only means of settling rental disputes between the Fairhope Single Tax Colony and lessees of colony property.

The recommendation was made Tuesday by a special legislative committee. The report was filed by Rep. G. J. Higginbotham of Opelika, chairman of the interim study committee.

The report was accompanied by introduction of a bill that would provide for the arbitration panel. Under the proposals any lessee objecting to rent rates could file a formal protest. The colony would then name an arbitrator and the lessee would appoint one. Those two would then agree on a third arbitrator.

Then the arbitrators would study the evidence and fix the amount of rent by arbitration. Their decision would be binding. The recommended legislation is short of what disgruntled lessees had sought when they began seeking a voice in the management of the Fairhope Single Tax Colony last year.

Legislation was passed 30 years ago to establish the colony. Much of the land in and around Fairhope is owned by the colony and leased to residents and businesses. The major request of the lessees was a rent

control committee. That was rejected by the interim committee as "Bureaucratic meddling" in the affairs of landlord and tenant.

Other members of the interim committee are: Reps. Joey Polmar and Tommy Carter and Sens. John Baker and Ronnie Flipflo. They asked that their committee not be abolished in case further study of the single tax colony is needed.

On June 1, the embattled Single Tax Colony issued a five-item questionnaire "to afford all of the lessees who wish to have a chance to remove themselves from the attack position an opportunity to do so."

Officers of the corporation feel that present legislation sponsored by State Rep. Daniel Kinsey "threatens the existence of the corporation." The resulting litigation would lead to substantial financial losses to the corporation, present lessees and future lessees or owners, according to the questionnaire.

In 1970 the corporation instituted a program to re-evaluate rent for a five-year period. Sixty-eight lessees and two non-lessees filed a suit seeking the dissolution of the corporation in 1972. The lessees lost and appealed the case to the Alabama Supreme Court which upheld the earlier verdict.

A petition circulated and signed by

476 individuals in 1975 led to Kinsey's legislation.

The questionnaire listed these five queries:

- 1) What do you suppose is the value of the land leased by you?
- 2) What do you feel would be a fair and reasonable annual rent for your leasehold?
- 3) Would you like for the corporation

to offer to you for cash the land leased by you at its present fair market value, determined by an independent ASA or MAI appraiser?

4) Are you in favor of the dissolution of Fairhope Single Tax Corp.?

5) Are you in favor of legislation that would effectively prohibit the full application of the principles set forth in our constitution and referred to in your application for land?

# *Knoll Park nature trail to open March 19*

*course  
3/16/81*

Planned as part of a proposed city-wide nature trail system, the Knoll Park Nature Trail will open in ceremonies March 19, at the park.

Fairhope Mayor James P. Nix will officiate a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. and afterwards a guided tour will be offered by Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Horne.

This section is part of a larger trail system planned for the city which includes Bayou Charbon and Stacks Gulley as well as other suitable public park lands belonging to the community.

The preservation of Knoll Park as a natural area containing native plants and shrubs has received full support from the City Council, the four local Garden Clubs and many other groups and individuals in the area.

A project such as this cannot be brought to completion without the continued commitment of both time and money by a great many citizens.

City crews will be filling the two low spots along Bayview and replacing the wire fence. They will also build a box to house a visitors book and trail guides which will stand at the entrance.

The Fairhope, Dogwood, Sundial and

Wisteria Garden Clubs will hold all day clean-ups on Wednesday and Thursday, March 11 and 12. The main purpose will be to clean away the smilax, oaks and camphurs from the existing azaleas.

Students from the BARC, who are eager for a chance to serve the community, will spread pinestraw deposited by the city from their regular pick-ups, as ground cover in some of the areas which were scraped bare by the work after Hurricane Frederic.

A program of replacing native growth is to begin soon with the help of county and state landscape planners. Green's Nursery will provide a list of native species which they have available and recommend for the lot maintenance which this park demands.

All interested citizens are invited to the Trail opening and the walk that follows. Local science classes will receive a special invitation. These young people should have an opportunity to be informed about the natural growth in our area as it was 100 and more years ago when the first explorers and settlers arrived. This is the unique place which Knoll Park has in our community.

# Single Tax *Courier* *3/26/81*

*'Talk it up as a great idea'*

**JIM McCOWN**  
Associate Editor

The Marie Howland Room of the Fairhope Library became a lively forum, Monday night, for discussion of the present and future of an institution at the very heart of the history of this city: The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

Philip Finkelstein, director of the Henry George School of Social Science in New York City, was featured speaker at the meeting of the Fairhope Single Tax Advocates. George's theories of levying taxes on land instead of human endeavor were instrumental in the formation of the Single Tax Colony by Fairhope's early settlers.

"I came because I think we have friends here," said Finkelstein. The "we" referred to a diverse group of believers in Henry George's theories referred to as Georgists.

"I hope all of you here are Single Tax Advocates—I don't think you'd be here if you weren't," he said. He urged, however, advocates to "come out of the closet," and to "talk it up as a great idea."

Finkelstein contended that Fairhopians no longer talk about the Single Tax much at all, either in a good or bad way.

He illustrated this by saying that amidst the urban squalor of Calcutta, there is endless discussion "about the way things should be," but mainly those engaging in discussion have no stake in any eventual outcome.

Conversely, in Fairhope, Finkelstein explained, land values have escalated to the point that everyone does have a stake in how Fairhope grows and evolves; hence, Finkelstein's contention that "the degree of discourse is inversely proportionate to the stake involved."

The reason for the appreciation in land values of Fairhope, the speaker continued, was due in great part to the

that Fairhope is a living, working model of the theories of Henry George.

Despite this, Finkelstein said, those theories remain unknown to many in the area. Recalling a trip to Mobile during his three-day stay in South Alabama, he said that when the name "Fairhopé" was mentioned, "eyes lit up," but that when "Single Tax" was mentioned to the same persons, "it drew blank stares."

"A group of Georgists recently had a discussion about it (Single Tax in Fairhope) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, but across the bay, they've never heard of it." Again, Finkelstein said this illustrated the need to talk more, and more positively, about Single Tax.

In speaking of the increase in land value in Fairhope, Finkelstein pointed out that it is proportionately higher than the increase in the state as a whole.

"Alabama is wonderful, but let's face it. It's not the promised land."

Fairhope, however, is the promised land for many, and the speaker told the Single Tax Advocates that "when the basis for the pie disappears, you begin to realize just how fragile a pie it is."

"The land here is worth more than it would have been if it were 'chopped up' and developed. It would not take long for Fairhope to begin to resemble the rest of the (Mobile) Bay area."

Finkelstein was reminded by a member of the audience that only roughly one-sixth of the land in Fairhope belongs to the Single Tax Corporation.

"The Single Tax Corporation," the speaker responded, "creates values that 'spill over.'"

He said that adhering to Georgist principles might encourage "others to join," although he admits there might be persons who prefer to say, "He (my

Continued on Page 3

neighbor) is not doing it, so neither will I.

"There are plenty of communities for the likes of them," he said.

Disagreement among Single Tax lessees came to the surface during the meeting, when Morris Ebenstein rose to claim "there is a war going on, between the Single Tax lessees and the trustee," referring to the corporation.

Ebenstein said lessees were having trouble selling their homes, and that the only persons who are buying houses are those who "do not know the situation" as it exists between the lessees and the corporation.

There was vocal opposition from much of the audience to Ebenstein's remarks.

The exchange was cited as an example of disagreement among Georgists.

Finkelstein, who is Jewish, said "Jews have an affinity for factionalism, but it's nothing compared to Georgists...if you have two Georgists together, you'll have three opinions."

He is an assistant professor at New

York's Adelphi University in addition to his duties at the Henry George School, and described the school as one which "promotes and teaches the ideas of Henry George."

George, he said, was a "19th Century journalist, seaman, and troublemaker...who believed a man should be able to enjoy the fruits of his labor."

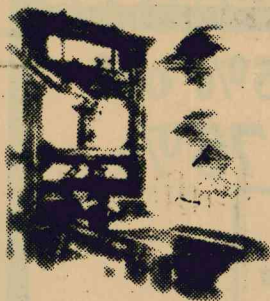
Much of Georgist theory rests on what Finkelstein described as "the very sound idea that what you did not make is not yours," referring to the common wealth of natural resources.

The philosophy strives, he continued, for an end to "monopoly holding of natural resources by those who demand ransom for access to them."

Only in Fairhope, Finkelstein concluded, are these theories being debated in the midst of a live, working model.

"You've got something great here," he said.

Eastern Shore Courier  
**Comment,**



## Letters to the editor

### Ebenstein speaks

I am writing concerning your report in the issue of March 26, about the "lively forum" held at the meeting of Single Tax Advocates on Monday, March 23.

You state, correctly: "there was vocal opposition from much of the audience to Ebenstein's remarks."

The fact is they would not let me finish my remarks. Your readers will, I'm sure, be interested in knowing what "they" wouldn't let me reveal.

In a nutshell it is this: while Single Tax Advocates was organized for the ostensible purpose of supporting Fairhope Single Tax Corporation (FSTC) it actually lives in deadly fear of FSTC.

The facts are as follows:

In 1979 representatives of Single Tax Advocates consulted the distinguished Mobile law firm of Silver & Voit about the above mentioned fear. In a letter dated October 22, 1979, addressed to Craig Sheldon, Buddy Richmond, then President of Single Tax Advocates, and me, then consultant for Advocates, Silver & Voit stated as follows:

"You will recall conferring with us recently to gain our observations on the threats you perceive to the leases you presently have with the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation (FSTC) ... It is our considered view that the uncertainty you feel about what the FSTC may do in the future is definitely justified.

"The injunction...in the Circuit Court of Baldwin County appears to have provided temporary, incomplete relief ...and unless you begin to face the fact that you have serious problems requiring comprehensive solutions, the certainty one should have as a lessee is not likely to happen.

"We feel quite confident that a court of competent jurisdiction would conclude that FSTC, as holder of the legal title to the land, must act in a "trust" or fiduciary capacity with all of the lessees as the ultimate beneficiary. It is

our perception that the duty is held by not only the officers of FSTC but its members as well. The suggestion that FSTC dissolve and permit its valuable real estate to be given over to those fortunate few who are FSTC members does obvious and frightening violence to the purposes for which FSTC was established!

"You obviously are concerned not only about your own rights but those of your fellow lessees...and want comprehensive solutions so as to prevent future generations of lessees from ever being faced with similar perils."

On November 26, 1979 Single Tax Advocates sent a letter to its member-lessees in which it stated as follows:

Dear Lessee:

Single Tax Advocates remain convinced that our situation in regards to our leases is still unclear. Officers of Fairhope Single Tax Corporation have indicated on several occasions that there are plans for possible future reorganization of FSTC. We, therefore, feel that we are currently in a period of only temporary relief and that much work is still ahead of us.

The following excerpts from a letter from Silver & Voit throw some light on the legal viewpoint on our position:

The letter then quoted the statement by Silver & Voit herein above set forth.

Thereafter Single Tax Advocates set up a "Lease Protection fund" which they are accumulating for the purpose of hiring lawyers to sue FSTC should it again endanger the leases of its lessees by again attempting to dissolve itself.

The above are the facts which the "vocal Opposition" would not let me reveal at that "lively forum".

I'm sure that those of your readers who are lessees of FSTC will be glad to have these facts - at last.

Sincerely,

'I was in the Union Army'

# Fairhope history in the (brown) bag

MAY LAMAR  
Staff Writer

A wrinkled brown grocery bag stuffed behind the Courier coffee machine under mounds of throw-away junk has revealed itself to contain a two-year file of letters sent to Ernest B. Gaston between 1894 and 1895.

Taking into account E.B. founded Fairhope, was the first editor of the Courier and the proverbial "main man" of this city for some time, the letters are quite significant in their revelations about how things were back then.

Just about 88 years ago, during this same time of year, Gaston led a group of single taxers to the eastern shore to settle. Fairhope was founded as a single tax colony. The single tax idea was an economic theory (still is) and Fairhope was a practical application of that theory.

Fairhope was an experiment and as with most experiments, people were interested in the results. That explains why the aged file is crammed with letters from people from all over America asking about Fairhope. Once used to the long hand, the letters make for intriguing reading.

It was nearing the end of the 19th century. E.B. Gaston, working feverishly to raise enough money to buy land for the colony, was living in Battles (Wharf) while overseeing the clearing of roads and construction of buildings in his nearby Fairhope. He must have spent a lot of time in between reading and writing letters.

Many potential colonists were, in a word, broke and needed a place to go.

"...The financial crash last year engulfed me in ruin and I am now perfectly flat with nothing to depend upon but willing hands and a good name."

T. Hudson  
Greensboro, Ala.  
Dec. 3, 1894

"Would you kindly state under which conditions a poor mechanic may join your association?"

J.M. Thomas  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Nov. 29, 1894

Others of E.B.'s correspondents just wanted to get out of the city.

"Being thoroughly disgusted with city life, I request you to forward me full information about Fairhope. ....May I add that I am industrious, sober and congenial."

John W. Ettel  
New York, N.Y.  
Nov. 20, 1894

Some of the letters were from those who, while not willing to settle in Fairhope, apparently felt compelled to give E.B. free advice on how the colony should be run.

"We rejoice with all Fairhoppers that a start had been made. We trust that from this time forward steady progress may be made til it absorbs us all."

David Armitage  
Baraboo, Wis.  
Dec. 19, 1894

"...Whenever you can get a piece along the bay front even if it is detached from the rest...buy it. Hold your money under their noses and make them come down."

Joe W. Adams  
Liberal, Mo.  
Nov. 4, 1894

"Let no man be jellous but zellous."

J.W. Rose (no champion speller)  
Helena, Mon.  
Jan. 28, 1895

"As the powers that be would like to evict all the poor man's cooperations from off the face of the globe (I am) in-

clined to think they will arrest our whole colony. We must go very carefully."

F. Frost  
Carleton, Neb.  
Dec. 21, 1894

"For in this beautiful world, I am sorry to say it is money that makes the mare go and this should be borne in mind by all those who wish to see Fairhope succeed."

Edward Ferguson  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Dec. 3, 1894

E.B. got asked many thought provoking questions about Fairhope.

"How do you think Bicycles will sell in Alabama?"

A. Heullen  
Erie, Pa.  
Feb. 15, 1895

"How is your health since living in the south? Is it cheaper to take our furniture from here or buy everything new when we arrive there? Is it really necessary for us to wait til next Fall?"

Mrs. H.D. Knight  
Jan. 23, 1895  
Iowa

He was also asked questions which suggest former social conditions.

"Are there many negroes in the immediate neighborhood? Do they behave themselves toward women?"

John Ettel  
New York, N.Y.  
Feb. 12, 1895

"What, my dear sir, do you think of the condition of society that in a great city like Chicago persons are permitted to starve to death; where granaries are bursting with grain for speculation?"

A.P. Hughes  
Chicago, Ill.  
Dec. 31, 1894

Unfortunately, some things never change and E.B., like most newspaper people, had his share of dissatisfied readers.

"I see by the report published in the Courier that the Courier is not self-sustaining, that is, if I understand the report, although I must admit, that it is about as clear as mud."

T.H. Chamberlain  
Findlay, Ohio  
Feb. 12, 1895

"I demand to know the reason why you persistently refuse to answer my letters and not even send me the Fairhope Courier for which I have paid."

John Ettel  
New York, N.Y.  
Feb. 12, 1895

"I am surprised and worried about the \$100 that you say I failed to enclose in my letter of the 23rd."

Clarence S. Moore  
Oct. 31, 1894  
Address unknown

Many of Gaston's correspondents had big plans for Fairhope.

"We shall almost forget that we were ever spiritualists, Universalists, Methodists, Presbyterians or even Knights of Labor, Odd Fellows or Masons, for they all seem weak efforts towards cooperations and fraternity in the human family."

George Knowles  
Delphos, Kansas  
Jan. 11, 1895

"I can see how we can build one of the most enticing pleasure resorts in the south."

George Knowles  
Delphos, Kas.  
Dec. 16, 1894

(continued on Page 7-A)

Answer

Richmond Va, Jan 11, 1895

Mr. Ernest B. Gaston,  
Fairhope Colony, Ala.

Dear Sir,

Your worthy undertaking came to my notice through an article published in the Richmond Star, of Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 94,

Having been a close observer of the affects upon the people of the Laws and Customs of the U.S for the past Twenty five years, and knowing that changes could be made that would tend to lessen the anxiety and misery of mankind, I am anxious to learn more which Fairhope

## *continued---Fairhope*

"I have made up my mind to cast my lot with the Fairhope Industrial Association and at some future date to surround myself with congenial spirit that I assume the Colony will contain and demonstrate to the world what true reformers can accomplish on one little spot of Earth.

J.D. Lucier  
Des Moines, Ia.  
Oct. 27, 1894

Some of the letters were from discouraged single taxers. Some were a bit strange.

"My efforts at Oklawaha (Florida) in trying to get up a colony were overthrown by a....dirty drunken black mailer in the shape and form of a human being. Be cautious with this Fanny Robbins. I hear she is near your colony."

L. Harter  
Ocala, Fla.  
Feb. 3, 1895

"My Dear Brother, It did not suit Mrs. Parmer and I to remain in Baldwin County, therefore, I resign the office of Vice President of the Fairhope Industrial Association."

C.B. Parmer  
(Post card from West Elizabeth, Pa.)  
Dec. 19, 1894

"I was in the Union Army 10 months, while there was shot in the head."

George Knowles  
Delphos, Kas.  
Dec. 16, 1894

"It is doubtful,...a colony of this kind can be successfully established, because its numbers must still remain a part of a world from which they are vainly trying to escape."

M.C. Hollister

"In the New Earth"  
Reported in Dec. 17,  
1894 letter from  
Clarence Moore.

You may not have known the Fairhope Colony had "secret" members.

"Regarding Mrs. F.'s note...She has lost interest in (single tax) and what I do for the movement is done almost under her protest, therefore, you will not be surprised to know that she knows nothing of my being a stockholder in the Fairhope Enterprise and it is not my intention that she shall know."

Charles Ford  
Chicago, Ill.  
Dec. 1894

Old E.B. and others who followed him, probably relate well to this letter.

"It looks all together probable that the only way we can escape a physical break-down will be to leave the Courier."

W.E. Brokaw  
Editor, Single Tax Courier  
St. Louis, Mo.  
Dec. 16, 1894

E.B. Gaston, by the way, answered each of the letters, if the "ANS" followed by a date scrawled across the face of each one is any indication.

**City pays \$5,000**

11/12/81

# Oaks suit ends

A lengthy and at times emotion-ridden law suit against the City of Fairhope and its library board by its former librarian is over, according to attorneys for both sides.

The city has agreed to pay Hilda Clare Oaks \$5,000 to help cover her legal expenses, according to Fairhope Mayor James P. Nix.

While neither city attorney Paul Myrick nor Oak's attorney James Blauksher would make much comment on the suit except to say it is over, Myrick said the outcome was favorable to the defendant.

This was the second suit brought against the city by Ms. Oaks, who served as librarian of the Fairhope Public Library from 1977 to 1979. Oaks filed for dismissal of the suit Oct. 1.

In May 1979 Oaks was dismissed from the library by the Fairhope City Council

following a hassle over budget, books and personalities. The library board was dismissed at the same time, during a regular Monday night council meeting.

Oaks sued for reinstatement and settled for it plus attorney's fees and an agreement that the city council would not interfere with the library operations until her contract ran out in September of that year.

In September she was fired again, which resulted in the second suit. The second suit alleged sex discrimination and breach of the May 1979 agreement against the city and library board. U.S. District Court Judge Brevard Hand had dismissed the breach of agreement charge.

Oaks now resides in Flossmoor, Illinois, where she directs four libraries.

— Eastern Shore Courier —

# Comment,

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## History is all of us

Courier staffer May Lamar's discovery of letters to E.B. Gaston, founder of Fairhope and the Courier, from late in the last century sparked many thoughts.

First, history is all of us and what we leave behind. Those letters, pictures and other memorabilia in your attic or closet may be a personal history or may even provide historians with an insight into the past.

Second, one letter reminded us of something we have known for a long time. The South has been stereotyped as the area of the country where prejudice exists. Prejudice, a quality

we do not condone, exists universally and has for a long time.

"Are there many negroes in the immediate neighborhood? Do they behave themselves toward women?" The questions were asked of Gaston in one letter by a man from New York City. The letter was written nearly 86 years ago.

Finally, one realizes after reading these old letters that human nature never changes. One wise friend of ours says this is the reason the Bible still works thousands of years after it was penned.

C. A. Gaston  
1 Winston Rd.  
Charlottesville, VA  
03

1

criticism and reliable...reporting, government cannot govern-

Monday, November 16, 1981

16 Pages

## Oaks cites settlement

From combined reports

Former Fairhope Librarian Hilda Claire Oaks, whose two-year-old case against the City of Fairhope was recently dropped, said Friday she was paid \$5,000 and her attorney was paid over \$10,000 in a settlement agreement reached prior to her Oct. 1, filing for dismissal of the controversial law suit.

Fairhope Mayor James P. Nix and both Oaks' attorney James Blacksher and defense attorney Paul Myrick stood by their contentions that the City of Fairhope paid only \$5,000 in the settlement agreement.

Both attorneys have agreed not to discuss the particulars of Oaks suit with members of the media.

In a telephone interview from her home in Park Forest, Illinois, Oaks said

while she was unsure of whom the money had come from "I know my attorney's fees were paid." Oaks said further she believed the fees to be in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

In last Monday's Fairhope City Council meeting Nix reported the city had paid \$5,000 to Oaks' attorney in a move to save the city the additional expense of fighting an Oaks appeal in federal court. "Would you rather pay \$20,000 defending yourself in federal court or \$5,000 to have the matter dropped?" Nix asked Friday when asked about the \$5,000 payment.

Oaks first filed a three-count suit against the city in May 1979 following her dismissal as librarian. She alleged sex discrimination, breach of contract and infringement of first and fourteenth amendment rights. That suit was set-

tled out of court, with Oaks being reinstated.

Oaks filed suit again in September 1979 after her contract was not renewed. On June 12, following the October, 1980 decision by U.S. District Judge Brevard Hand to dismiss a major portion of the law suit, and a May 20, 1981 summary judgement which favored the city, Oaks filed for appeal to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Hand has ruled in favor of the city in each instance.

Oaks said Friday her decision to drop the suit came after the appeal was filed.

Nix said a monetary settlement between the city's insurance company and Oaks' attorney could have been made without his knowledge, but that this was doubtful.

# Protests 'current use'

Dear Editor:

I want to express my deepest chagrin and anger at the passage of the "current use" bill by the Alabama Senate and House. Governor Fob James is to be commended for being a lonely voice of sanity in opposing this insane exploitation of the people. \$300,000 in tax loss looms for Baldwin County as a result of this.

At a time when the Federal government is forcing states and localities to shift for themselves, it is the height of insanity, now especially, to take taxes off idle land! But the large landowners have large voices, and the people are led as sheep to the slaughter. Are we a state of idiots?

Why can't we learn from the example of Pittsburgh and other cities in Pennsylvania who have adopted the graded tax plan? That is, they have been raising the taxes

on land and lowering it on improvements. This has been a boost to their economy as it always proves to be wherever it has been tried; in Australia, South Africa and locally here in Fairhope, Alabama, which has grown and flourished and surpassed its neighbors because of the Single Tax on land principles on which it was founded. Henry George's principles laid down in "Progress and Poverty" are as true today as ever.

Tax land values and people will use their land or give it up to others who want to use it. Tax improvements and income sales, and you inhibit production and slow down the economy. Tax land values and you get rid of land speculation and open up land for use, stimulating the economy. For the value of land is a community

continued on Page 11-A

## Eastern Shore Courier

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Your "Home Town Newspaper"

Published and Printed in

Baldwin County by

Baldwin Countians

# Letters

*continued*

created value and thus the community has a right and a responsibility to collect that value. Only when we finally realize that will we be rid of the two demons of unemployment and inflation and all the evils that spring from them.

Governor Fob James is also to be commended for his support of the largest single land preservation initiative in the history of the state when Congressman Ronnie Flippo introduced to the U.S. House H.R. 6011 to enlarge the Sipse Wilderness Area in the Bankhead National Forest to some 43,500 acres. But this is only half the action needed, for there must also be companion legislation in the U.S. Senate.

It's a little known fact approximately 95% of the privately owned land in this country is owned by not more than 3% of the population. This is directly due to the low taxes on unused land which encourages land speculators to hold on to large holdings of land. Thus, about the only land the public at large has under our present system

to use and enjoy is the land which is publicly owned.

How long will this state continue to be led like sheep to the slaughter being sheared of our hard earned money while large land holders of idle land are getting away with ridiculously low taxes? Land lords who get rich in their sleep as land values rise due to the growth of the community must be made to pay their rightful share to the community.

It is up to everyone of us to stop being blindly led and manipulated by the land lords and revise our tax laws so that the burden is taken off labor and capital and put where it belongs on the community created land value.

If the people do not recognize and demand their just rights they will always continue to be exploited. Only enlightened, concerted action can save us from the quagmire we have sunk into.

Sincerely,  
Toby Attschuler  
Fairhope

Eastern Shore Courier

# Comment, Viewpoint

Gipson's Galley

## I've been looking for this place all my life



Fairhope is a place for dream. It's a place to start them; to watch them grow; and hopefully a place for them to come true.

Fairhope is alive with people who have special dreams. For some their dreams have already come true. Others are still working on theirs.

The city of Fairhope itself is a dream. One that started in 1894 when a group of twenty-five men and women arrived in what is now Fairhope. Two families traveled by covered wagon while the rest, under the leadership of E.B. Gaston, came by boat.

These people had a dream. And they were willing to sacrifice to obtain it. These founding fathers were "single taxers" who had adopted the principals of the single tax as explained by Henry George in his book, Progress and Poverty. The single tax plan was George's dream. So Fairhope was even based on a dream.

Some of the most interesting people I have ever met are creating dreams in Fairhope.

There's Nick and his New World Economic system; Adrian and Ed with their cameras; and Whit and his weights.

You can find dancers with their dedication and artists with their inspiration, all practicing their special talents in Fairhope.

The Rockwells have a dream of a marriage, Jack and his music and his family at the Grand, and Carol and Leon have their kids and their plans.

Major has his downtown office building and Clyde has his golf. Ken and Vernon have their act "together" and Joe has his printing.

Dreams! Has Fairhope got dreams?

Doc has his wine and Donnie has his signs. Bill has his fishing instead of "just a wishing."

Many, Fairhophians have their own businesses. That has been their dream.

The Fairhope Library is even a dream. Established in 1898 by Mrs. Marie Howland in her own house, the library will soon move into its new location adjacent to another dream, the Fairhope Civic Center.

The beautiful, new Thomas Hospital complex is a dream that began 22 years ago when a group of concerned Fairhophians got together and said, "let's do it."

The very atmosphere in Fairhope is conducive to one's dreams. It's in the air. You can reach out and touch the excitement of people chasing dreams.

One of Fairhope's special dreams is

a "jubilee." What more of a dream could one ask for than the fish and other forms of water life swimming up the shallow waters of Mobile Bay where you can almost pick them up with your hands.

Looking out over that same bay late in the afternoon when the setting sun is casting it's magic spell on the surface of the water, you think you've stepped into a dream world.

Friendship and understanding of others who have dreams add to Fairhope ability to make dreams come true.

You want to write a book, a TV series, or newspaper articles? You can do it in Fairhope.

You want to experience the thrill of

sailing, the regimen of jogging, the simple pleasure of a sip of wine? Fairhope's the place.

Are you into handicrafts, antiques or antebellum style homes? Look no farther than this beautiful city on the Eastern Shore.

You want to keep your dreams private or tell the world? Fairhope will let you.

If you just want to live here or if you've come to die here, you couldn't have picked a more serene and at the same time exciting place to be.

Fairhope has been in my dreams for a long time. I've been looking for this place all my life.

I have a few dreams I want to come true.

# Folmar HQ opens

Eastern Shore headquarters for the Emory Folmar for Governor campaign have been opened at 55 N. Section St. in Fairhope. Volunteers supporting the Montgomery mayor's Republican gubernatorial bid are staffing the office Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., according to Taney Brazeal of Fairhope, Folmar's campaign chairman in Baldwin County.

# Barron campaigns here

Judge Bishop Barron of Montgomery has brought his campaign for election to a full term on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to Baldwin County.

Pointing to his past experience, the Evergreen native feels his background provides "sound qualifications for me to do a good job."

Barron was appointed to Place 3 on the state appeals court by Gov. Fob James March 12 to fill a vacancy left by retiring Judge John Bookout.

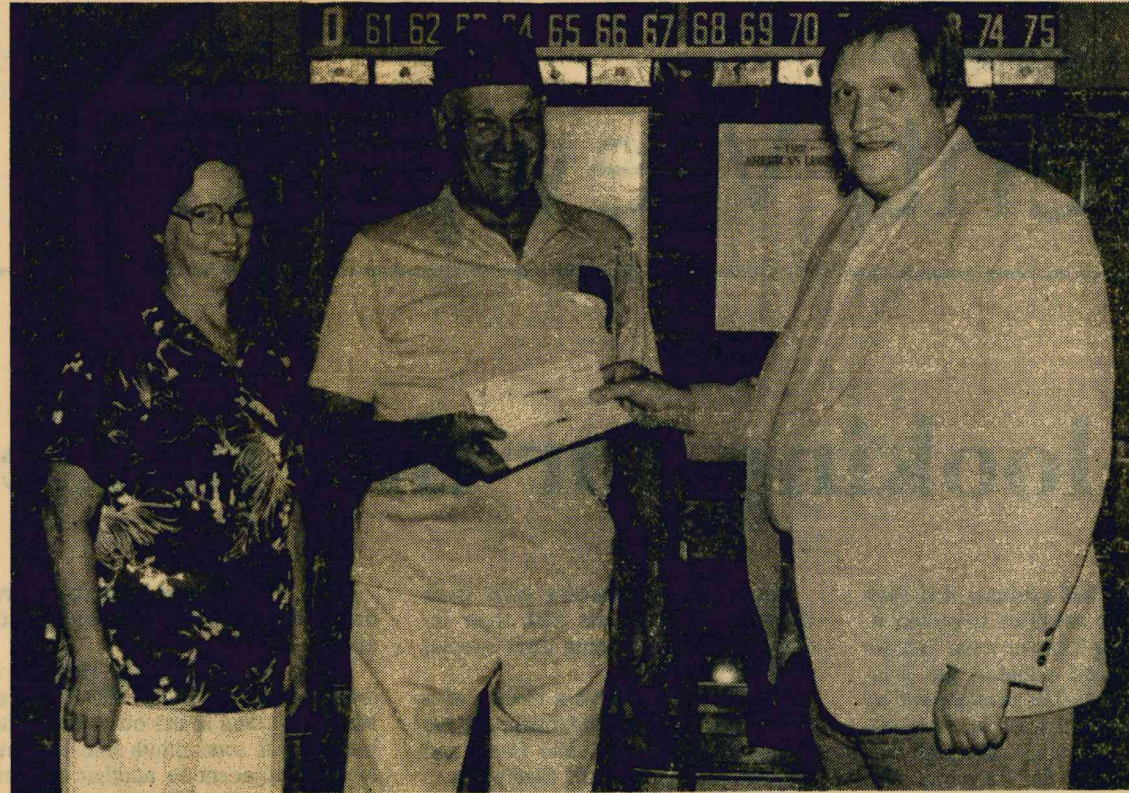
A Democrat, Barron practiced law

in Montgomery for 25 years until his appointment as judge by Gov. James. He also served the capitol city as city court judge for seven years.

He was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives from Montgomery County in 1973 to fill a vacancy, and was re-elected to House District 79 in 1974 without opposition. He was elected to the Alabama Senate in 1978, representing District 27.

Barron attended Evergreen public schools and was graduated from the University of Alabama in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration. He served as a special agent with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, conducting criminal investigations of alleged or suspected income tax evasions from 1948 to 1953. Barron also became a certified public accountant in 1951.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army with duty in North Africa and Italy.



## Post and auxiliary donate \$2,000 to USA medical research

Ted Dyer, commander of the American Legion's Eastern Shore Post No. 199 and Louise Dyer, president of the Auxiliary Unit No. 199, presented a check for \$1,500.00 to Dr. Joseph H. Coggin from the University of South Alabama Medical Clinic in Mobile, as a donation for the Cancer Research

Program. They also presented a \$500 check for research for the causative agent of Legionnaires disease. This money was raised through contributions from members and the public through the efforts of volunteer services of members of the Post and Auxiliary.

## Activities at a glance

August 1982						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### 'End of August' premiere set

The nationwide premiere of the motion picture filmed in Mobile and Baldwin County, "The End of August," will be Thursday, August 26, at 8 p.m. at Bel Air Cinema. For ticket information call the Allied Arts Council at 432-9796.

### Barnwell Community meeting

The Barnwell Community Association cordially invites the public to attend its monthly meeting following a pot luck supper at 7:30 p.m. at the Barnwell Community Center, Saturday, Aug. 28.

### SF Garden Club to hold coffee

Spanish Fort Estates Garden Club is planning a Silver Anniversary Coffee to be held Sept. 14 at the home of Mrs. H.C. Miller, 317 Patrician Dr., Spanish Fort at 7:30 p.m. All members and past presidents of the club and their guests are welcomed.

### FPL cinema to show two films

FPL CINEMA will present two films Thursday afternoon, "Amsterdam" and "Birdbrain." Once the world's richest city, Amsterdam can still claim that title if charm and beauty are the measure of wealth. This film tours the unique city of 1,000 bridges where flower markets, houses and even farms can be found on boats. "Birdbrain" is a fascinating study of the mystery of bird migration in which scientists explain how birds navigate and how they use air currents to hold a course. Experiments reveal that some birds evidence a knowledge of the stars and will rely on the earth's magnetic field to navigate correctly. These films are free to the public and will be shown at 2:30 p.m. in the Mobile

## Absentee deadline posted

Eastern Shore Courier

# Comment, Viewpoint

Gipson's Galley

## Dreams come true on Eastern Shore



It never ceases to amaze me how the Eastern Shore is alive with anticipation of dreams that may come true.

I come across dreams and the people who believe in them everyday. Small ones, strange ones, long-lasting ones and ones that you and I may not think important. But they are.

And for every one dream I hear about, there are probably three times that many that I don't.

One dream that is now 30 years old and getting bigger and better with each passing year is the one born in 1952 with an art class consisting of a few interested Eastern Shore resi-

dents. That dream has a name. We know it as the Eastern Shore Art Association and we know the important role it has played in developing the state of the arts in our community.

This dream that started 30 years ago has become a reality. This dream is now helping others search for and fulfill their own dreams.

The Percy H. Whiting Art Center building located at the intersection of North Section and Oak Streets in Fairhope is a treasure-filled monument of love from the members of the association to the residents of the Eastern Shore.

Each month new and exciting exhibits appear in the spacious galleries. Each month different artists write their names in the history of the arts in our community.

Behind the scene each month aspiring artists study and learn from the ongoing classes conducted in the workshop area of the building. People from eight to 80 enjoy the fellowship and the self-satisfaction that comes from improving one's self in a creative manner.

Whether you are into oils, pottery, sculpturing, photography, or simply enjoy seeing the works of others, the Art Center is your kind of place.

But bricks and canvas do not a building make. It is the people behind the laying of those bricks and the artist who creates on that canvas, that are the true foundation of the building.

The members of the Eastern Shore Art Association have been laying that foundation for 30 years now.

This weekend the association is going to honor it's own in a special tribute to its charter members. The spirit that guided the way through those 30 years will be apparent in the crowd that will be at the center to honor these special people.

Dreams do come true on the Eastern Shore. This one did.

Speaking of dreams, in the next few weeks you are going to be reading about some special ones right here in the pages of the Eastern Shore Courier.

There is a teacher on the Eastern Shore with a dream that involves sacrifice and dedication. There is a young lady with a musical dream.

There is a story in today's Courier about a lady who's only dream is that of being a mother and grandmother and from the response of her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends she fulfills that dream with great dignity.

You will read about a lady who has

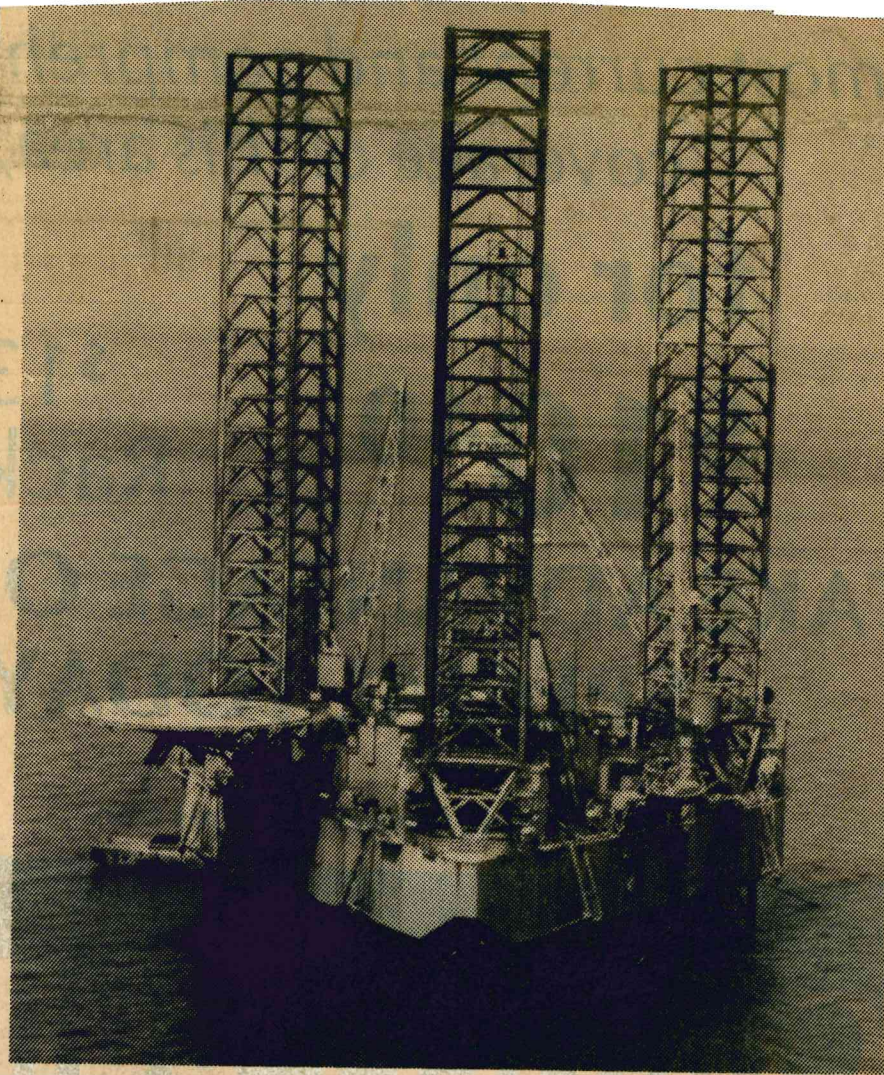
lived in a dream world as the "first lady" of a large metropolitan city in America.

You'll find out why three Fairhope sisters dream of days-gone-by and how one couple makes their dreams come true by traveling.

The list of dreams go on. The stories are endless and each one exciting and interesting.

And for those of you who have been cajoling me about my dream of a 36-inch waistline, you are right. I have not been chasing it hard enough. Next week I will give an honest update on "the tale-of-the-tape" and how much farther I have to go for my dream.

Editorial



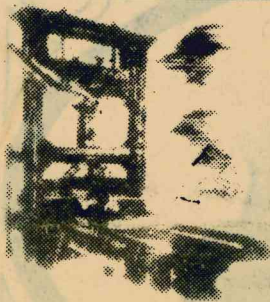
### *Mobil's rig*

The "Penrod 65" was one of two Mobile Bay drilling rigs visited by Mobile and Baldwin County newspeople Wednesday, during a Mobil Oil Corp. tour. This rig stands just off the north shore of the Fort Morgan Peninsula, another rig, the Rowan 4, was also seen by the press.

## Mobil conducts t

Eastern Shore Courier

# Comment, V



## Letters to the editor

### 'It can only get better'

I recently picked up a copy of a new pamphlet being distributed by the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation to explain its purpose, and to give a little bit of its history. It seems to be one of the best publications they have produced to explain a rather complicated economic premise. It is concise and straightforward.

I would like to add one small bit of fact. "Mr. Mann," referred to as one of a member of a committee of two to select a site for the colony, was my great-grandfather, S.S. Mann. He was a charter member of the Fairhope Industrial Association, forerunner of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation. My grandfather, Thomas Mann, became a member shortly after the turn of the century, followed by my mother, Flo Schmechoun and by me. I expect my children will succeed me as

members.

We are all very proud our family had a part in the development of this community; and wish to be identified with the men and women who had the foresight to provide this town with its uncluttered shoreline and its parklands, and to support a healthy cultural life centering, in the early days, at the library and the Organic School. The school, incidently, stands on land which was once Mr. Mann's farm.

Fairhope has always attracted interested, dedicated people. It seems to be continuing to do so, and with so many citizens concerned with maintaining its character during this period of growth it can only get better.

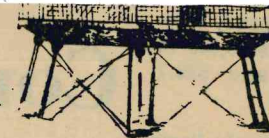
Bonnie Holt  
50 No. Bayview  
Fairhope, Ala.

## What the needs really are

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and legislation to help us

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jury hung on Gullede charges

# Payne, Taylor convicted in fraud trial

Two Baldwin County men were convicted last week of defrauding the Land Bank Association of Robertsdale, Weldon Payne of Mobile and Lloyd Taylor of Silverhill, will be sentenced in February by a federal

U.S. attorney who prosecuted them, Jeff Sessions, said he will take

a few weeks to decide if he will re-prosecute former State Sen. Robert Gullede of Robertsdale, for whom the jury yielded a mistrial last Friday.

The five-man, seven-woman jury that day declared Payne, a former president of the Land Bank, guilty on 14 of the 15 counts against him.

Jurors were hung on the 15th count

against Payne, as well as on the two counts in the indictment against Gullede.

Payne faces a maximum sentence of 70 years and fines of up to \$115,000, and Taylor up to 50 years in prison and \$75,000 in fines.

Federal District Judge Emmett Cox, who presided over the five-week trial in Mobile, set sentencing for Payne and Taylor at 9 a.m. Feb. 10.

When a jury is hung, or cannot reach a decision, as in one count against Payne and two against Gullede, a mistrial is declared and it is up to the prosecutor to decide if he will re-try the case.

U.S. Attorney Sessions said Friday he did not think he would attempt to re-try the counts against Payne, which accused him of unlawfully participating in Land Bank monies by releasing real estate from the mortgage of a

borrower, south Baldwin farmer Herman Styron.

But he said he will review the government's case against Gullede, who is president of Citizens' Bank of Robertsdale, and decide in "a couple of weeks" if he will re-try that case.

Until then, Gullede continues to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

Jurors reported the convictions shortly before noon Friday to Judge Cox, who sent them back into deliberations that afternoon on the remaining counts against Payne and Gullede.

But they reported in the late afternoon they could not reach a decision.

Sessions said he was pleased with the outcome of the trial, in which he charged the men were "virtually brazen" in defrauding the Land Bank in five land transactions between 1977 and

1982.

"I believed that we had a strong case all along," he said. "I'm pleased with the verdicts on Payne and Taylor, but I am disappointed with the jury's decision on the two Gullede counts and the one Payne count.

"I think it was an important case as far as our efforts to eliminate fraud and abuse in federal programs and agencies. I think we demonstrated that we can get convictions in that area," Sessions said.

Gullede was charged in one count of making "false statements" on applications in 1979 to borrow money from the Land Bank; the government alleged he actually paid \$540,000 for the 320 acres in question, rather than \$768,000.

He was also charged in the lengthiest count in the 16-count indictment, a general charge of conspiracy.

None of the three men could be reached for comment at press time

Friday.

Payne did not testify in his own behalf in the trial.

The government accused him of illegally sharing in loan proceeds while he was either vice president or president of the Land Bank, saying he procured buyers and loaned them Land Bank money to purchase land on which Taylor and-or his brother had an option.

Sessions also charged Taylor "kicked back" money to Payne for doing that.

"It was part of the conspiracy that the defendants, with others, made and caused to be made unwarranted loans, extensions of credit, and releases of real estate from the (Land Bank) to various individuals...in reckless disregard of the interest of said Federal Land Bank Association of Robertsdale and Federal Land Bank of New Orleans," the indictment charged.

## Pirates basketball

Girls down Davidson  
See story on Page 5-A

## Seniors on the move

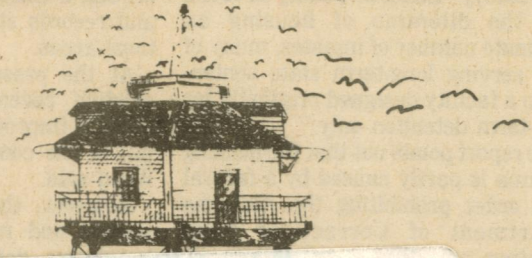
Travel club popular  
See story on Page 1-B

## Unity Day Service

Week of Prayer to precede  
See story on Page 4-B

eastern  
shore

# Courier



Volume 87, No. 61

Thursday, January 13, 1983

10/12/83 10 900  
DR. PAUL GASTON  
1861 WINSTON RD.  
CHARLOTTESVILLE VA  
22903 25 Cents

## Fairhophians respond favorably

By JULIE SPAFFORD

Editor

"You can't correct a problem if you don't know you have one," said Fairhope Mayor Jim Nix at Monday's council meeting as he congratulated the public on their response to a council survey and also the council for "having the courage to make the survey."

Close to 40 percent response was received from the approximately 2,900 survey questionnaires sent out late last year to each residence in Fairhope. "That kind of response - it's just real good," Nix said.

The survey was designed to garner citizen reaction to city services and other matters affecting life in Fairhope. Based upon the results of this survey, the council will work toward making decisions compatible with the

public.

A common theme throughout the survey responses, Nix said, was: "People want to keep the charm of Fairhope the way it is." Supporting this theme was the public's response to the question asking if more property should be rezoned to allow for multi-family dwellings in Fairhope. While 29.5 percent said yes, 70.5 percent said no.

One question asked: "Do you think the dog leash law should be strictly enforced?" Of those responding, 82 percent said yes, while two percent said no and 16 percent said the present law enforcement was satisfactory. "There is no doubt in my mind, after seeing this, that the people want dog leash laws enforced," said Nix. "I think you'll see the council take some action in that direction."

The second part of that question asked those responding yes to strictly enforcing the laws, if enforcement costs should be recovered by the sale of dog tags and fines. An overwhelming 95 percent said yes. After the meeting, Nix said that while tags are presently required, there is little enforcement. The hiring of a dog catcher for Fairhope would appear to be the only way to ensure compliance with dog leash laws, he added. The city has a pound where dogs are taken and put to sleep after a certain period of time.

Nix said there is a possibility that the city could arrange to have the county humane society take responsibility for operation of the city's dog pound.

The question receiving the most diverse response was in reference to rezoning more property for business

and commercial use. While 52 percent gave the additional rezoning a nod, 48 percent said no. And of those responding yes, 35 percent said to expand the business district on Greeno Road south of Fairhope Avenue; 23 percent said to expand the downtown business district; 21 percent said to expand the district on Greeno Road north of Fairhope Avenue; and 12 percent said to rezone the north entrance of the city limits for a business district.

High percentages of the people responding were satisfied with garbage, trash, library, administrative and utilities services in the city, and with fire and police protection. Ninety-one percent expressed approval of garbage and utilities services. Nix said the 9 percent dissatisfied with utilities services were opposed to the cost. "There's not a whole lot we can do about it," he said however.

For trash service and administrative services, 95 percent of those responding expressed satisfaction. And 96 percent were satisfied with police protection and library services.

Receiving the highest percentage of satisfied responses was the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department's services with 99 percent satisfied with fire protection services. "This is one which didn't surprise me," Nix said. "You just can't please everybody; 99 percent is about as good as your going to get."

The reaction was somewhat mixed with respect to adding more recreational facilities in Fairhope, with 37

percent saying more are needed and 63 percent saying no. On the survey, people were allowed space to make suggestions as to ways of improving the city. Despite the survey results, with respect to recreational facilities, Nix said a lot of people suggested that the YMCA build a facility in Fairhope while many others suggested having a city-owned golf course of anywhere from three to 18 holes.

"I think if we could attract them (YMCA), it would be a good thing," Nix said.

Other suggestions for improving Fairhope included more sidewalks, more regular Greyhound bus service between Fairhope and Mobile, sprucing up downtown Fairhope, adding Christmas lights in the downtown during the holiday season and providing additional low-rent housing for the elderly.

Nix read numerous comments from the survey forms returned, and many people complimented the city and its governing body. "We have a fine place to live. Keep it that way," commented one resident.

In other council business: -numerous bids were opened on a ladder truck and equipment for the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department. The matter was taken under advisement until the bids can be studied. The prices on used and new ladder trucks ranged in price from \$12,000 for a 1965 model to \$199,900 for a 1983 model. Prices for the equipment, including air packs and nozzles, ranged from an alternate bid of \$16,829 to \$20,492.

## Citizen survey results

1. Are you satisfied with your garbage service?  
91% Yes 9% No
  2. Are you satisfied with your trash service?  
95% Yes 5% No
  3. Are you satisfied with our fire protection?  
99% Yes 1% No
  4. Are you satisfied with our police protection?  
96% Yes 4% No
  5. Are you satisfied with the library services?  
96% Yes 4% No
  6. Are you satisfied with the administrative services of the City?  
95% Yes 5% No
  7. Are you satisfied with the utilities service (electric, gas, water)?  
91% Yes 9% No
  8. Do you think the dog leash law should be strictly enforced?  
82% Yes 2% No 16% O.K. like it is  
If yes, should the cost of enforcement be recovered by the sale of dog tags and fines?  
95% Yes 5% No
  9. Do you think more property should be re-zoned to allow multi-family dwellings in Fairhope?  
29.5% Yes 70.5% No
  10. Do you think more property should be re-zoned for business and commercial use in Fairhope?  
52% Yes 48% No
- If yes, in what areas:
- Expand downtown business district - 23%
  - Expand Greeno Road business district South of Fairhope Avenue - 35%
  - Expand Greeno Road business district North of Fairhope Avenue - 21%
  - Rezone North entrance to City Limits for a business district - 12%
11. Do you feel we need more recreation facilities?  
37% Yes 63% No

## Jail

From Page 1

According to the commission-authorized study, "Baldwin County is faced with the dilemma of housing an inordinate number of inmates, many of them serving long-term state sentences, in a facility designed originally for short-term detention only."

The report points out that the housing dilemma is partly caused by a federal court order prohibiting the Alabama Department of Corrections from accepting any new inmates into its system.

Half of the 79 inmates currently housed in the county jail are state prisoners who, if space were available, would be serving time in state prisons. The jail, according to knowledgeable county sources, was built to house about 50 prisoners, but sometimes reaches as high as 131 inmates.

The study says that a projected 30 percent increase in the county population during the next 17 years will result in a corresponding increase in crimes, arrests and incarcerations. It noted that Baldwin is situated between two urban counties and has two interstate highways running through it. Both factors increase the number of random crimes and resulting arrests in the county.

By 1986, the study projects an inmate population of 200 to 400 people, adding that "such possibilities are overwhelming and would create a situation producing a negative effect on the standard of life in Baldwin County."

The study proposes a jail that would initially house 175-200 inmates, with the possibility of expanding to 225-250 inmates.

Under the architectural firm's plan, a proposed 190-bed county jail would have two cells with eight beds each for females; one eight-bed cell for juveniles; four 16-bed cells each for maximum, medium and minimum security males; two eight-bed cells for close maximum security males; and six single cells for administrative isolation of inmates.

Dayrooms would be adjacent to each cell block to separate pre-trial and post-trial inmates.

Other areas of the jail would include security control centers for the seven cell groups, a kitchen which would serve 600 meals per day, laundry and storage rooms, visitation booths, a booking-receiving-release area, four interrogation rooms, barber and medical examination rooms, and an outdoor recreation area large enough to normally accommodate about 50 inmates, or the entire prison population in an emergency.

Also included in the jail would be the sheriff's office, six administrative offices, a small arsenal, a dark room, and records storage and communications areas.

At the present time there are no existing revenues in the county to finance improvements in the current jail or the construction of a new jail, Wood said.

However, the four county commissioners and members of the county legislative delegation are discussing the possibility of creating a new revenue source to finance a new jail.

"Every citizen in Baldwin County should pay for the jail because it houses criminals we don't want on our streets," Still said.

Still foresees the possibility of adding a 1 cent sales tax on the existing 4 cent countywide sales tax to raise about \$3 million.

The commission currently has the authority to levy a 1 cent countywide sales tax, but Still explained that all of the revenue would go to the schools.

Still said the commission would like to reach an agreement with county school board members to change the existing law so that revenues from an additional 1 cent sales tax would be split between the school board and the commission.

"If the legislative delegation and the school board would agree to this, we would take care of a lot of ills that need to be taken care of in this county," Still said. "I basically feel a sales tax to build a jail is the only fair way."

Commission Chairman Bill Cooper agrees with Still that some sort of tax is needed, but differs when it comes to building a new jail.

"We could still do a lot of repair in the jail and it would be presentable," Cooper said.

He added that he did not "want to put a debt on people that we don't have to."

Commissioner Clarence Bishop said he could not really "give a good answer now" on whether the county needed a new jail, or how such a jail could be financed.

Bishop, who joined the commission in early November, said he would study the problem some more before making a decision.

Commissioner Neil Lauder said there was nothing definite on whether a new tax is being considered for a new jail or renovations on the current jail.

"I am sure we don't have the best jail in the world," Lauder said. "Even if we reduce the number of people we have in it, a lot will have to be done to it to bring it up to par."

## Vandalism

From Page 1

White said, and made restitution to the city.

"We've had very few parents not make restitution" back to the owners of schools, homes, vehicles and other sites of vandalism.

"I guess the buck stops with me," said Judge Nesbit, who commended the Fairhope Police Department for doing a "great job."

The judge explained the problems involved in punishing juvenile vandals. On first offense, she said she places the youths on probation. On subsequent offenses, she tries to get them "into the system"

through the Department of Youth Services. This procedure often takes six months to accomplish because the systems "glutted." If the youth vandalizes property two or three times before being sent off, the judge says she certifies him as an adult and sends him into the adult court where he is given a youthful offender status and is put on probation.

Patrick said that there has been considerable vandalism in recent years in Fairhope. Among the types of damage incurred from vandals at Fairhope schools, Patrick said, have been destruction of shrubbery, breaking of water pipes, broken windows (139 window panes have been broken - 80 by a youth who "liked to hear

the sound of glass breaking"), defacing of property, stealing gas and batteries from cars, painting buses, pulling water coolers away from the wall, emptying desks, turning over bookcases and in one case, urinating on a teacher's desk.

"Not all students are vandals," SGA President Broome told the audience. "But there is a general attitude of no respect for school property."

The vandalism and theft problem at Point Clear School has been reduced by taking security measures, Boothe said. A burglar alarm system was donated by Allied Alarms, the community watches out for the school, a consistent lighting plan was developed so that someone will spot if a light is on or off that should not be, and windows were rigged to be locked at night with a nail peg.

Other measures suggested to curtail vandalism all included student involvement. Presenting ideas from the "National Association of Student Councils" magazine, Broome said that the SGA could sponsor an anti-vandalism week

Holder made a motion to take the matter under advisement. Commission member Mayor Jim Nix asked, "What are we going to gain by taking it under advisement?"

The motion was subsequently withdrawn. Commission member John Parker asked that those present in-

## Rezoning

From Page 1

One resident suggested that the city purchase the Dyas property to ensure that it is kept in its present state and to prevent the discussion from coming up time and time again.

Bolton countered arguments that the beauty of the property by noting that there is no law to keep Dyas from cutting down the trees right now.

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission recommendation was explained by the commission's SARPC consultant, Don Pruitt, who said that if the commission denies the request, it should be "based on the grounds that the change is inconsistent with the city's comprehensive plan."

With respect to the drainage comments, Bolton said, "If he (Dyas) makes any use of his property, it will create additional drainage...what you're asking Mr. Dyas to do is not to do anything with his property."

Commission member Harold Holder noted that based upon response from the recent city council survey, only 12 percent of 52 percent of those responding said they wanted to increase the business district at the north entrance to the city. The question asked was if the residents wanted more property rezoned for commercial use. Fifty-two percent responded yes, while 48 percent

## Dear Dawn Eleanor



Dear Dawn Eleanor, Could you explain why it is that some shy people apologize all the time and seem to have a poor self image and others seem to be confident?

I'm one of the former although when I look at what I've done with my life, I've nothing to be ashamed of. My husband was proud of me, my children grew up to be a credit to any family and I've always found time to help others.

One of my daughters told me that it's time I stopped apologizing. Am I too old to change at 60?

Sixty

Dear Sixty, Discovering why we behave the way we do is almost always a complicated process and there's no one reason why some people have plenty of confidence and others have little. Three of the major contributing factors are the distinct personality characteristics children possess from the beginning; the way parents and other important people relate to children when they're growing up; and the individual decisions that children make about themselves and others.

There are several sets of circumstances where children may decide its best for them to be shy, quiet or non-intrusive. Examples are one child who got lots of affirmation for being a good quiet little boy and decided, "People like me 'cos I'm quiet"; another child was teased by an older brother whenever he started to express himself, and he decided, "I'm no good at talking so it's best for me to keep my thoughts to myself."

People I've known who habitually apologized generally had the conviction that they were not as good as they ought to be and by apologizing they'd alleviate some of the criticism they expected from others. They kept

# Readers wr

To

2/10/83

## Foundation

Dear editor:

Much pleasure has been expressed with the results of the Fairhope survey which indicates "that the majority prefer that the way of life in this Eastern Shore community remain unchanged," (The Independent, Jan. 12, 1983).

"Unchanged" is a big order...but perhaps a good place to begin would be with consideration of what that "way of life" is, where it came from and how to preserve it. Obviously this is not a job just for the city council and the mayor, although with the "mandate" recently given them, no doubt such a study is already under way in city hall. No - just as it took the coordinated efforts of all of the original 18 adults and nine children who founded Fairhope to "get it going," so it will require the coordinated efforts of all if we are to preserve the "Fairhope way of life."

This seems a most appropriate time for every civic, public and educational organization in the community to emphasize the principles and vision upon which our community was founded. To begin with, let us all be aware that our community "differs from all (other 'colonies' in Baldwin County) in being founded neither by a racial group nor for the financial

profit of the founders, but around an ethical ideal." (A Brief History of Baldwin County, by Baldwin County Historical Society, March 1928).

Let us learn about that ideal, be conversant with our background and heritage and be proud of it. This would provide a firm foundation upon which to plan for meeting the needs of our community as it is today, while "retaining the city's charm." Planning on this basis, guided by the ethical sense exhibited by the first administrators and citizens of our city, whatever we did in or for the community would have a "a fair hope of success."

Would it not be a progressive and wise step - very much in the Fairhope tradition - for the Fairhope City Council and the council of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation to form, sponsor and promote a Founders Association to maintain our public consciousness of "what Fairhope is" and to serve as a source of information and advice for planning and working towards what we want Fairhope to be - and to remain?

Jacquelin A. McKean  
Fairhope

## Inaccuracy

To the Editor:

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**Theatre**  
Fairhope companies prepare  
See stories Page 3-A

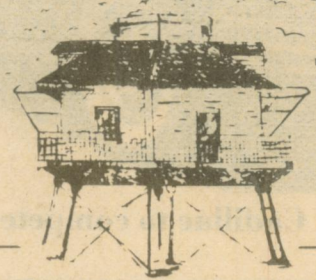
**Softball**  
FHS girls finish season 20-0  
See story Page 6-A

**Nurses**  
Special honors profession

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# Courier



Volume 87, No. 92

Thursday, May 5, 1983

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## Polling place being sought

By JULIE SPAFFORD  
Editor

The fate of a polling location in Spanish Fort remained unresolved Tuesday after the Baldwin County Commission told a representative of the Spanish Fort Masonic Lodge that it would need a few more weeks to find a solution.

Residents of Spanish Fort have been voting at the Masonic Lodge for approximately 20 years, but since July 1981 the lodge has sought to be reimbursed by the county following the elections for expenses incurred such as electric bills and clean up. The lodge recently announced that it would withdraw its location as a polling site unless recompense was made.

"We are not refusing the use of our building for voting and storing of the machines but only asking for reimbursement of the cost of utilities and building cleanup on the days voting is held," said Roy C. White in a letter sent to the Courier.

A possible solution was nixed by lodge members recently when they voted against a proposal by Spanish Fort resident Bill Donaldson to have the Spanish Fort Sports Association, of which Donaldson is a member, provide the necessary funds to hold the upcoming legislative election this fall at the lodge. Donaldson also volunteered to personally solicit other civic organizations in the Spanish Fort area to be responsible for additional elections and to obtain commitments for two years in advance.

Eual Long, representing the lodge at Tuesday's commission meeting, said

the lodge members did not feel the money should be taken from the children's athletic program, so they voted it down. The members feel, Long said, that it is the county's place to provide reimbursement.

"We don't mean to be hard to get along with," Long said, but he added that the expenses are running quite high for the privately owned facility during the elections.

"The problem is," said Commissioner Stephen Still, "if we pay you, we'll have to pay everybody else in the county. It would be throwing a hardship on the county to pay everybody \$100." He added that some places, larger than the Spanish Fort site, could conceivably ask for still higher sums.

There are 35 voting locations in Baldwin County which heretofore have not received recompense for expenses incurred.

Still reported to the commission that he could find no where else in Spanish Fort large enough to hold an election.

The commission agreed Tuesday to intervene with the Interstate Commerce Commission on behalf of county farmers and ask that the ICC overrule a decision made by Seaboard Systems (formerly L&N) to abandon a rail line from Bay Minette to Foley.

Ernie Stewart, representing the South Baldwin Farmer's Association, asked the commission to write a letter to the ICC requesting denial of Seaboard's plan because, he said, the demise of the rail line "will hurt farming more than any other industry in the county."

See Page 2-A

## Use for funds eyed

By JULIE SWEENEY  
Features Editor

Daphne City Council members decided to use \$16,000 in windfall oil lease profits to alleviate drainage problems along Main Street in front of Daphne City Hall and Trione's Store during their meeting Monday night.

The council had earlier designated the city's share of the windfall allocated through the county by the state for improvements to Locke Street, but Mayor Victor Guarisco said that a portion of that work was already under way and that the city will be able to bear the costs of those improvements.

Guarisco said that after conferring with Percy Nixon, Baldwin County's highway engineer, he realized that the installation of inlets for drainage would be a feasible project with the county performing the actual construction work.

During Monday night's council meeting, members agreed to contract with McCrory and Williams for the necessary engineering, which will cost \$1,400. The total cost of the drainage inlet installation is estimated to be \$17,500, according to Guarisco.

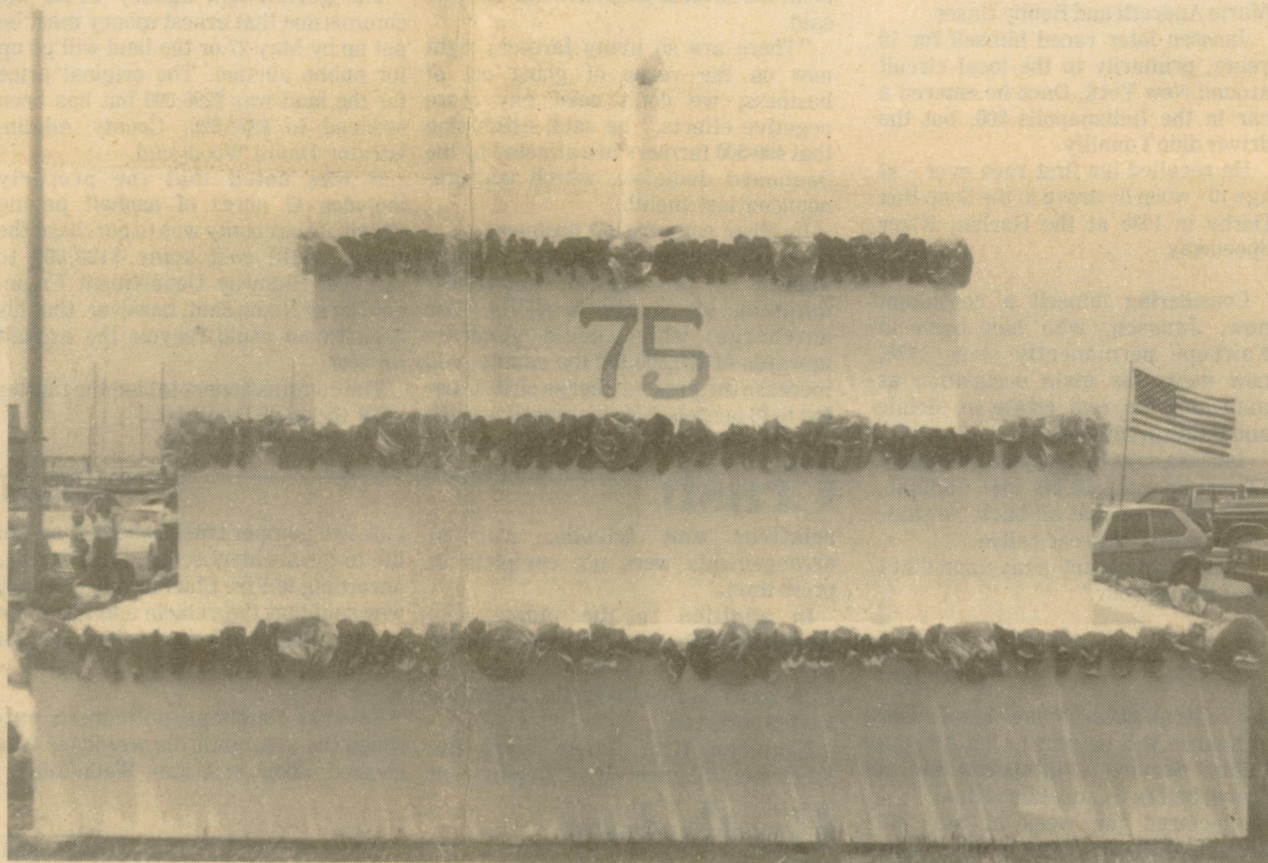
"I think it's one of the best projects we could do with that amount of funds," the mayor commented. Councilwoman Dolores Oates noted that the project would take place in "a crucial area," which is frequently flooded during heavy rains.

Daphne council members also agreed to hire someone as a full-time city mechanic on a 90-day trial basis, providing wages are set at \$6 an hour or less.

Guarisco noted that several applications are already on file in city hall, but that most applicants wanted to be paid more than the \$6 limit. "I'd love to have one (a mechanic), but I can't justify \$8-10 an hour," he said, adding that at that rate, it probably would cost the city more than the present set-up without a full-time mechanic.

Guarisco read a letter from James Napier of Spanish Fort, who was notifying the city that it may ask the U.S. Postal Service to deliver mail by street names and house numbers rather than by rural route and box numbers. The Daphne Post Office would make the street address assignments, the let-

See Page 2-A



Happy 75th

Etta Word "baked" this three-tiered cake which graced the oval at the Fairhope Municipal Pier Sunday during the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce - sponsored

celebration of Fairhope's 75th anniversary of its incorporation as a municipality. See additional photos on page 10-A.  
Photos by Julie Spafford

## City's birthday honored

The Fairhope High School Ruccanes Band's rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" and Don Gooden's resonance as he sang the "Lord's Prayer" and "Fairhope, I Love You" kicked off a festive afternoon for the few hundred people who attended Sunday's celebration of the city of Fairhope's 75th birthday as a municipality.

Sponsored by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, the celebration was attended by numerous family groups who stayed the afternoon and picnicked along the beach.

A large, three-tier birthday cake, "baked" by Etta Word, drew the attention center stage as it rested in the middle of the oval at the parking area for the municipal pier.

Following the introductory speeches by John Nelson, executive vice president of the ESCC, and James P. Nix, mayor of Fairhope, hundreds of balloons were released from inside the mock cake, adding more hues to the already colorful afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, a sand-sculpting contest, sponsored by the Eastern Shore Art Association, was held on the beach. Cindy McBrearty judged the contest. In the youth division, Amanda Boone's fish sculpture captured first place; and in the Adult Division, Laurie Normand's pyramid captured first place.

Meanwhile, in water-oriented competition, Sterries Seafood awarded prizes to winners in its fishing contest. Wayne Gipson captured first place for the largest fish in the 6- to 12-year-old category, and Joshua Hoover won in the same division for the smallest catch.

In the division for 13-year-olds and above, Ronnie Smith placed first with the largest fish, and Stephen Carey took first place with the smallest.

Other activities during the afternoon were sailing and wind-surfing demonstrations, sponsored by Boats Afloat, and pony rides and entertainment, sponsored by Danny's Fried Chicken. The St. James' High Church Band

strolled the beach, sharing their music, and the Creative Outlet and the Academy of Contemporary Dance entertained with dancing programs at the tiki hut.

A partial list of local residents who were in Fairhope in 1908, the year the Community was incorporated as a municipality, and in attendance at the Diamond Jubilee Sunday were: Sam and Helen Porter Dyson, Jack and Bertha Bernhardt Kessler, Ethel Davis Winberg, Levettia Danne Fillingham, Grace Foster Torrey, Elise Gilmore Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Veronica Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anacker, Athlea Nelson Ruffles and William Ruffles Jr., Ella Johnson Thompson and Fred Thompson, Dora Johnson Ward and Carlos M. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. William Allen Troup, Frances Perkins West, Malcolm and Madeline Schultz Hawke and George and Bertha Landis Dyson.

The chamber extended thanks to the

See Page 2-A

## Crash causes death

By JULIE SWEENEY  
Features Editor

One man is dead and another seriously injured following a single car accident early Wednesday morning on Scenic Highway 98 near Marriott's Grand Hotel in Point Clear.

The two black males were traveling south on Scenic Highway 98 when, at about 1:45 a.m., their 1979 Mercury rammed into the brick fence around the Grand Hotel, then collided with a utility pole, finally hitting a natural gas main which exploded upon contact. The car burst into flames.

Fairhope Police Sgt. James Kinard was the first person to respond to the scene. Because of the apparently serious nature of the accident, the Fairhope Police Department then contacted the Mobile District office of the Alabama State Troopers which sent Trooper Stanley Fant to investigate the mishap.

According to Fant's report, the driver was fatally injured. The passenger also was injured. The passenger, 25-year-old Lawrence Packer of Fairhope, was transported by Fairhope Ambulance Service to Thomas Hospital then transferred to the University of South Alabama Medical Center where he was listed in stable condition in the burn unit Wednesday afternoon.

The identity of the driver, 37-year-old Willie Lee Locke Sr. of Point Clear, was determined by his wife, the injured passenger and through motor vehicle registration and was later verified through an autopsy performed by Baldwin County Coroner Huey Mack Wednesday.

Locke, who had been employed by the Baldwin County Board of Education as custodian at Fairhope Middle School for the past five years, is survived by his wife, Emma Howard Locke of Point Clear; three sons, Willie Lee Locke Jr., 14, of Florida, Damien Sherrell Locke, 8, of Point Clear, and Anthony Troy McCants, 15, also of Point Clear; two daughters, Monica LaShay Locke, 12, of Florida, and Aris Leighan Locke, 1, of Point Clear; his mother, Maggie R. Hines of Pritchard; his step-mother, Willie Mae Robbins of Mobile; 23 brothers and sisters; and a host of

See Page 2-A

## Cortes seek to rezone Greeno Road property

By JULIE SPAFFORD  
Editor

The Fairhope Planning and Zoning Commission Monday accepted for public hearing two related rezoning requests by Julio Corte and Teal Corte.

According to their representative, Richard Lacey, the brothers are seeking to have their property located on the East side of Greeno Road between Fairhope and Edwards avenues, rezoned from R-5 and R-1 to

B-2 and from B-2 and R-5 to B-2, respectively.

Lacey said the proposed uses for the site are as a shopping center and offices.

Because the eastern portion of the land lies outside the city's corporate limits, the Cortes also are seeking to have the city annex that portion to bring it within city limits.

The rezoning public hearing on this property will be held at the next

planning and zoning commission meeting on Monday, June 6, at 5 p.m. in the council chambers of the Fairhope Civic Center.

Upon a motion by member John Parker, the commission recommended to Building Inspector Bob Lundford that it found no fault with the site approval plan presented by a representative of the Church of Christ for a new church facility on Greeno Road, across from the Colonial Acres

subdivision near Highway 104.

The church's former building on South Section Street has been sold to St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

Plans for the new church include a worship area, classrooms and fellowship hall. Seating capacity initially is planned for approximately 200 people, the spokesman said.

Lundford noted that the Board of Adjustments and Appeals had pre-

See Page 2-A

## Fairhopian prepares for Great American Race

By JULIE SPAFFORD  
Editor

The Great American Race is set to roll May 21, reviving the road race on public highways, and a Fairhope resident is priming his 1941 Cadillac for victory.

"There hasn't been a road race on the public roads for money since 1916," says Robert Janssen of Fairhope, who will compete in the seven-day run for classic and antique cars from Knot's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif., to the Indianapolis Speedway.

The 2,800-mile road rallye race, with competition billed as the "richest, longest and most prestigious road rallye event ever held of this type," offers a payoff of \$235,000 in prize money to the event's top finishers.

Sponsored by the Interstate Battery System of America Inc. and promoted by Gretrace Ltd., the Great American Race is a controlled run, with winners determined on the basis of time, distance and speed. The car that comes closest to averaging 50 MPH the whole distance will be

declared the winner, Janssen said, and will walk away with the first place prize of \$100,000.

That person is going to be - himself - Janssen vows.

Seated on the porch of his Gayfer Street residence amid auto parts and gadgetry being prepared for the race, Janssen, originally of New York, discussed the antique car he will drive.

A former automobile racer for 10 years as well as president of his own automobile racing safety equipment company in New York City, Janssen is no new-comer to the sport of auto racing.

He purchased the 1941 Cadillac, Series 62, specially for this race, which will be nationally televised. The odometer registered 90,000 original miles.

Janssen said he bought the vehicle specifically to win the race. "It's the best possible vehicle to do the job," he states without hesitation.

The old Cadillac can cruise at 75 MPH without shaking, its new owner says, and it was built in the days "when workmanship and pride were

part of life."

Unlike modern cars, this vehicle has very little plastic and weighs in at 4,720 pounds. It boasts a 346 cubic inch engine and a 126 inch wheel base.

Local mechanic Ed Novak, who spent more than eight years working for the Cadillac Motor Co., is getting Janssen's vehicle into road-racing shape.

Janssen said what he looks for in a vehicle for this type race is comfort, power, high quality and especially dependability.

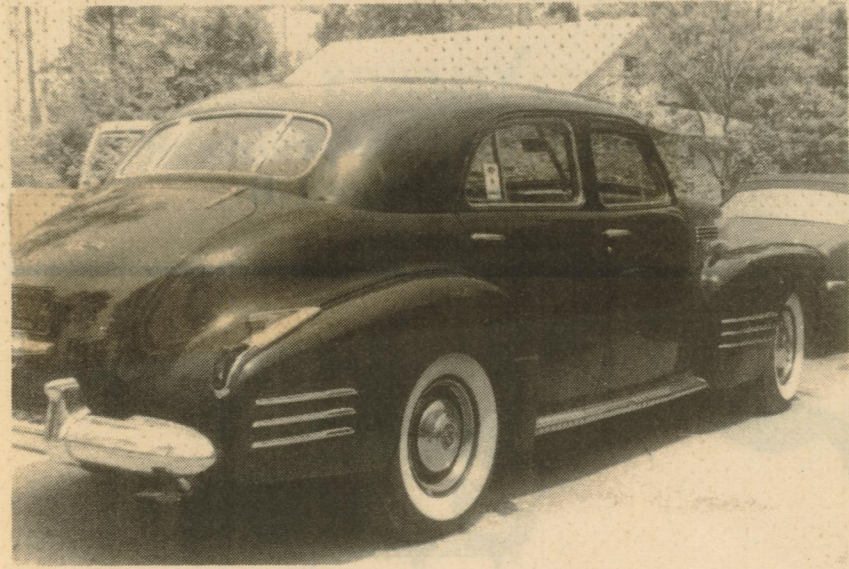
Other entries in the race, which must have been built in or prior to 1941, include a 1909 Mercedes Benz, a 1912 American LaFrance fire truck, a 1909 Thomas Flyer, Packards and Auburns, a Duesenberg, a 1927 Chrysler, a Pierce Arrow, a 1934 Cadillac, a 1929 Lincoln, a 1935 Packard dual cowl convertible.

Accompanying Janssen on the 2,800-mile trek in this first annual road racing event, will be navigator Gene Hauman of Wading River, Long Island, and mechanic and co-driver Russ Klar of Lindbrook, N.Y.

See Page 2-A



Janssen, left, and Novak with 'race' car



1941 Cadillac to compete in race

## Race

From Page 1

A support vehicle operated by his son Mark also will accompany Janssen's Cadillac and will tow it to California beginning May 14.

No, racing is not a new field to Janssen, who sums it all up by saying, "I've spent my whole life at it."

With a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's in metallurgical engineering, Janssen worked in those fields for 13 years but nevertheless raced part-time.

In 1961, he opened his own business, Trackstar Products Inc., on Long Island, and designed and sold automobile racing safety equipment. Janssen says he holds patents on several pieces of safety equipment including the 100 percent flame-proof driver's uniforms, shoulder harnesses and seat restraint devices.

Among the prominent racers who promoted Janssen's products were

Mario Andretti and Bobby Unser.

Janssen later raced himself for 10 years, primarily in the local circuit around New York. Once he entered a car in the Indianapolis 500, but the driver didn't qualify.

He recalled his first race ever - at age 10 - when he drove in the Soap Box Derby in 1935 at the Harlem River Speedway.

Considering himself a consultant now, Janssen, who has been in Fairhope permanently since 1978, now views his main occupation as managing his real estate in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

Janssen says he has approximately \$20,000 invested in his 1941 Cadillac, but he'll make that all back, he says, when he wins the road rally.

"There's no doubt in my mind that I have the best car."

## Funds

From Page 1

ter indicated, if they were not already in existence.

"It would be an aid to emergency vehicles and UPS and other delivery trucks," remarked Mrs. Oates. City Superintendent Ray Simmons added, "It would be good for our meter readers, too. When I hire a new man, it's hard for him to find Route 1 or 2, but he can go straight to First Street."

Council members are taking the proposal under consideration.

In other business, the Daphne City Council:

-worked on developing a natural gas ordinance which will comply with the Pipeline Safety Act passed recently by

the federal government. The finished ordinance will be sent to the Alabama Public Service Commission for approval before its adoption is final.

-declared the week of May 8-14 Municipal Clerk's Week at the request of Daphne City Clerk Barbara Baggett.

-announced that Simmons would begin serving immediately as the city's building inspector at no cost to the city. He replaces Daphne Police Chief Joe Hall in that part-time capacity.

-favorably considered a proposal by Guarisco to purchase a metal body for the city's single leaf truck at a cost of \$1,600.

# Opposition to zoning bill remains

Advertising has begun for a bill that would establish zoning controls in unincorporated areas of Baldwin County. The bill is expected to be introduced in the Legislature in June.

Despite some recent changes in the final version of the bill, its major opponent, the Alabama Gulf Coast Area Chamber of Commerce, will continue to work against its passage.

## Solution

From Page 1

The commissioners agreed to write the ICC, which regulates the distribution and use of interstate rail traffic in the U.S.

Stewart told reporters after the meeting that farm supply companies rely heavily on rail transportation to ship fertilizers. If the railroad company drops its line, fertilizers will have to be trucked in, which will increase the overall cost of the product, he said.

Also affected would be the cost of grains shipped out of South Baldwin from the several grain storage bins, he said.

"There are so many farmers right now on the verge of going out of business, we don't need any more negative effects," he said, estimating that 400-500 farmers are affected by the Seaboard decision, which was announced last month.

In other commission business:

- a 50 cents surcharge per ton was passed by the commissioners for dumping at county landfills. The surcharge, which could generate upwards of \$20,000 for the county, will increase the present charge of \$5.50 per ton to \$6 per ton. Also increased was the

individual dumping from \$1 to \$1.50.

Commissioner Still proposed this surcharge, with proceeds being used to purchase a new set of scales at the Magnolia Landfill.

The money also would be used to construct a new building at the site and to erect a fence for security reasons.

- In another matter related to the landfill, the commission was notified that its bid of \$250,000 for 270 acres adjoining the landfill was rejected by the General Services Administration.

The government agency wrote the commission that earnest money must be put up by May 27 or the land will go up for public auction. The original price for the land was \$296,000 but has been reduced to \$271,820, County Administrator David Wood said.

It was noted that the property includes 43 acres of asphalt paving which, if the county was to purchase the land, would cost some \$120,000 to remove. Highway Department Engineer Percy Nixon said, however, that his department could recycle the asphalt for use.

The commissioners tabled the matter until the next meeting.

## Crash

From Page 1

relatives and friends. Funeral arrangements were not complete at press time.

In addition to the police who responded to the scene, city of Fairhope gas personnel and Riviera Utilities employees arrived shortly after the wreck occurred.

Fourteen firefighters from the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department

took two pumper trucks and the jaws of life to the accident scene about 2 a.m., according to Fire Chief Donnie Walker, who said that the vehicle and gas main were "totally inflamed when we got there."

Several Fairhope policemen patrolled the area until the wreckage was cleared, about 6:15 a.m. Wednesday.

## Birthday

From Page 1

following merchants for their support with monetary gifts and gift certificates toward the success of the day: Price Furniture Co., Fantasy Island, Kimberly Jewelers, Stowe's Jewelers, Judy's, Danny's Fried Chicken, Bedsole and Gwin, Zieman's Inc., Fairhope Fabrics, Ye Olde Tyme Ice Cream Parlor, Sugar Plum, Gayfers Jubilee, Town and Country, Page and Palette,

Fairhope Floor Covering, Crawford Beverage Inc., McDonalds, Fairhope Hardware, Powell's Pots and Plants, Davis Fashion Corner, Fairhope Pharmacy, Dr. W.T. Wilson, Traditions, Crafti Arts, Central Bank of the South, Eastern Shore Art Association, Sterries Seafood Market, Irvine Co. Inc., Curtis P. Gordon, Etta Wood and Emperor Clock Co.

## Activities at a glance


### Blood drive scheduled

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive Friday, May 13, from noon - 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Redeemer Lutheran Church, 200 S. Section St. in Fairhope. The public is encouraged to participate in this community service project.

### FSJC schedules available

Summer quarter schedules and registration information are available in the Faulkner State Junior College office located at 10 N. Summit St. in Fairhope. Preadvisement is in progress and financial aid is available. Evening registration will be Tuesday, June 7, at Fairhope High School in the cafeteria from 6-7:30 p.m. For more information, call 928-1353.

### RPL to benefit from Tasting Spree

The annual Tasting Spree, sponsored by the Friends of the Robertsdale Public Library, will be held on Thursday, May 5, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Robertsdale City Hall. Luncheon donations are \$3. This is the largest money-making project the 'Friends' hold for the library.

### Tax lessees to meet

Fairhope Single Tax Lessees Association Inc. will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 5, 7:30 p.m., at St. Lawrence Church, 370 S. Section St. All lessees are welcome.

### Community Watch to meet

Members of the East Spanish Fort Community Watch will meet Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the old Big Wheel Restaurant on U.S. Highway 31 North. Purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans for a fund-raising drive.

### New officers to be installed

Lake Forest Garden Club will meet Thursday, May 5, at 10 a.m. at Lake Forest Country Club. Lillian Carlton will serve as installing officer for the installation of new officers. A luncheon will follow the short ceremony.

### Garden club picnic set

The Wisteria Garden Club of Fairhope will hold its annual picnic Friday, May 6, at the home of Mrs. Walter Poser in Turkey Branch. Officers for the new year will be installed, and new members will be introduced. All members are urged to attend.

### OES sets yard sale

The Fairhope Chapter 127, Order of the Eastern Star, will hold a super yard sale Saturday, May 14, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., on the lot next to the Fairhope Post Office on South Section Street.

### Audubon field trip Saturday

On Saturday, May 7, the Mobile Bay Audubon Society will sponsor a field trip to central Baldwin County to see a rookery and to watch for migrating and resident birds. Participants should meet at Delchamps in Spanish Fort at 6:30 a.m. and should bring with them a bird book, binoculars, lunch, beverage, field clothes, etc. For the benefit of those persons who are new at bird-watching, different species of birds will be pointed out. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 928-0296.

### Emblem Club to meet

Fairhope Emblem Club 241 will hold its regular meeting Wednesday, May 4, at 8 a.m. at the Elks Lodge on South Mobile Avenue.

### Pot luck picnic planned

A meeting of the board of St. Paul's Thrift Shop will be held Monday, May 9, at 11 a.m. at the home of Suzanne Brueggemann in Daphne. A pot luck picnic for all Thrift Shop workers and Episcopal Church Women will follow at noon, and two new board members will be elected at this time as Jo Alves and Jean Yuille are retiring from the board after three years of faithful service.

### Senior travelers to meet

The Baldwin Senior Travelers will meet Thursday, May 5, at 10 a.m. in the council chambers of the Fairhope Civic Center. Bus assignment and seating for the New Orleans trip will be on the agenda, as will plane times for Hawaii.

### Nurses Association to meet

The Baldwin County Nurses Association will meet Tuesday, May 10, in the classroom at Thomas Hospital at 7 p.m. The program will honor recent graduates of area nursing schools. Guest speaker will be Dr. Rosemary Adams, director of the nursing program at Mobile College. All nurses and recent graduates of nursing schools are invited to attend.

### AL auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Eastern Shore Post 199 and the Ladies Auxiliary will hold their next regular meeting Tuesday, May 10, at 8 p.m. at the post home in Fairhope. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

### ARCBC to hold Dedication Day

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Baldwin County invites the public to Dedication Day for the Viola Bertolla Center for Mental Retardation Services, with its brand new Marie Langham Building on Saturday, May 7, in Loxley. Ribbon cutting will be at 2 p.m., followed by open house until 5 p.m. There will be live entertainment between the new building and the ARCBC ball field, which will host an all day softball tournament on that day.

### Cancer detection clinic set

There will be a cancer detection clinic at the Baldwin County Health Department, 257 Hand Ave., Bay Minette, on Tuesday, May 10, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and from 1-3:30 p.m. This clinic, which is for women, includes pap smear and breast examination and instruction.

### ESAA council meeting set

The Executive Council of the Eastern Shore Art Association will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 13, in the board room at the art center in Fairhope.

### ESAA Board to meet

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore Art Association will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 20, in the board room at the art center in Fairhope.

### Murphy High class reunion set

The Class of '63 of Murphy High School in Mobile will be conducting its 20th reunion July 1 and 2 at the Brookley Conference Center in Mobile. For more information call 343-1923 or 479-8078; or write to P.O. Box 523 Mobile 36601.

### Polka Parties held

On the first and third Sundays of each month from 3-7 p.m., the public is invited to polka parties at the PZK Hall in Robertsdale. Music is provided by Eli and the Jolly Polka Band. Admission is \$1.50, and specialty food will be available.

## Students inducted

Twenty-seven students from Baldwin County were introduced recently into the Phi Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at James H. Faulkner State Junior College.

Phi Theta Kappa is a national honor fraternity for junior college who maintain a B-plus

or better average in their academic work.

Inductees from Fairhope were Sandra Bailey, Alison Calloway, Terri Gabel, Marjorie Mullen and Phillip Smith. Those inducted from Daphne were Dorothy Bertagnoli and Donna Kueler.

## Members sought

The 17th Airborne Division Association, composed of men who served as paratroopers and glidermen in the 17th Airborne Division during World War II, is conducting a membership drive to locate all former members.

If you served with this Division, please contact

Edward Siergiej, Secretary-Treasurer, 62 Forty Acre Mountain Road, Danbury, CT 06810, for details of the Division Association as well as information about the 30th Annual Reunion which this year will be held at the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tenn., on Aug. 11-14.

## Serviceman news

Army National Guard Pvt. Helena M. Dalley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Daily Sr. of Daphne, has completed an Army administration course at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Students were trained in the preparation of

military records and forms. Instruction also was given in fundamentals of the Army filing system, typing and operation of office machines.

She is a 1978 graduate at Fairhope High school.

"As far as the Chamber of Commerce and its board are concerned, here in Gulf Shores we don't think it is a good bill," said Jim Bradley, executive vice president of the 300-plus-member organization.

"Our basic argument is that local zoning boards are better than county zoning boards, because local boards are closer to the people," he said.

Bills must be advertised for four weeks before they can be introduced in the Legislature, and advertising started Monday in The Onlooker in Foley. It will appear again on three Mondays: May 9, 16 and 23.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve McMillan of Bay Minette, the bill would create a nine-member county planning commission. It would also establish planning districts throughout the county, and people who live in those districts would be allowed to vote on whether or not they want to formulate a zoning plan for their district.

Bradley said he did not know if residents of Pleasure Island would vote for zoning there.

"I really don't know," he said. "I think if the electorate is really informed as to what the planning board will do, it will not pass."

## Rezoning

From Page 1

iously issued a variance to allow for construction of a church in a residential area.

"We would like to, in the years to come, have a larger building in front of this for an auditorium" which would accommodate 400 to 500 worshippers, the spokesman said of the congregation's long range plans.

In other action: - the commission agreed to recommend to the city council a rezoning request from Mrs. Clyde R. Morris to allow for her home to be used as a duplex.

Presently zoned R-2, the property in question is located at 55 S. Bayview St. It was noted that the private easement along the southern boundary of the property will remain, as the deed shows, for ingress and egress to St. James' Episcopal Church.

A church spokesman said there was

"...I think the average resident is not really aware of what this zoning bill could do to him."

McMillan has had several public meetings in the past few months to explain the bill as a method of controlling growth and development throughout the county (except in municipalities, which already have provisions for zoning).

But the Gulf Shores-based Chamber of Commerce, which also has members in the unincorporated areas of Pleasure Island, believes the county's legislative delegation is aiming the bill at the resort island.

Instead, the chamber would prefer the creation of a planning and zoning authority for the island itself.

"We still believe the bill is aimed at zoning Pleasure Island," Bradley said. "All we say is give us a bill that sets up a Pleasure Island zoning authority, and we will zone ourselves."

McMillan and his fellow legislators, Rep. Walter Penry of Daphne and Sen. Jerry Boyington of Fairhope, will introduce the bill as a piece of local legislation; those types are generally approved without dissent by legislators statewide.

no objection to the rezoning from the church.

- a request to open up Boone Lane for access to the Charles Mixon property, located on the other side of the dead-end barricade, was denied.

Neither Mixon nor a representative appeared before the commission. A Boone Lane resident, however, presented a petition to the commission asking that the barrier marking the dead-end not be removed as requested.

He said the dead-end street was safer for the children and that many of the property owners there had purchased homes because Boone Lane was not a through-street.

Landsford informed the commission that the site plan approval request for the Bay Breeze development on North Section Street had been dropped for Monday's meeting and that the Theodore Beiser rezoning request had been dropped all together.

## The Point Clear Trader

happily announces  
our new addition  
**Marie Stevens**



Scenic 98

Point Clear

## Square-rigger Inn

RESTAURANT & LOUNGE



We Will Be Open On  
**Mother's Day**

11:30 - 2:30

Serving Our Regular Dinner Menu

Scenic Hwy. 98

928-1291

Between Fairhope & Marriott's Grand Hotel

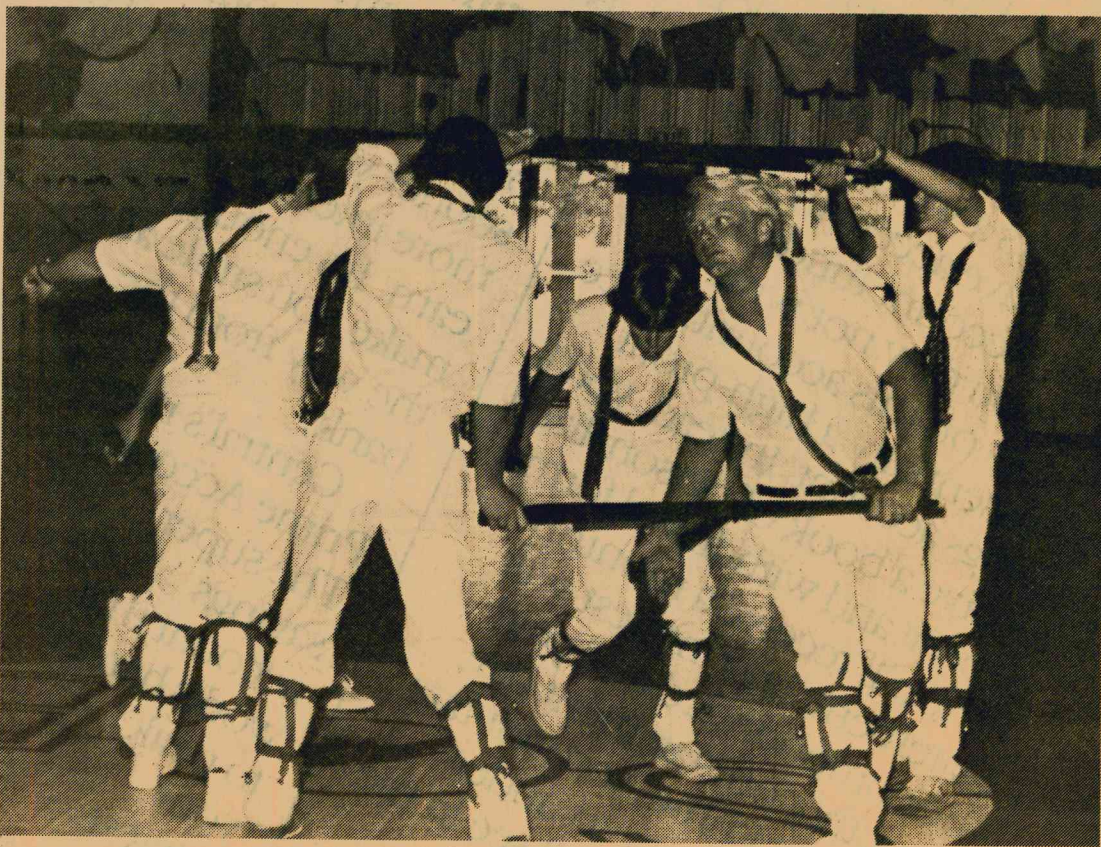
Family Owned & Operated Since 1976

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BY SOUTHERN LIVING,  
MOBIL TRAVEL GUIDE ★ ★ ★



### Organic dancers

Students from the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education in Fairhope continued a 77-year tradition last Thursday when they presented their Spring Festival of folk dances. Students from all levels participated in the hour-long program which featured dances from England, Sweden, Denmark, Serbia, Ireland, Italy, the U.S. and Mexico. One of the more popular dances in the Sword Dance performed by the high school boys. (Photos by Vickie Fildes)



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# Details still important to Mar

"There is no such thing as too much quality in what we do," J.W. Marriott Jr., president and chief executive officer of the 136-hotel Marriott group told hotel marketing executives and meeting planners at the Grand Hotel Saturday in Point Clear.

"We are only as successful as all our abilities to take care of the details," he said in recalling the days when as a child he rode with his father on daily checks of every restaurant then owned by the young business.

That Marriott family attention to detail still prevails. "Bill" Marriott now visits at least 85 to 100 Marriott hotels a year. When the Grand Hotel started its massive

\$17 million renovation and expansion, he came to Point Clear and personally inspected "spec" remodeled main hotel rooms before his final approval was given to proceed.

Along with the attention to detail comes another trait instilled by the senior Marriott—good treatment of employees. "If you make them winners, if you treat them with dignity, they will be good employees," he said. Consistent with that philosophy, it was the long time and special employees whom Marriott recognized on his trip.

Called on to come forward and be recognized before the entire

group at the meeting conference were Amanda Jetson, housekeeper for 35 years; Willie Reed Sr., a bellman for more than 25 years; Bucky Miller, beverage waiter over a period of almost 35 years; and the Agee family, Alfred Sr., Lakewood locker room attendant; Alfred Jr.; bell captain for 20 years; and Alfred III, cart and bag attendant at Lakewood.

Commenting on the special place which the resort Grand Hotel has in the Marriott corporate group, Marriott com-

mented, "You can go further South geographically, but you can't go further South."

One of America's busiest corporate executives, Marriott spends from 20 to 40 hours a week for work with his Mormon church and its organizations. Saturday he flew into the Eastern Shore, arriving at 8:30 a.m., and flew out in time to attend a church meeting in Washington, D.C., at 2 p.m. later that day.

J.W. Marriott started the family enterprise when he borrowed



THE LABEL "D"  
THE PRICE "D"

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## Readers u

### Spring

Dear Editor,

MAY 1983

Is there joy in morning sunshine?  
Is there joy in new green leaves?  
Do puffy white clouds in the sky  
Drive away pet peeves?  
Spring comes tripping lightly,  
She has stumbled some, this year-  
But oh, my friends, rejoice!-rejoice!  
Spring is here!

Olivia "Piney" Wood Gaston  
Fairhope

### Best wishes

Dear Editor,

It was indeed our great pleasure to have an artist of Mr. Ronlin Foreman's reputation appear at Theatre 8:15 to delight and move Fairhope audiences with his new, one man show, "A Happy Fellow," which is headed for New York in June.

In the future, we hope to have the privilege of featuring other such gifted young artists at our theatre.

Once again, Ron, thank you for a beautiful preview and premiere, and we are sure that we are joined by all Fairhope theatre-goers in wishing you best wishes and much success at the New York First Festival of Clown Theatre.

Tom Pocase and John Driscoll  
Theatre 8:15

### Struggle

Dear Editor,

We have read with interest your coverage of our attempt to develop a piece of property we own just north of Fairhope. Our struggle has gone on for 11 years and now we think it is time to address, in our opinion, some of the real issues involved.

1) When application was first made to put a buffered business development on the property, it was denied because it would take away business from downtown. Now isn't it ironical that shortly afterward, the same panel approved large commercial tracts well east of the city on Greeno Road. We also think it amusing that

the development took place on Single Tax Colony land (a board member sits on the planning body) and near interests of other local officials.

2) A great hue and cry has been heard about drainage into Fly Creek and therefore denials have been based on drainage. Yet, the proposed commercial development will affect drainage less than if we were to develop the land as it is presently zoned. That is a fact - not a lot of rhetoric from uninformed persons.

3) Nearby residents have claimed the rezoning would lower their property values-based on what? In fact, the proposal includes a substantial buffer and would be of a type that could enhance adjoining value.

4) Our family has owned property in Baldwin County since before the turn of the century, and we intend to do nothing that would take away from our intrinsic appeal. Rather we propose to tastefully participate in the growth of our area which helps us all.

In closing, let us state that for 11 years (long before a comprehensive plan existed), we have answered every question, made changes to our proposal as requested, and satisfied every condition stipulated that was reasonable. Yet we have still been denied use of our property. And, all the while significant rezoning and commercial development have taken place in other areas. It seems to us that the whole matter can be summed up very easily. We have been singularly discriminated against, and our treatment can be considered as nothing better than seizure of real property.

We will, however, continue our efforts that in the long run should be for the betterment of our area and the majority of our citizens.

Olympia C. Dyas  
Charles L. Dyas  
Fairhope

### Legislation

Dear Editor,

In this column two weeks ago, I attempted to alert the citizens and property owners of Baldwin County to what, in my opinion, is dangerous legislation that our Legislators are attempting to force on us. After attending a meeting where both of our representatives spoke, talking to numerous people and reading last week's local papers, it now appears

arn state

# Family of city's 'founding father' planning Thanksgiving reunion

COURTIER 11-23-83

Thirty direct descendants of one of the two men who first came to Alabama and chose Fairhope as the site of what was to become the world's largest and most successful Single Tax Colony will begin arriving in Fairhope today for a Thanksgiving reunion.

The descendants of Shuah Strait Mann will come from as far as Alaska and California to see the city which they have heard about all their lives but have never visited, according to Mann's great-granddaughter Bonnie Holt, who is coordinating the reunion.

Mrs. Holt of Darien, Conn., is Mann "family historian" and a part time resident of Fairhope. She and her husband own the 100-year-old Mogg House on North Bayview and were busy there last week preparing for the guests who will travel from, in addition to Alaska and California, Iowa, Florida, Wisconsin, New York, Missouri and Alabama.

It was Shuah Strait Mann and James Bellangee who selected the site on Mobile Bay as the area which

would become the Fairhope Single Tax Colony, originally founded in Des Moines, Iowa, as the Fairhope Industrial Association. The two men came to Alabama in 1894 as representatives of the association and purchased the original land for the colony.

The father of 17 children by three wives, Mann never actually settled in Fairhope, Mrs. Holt said, but returned to Iowa. A victim of "wanderlust," Mrs. Holt said her great-grandfather, who had immigrated to Iowa via New Jersey and then Ohio, purchased land in South Dakota and Oklahoma with California Gold Rush money.

Mann's third wife was a Fairhope woman, however, and a letter on Single Tax stationery does show Mann as a former president of the Single Tax Association.

Mann's original land is at the current site of the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education, where Mrs. Holt said she was enrolled when her family came to Fairhope from Iowa during the winters of her

childhood in a Model T Ford. She fondly recalls the folk dances she learned there and later taught in Connecticut.

A fourth-generation member of the Single Tax Association, Mrs. Holt said her grandfather and grandmother were both very active in the Single Tax Colony, as was her mother, Floy Schermerhern, an actress who delighted in the Colony's Shakespeare plays.

This weekend's reunion will include a presentation for Mann family members on the history of Fairhope and a presentation by Mrs. Holt's daughter on the Single Tax concept, the subject of her master's thesis. She will be perhaps the first fifth generation Single Tax member, Mrs. Holt added.

While the Mann family members are gathering this weekend for a "reunion," Mrs. Holt said none of the 28-30 people who have responded to the 100 invitations sent out know each other.

"It's really going to be interesting," she said. "I can't wait!"

**FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA**  
is as far **SOUTH** as Jacksonville, Fla. and **FARTHER SOUTH** than Los Angeles and San Diego. And yet, from Clinton and Davenport, Iowa, these California cities are twice as far away as Fairhope is. Note the two air lines, drawn to scale.

Go. **NOT SO FAR WEST**, but **STRAIGHT SOUTH**, with the birds for your **WINTERS STAY** and return with them in the spring. **FAIRHOPE** has a healthfull sea-breeze climate, unequalled anywhere in the world.

Copyright, 1929  
by T.E. Mann  
Clodhroob, Ia.

Invitation to Mann reunion decorated with map by T.E. Mann, copyright 1929

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Copyright, 1929  
by T.E. Mann  
Clashbrook, Ia.

Invitation to Mann reunion decorated  
with map by T.E. Mann, copyright 1929

# David Bishop may test Congressional waters

by Vickie Fildes

Addressing topics ranging from education to national defense, Fairhope Republican David Bishop Tuesday night took what may be his first step toward becoming a candidate for the U.S. House seat now held by Jack Edwards.

While Bishop never openly declared his candidacy, he did distribute a "Candidate Evaluation Survey" to the more than 90 people gathered at the Fairhope Civic Center. Among the statements on that survey was: "The candidate should continue his effort to run for Congress."

Edwards' attendance at the rally added an air of anticipation. While he did not openly endorse Bishop, who has been a Fairhope city councilman for 12 years, Edwards said he has counseled with Bishop and has found him to be "a straight thinker

and a straight shooter."

When announcing his retirement, Edwards stated that he would endorse the GOP nominee for his seat.

Bishop is among those already listed as possible GOP candidates, including state Sen. Anne Bedsole of Mobile; Billy Stoudenmire, Mobile County Republican Party chairman; and "Happy" Fulford, former Mobile County GOP chairman.

Former state Sen. Sonny Callahan is listed by both the Democrats and the Republicans as a possible candidate. Other Democratic possibilities are Dan Alexander, president of the Mobile County school board; Lambert Mims, Mobile city commissioner; John Tyson Jr., state school board member; Steve Gudac, an attorney who lost to Edwards in the last race; Billy Kimbrough, former U.S. at-

See story Page 9

COURIER

11/27/83

VALUES OF A  
FAIRHOPE MAN

## Bishop

Continued from Page 1

torney; and Frank McRight, attorney.

A native of Baldwin County, Bishop told the crowd that he understands the problems of this area and stated that "your problems and my problems are very similar."

"Baldwin County needs a voice in Washington," he continued, discounting "those across the Bay" who say no one from outside Mobile could win the election.

"You can be sure that name recognition lone will not guarantee victory in a race of this magnitude because people are more intelligent now," Bishop said. The voters want a representative who is sincere, caring and qualified and not someone who is a political opportunist, he added.

Being more specific, Bishop said he is against social programs which do not improve the income of the poor and which destroy family ties. "After 20 years of liberal politicians buying black votes, their median income is the same as it was before, their initiative is gone and their families are destroyed," he said.

On defense spending, Bishop said it is government's duty to defend citizens against aggression. Congress failed to show the Soviets that the U.S means business (in the Korean airline disaster), he added, saying the president's hands were tied and the Soviets acted accordingly.

"Peace has never been achieved by international killers going unpunish-

ed," Bishop commented.

During the federal government's involvement in education, students have suffered because of misguided government policy, Bishop said. He labeled education of youth the foundation of every state in the nation.

"Parents, teachers and school boards have had enough and are getting involved and turning things around," he said.

Concluding his remarks, Bishop said, "I want to work with you to restore government to its proper role, to restore free enterprise and to let other nations know that they can't walk all over us without paying a heavy price.

"People in government lose sight of their purpose and their purpose is to represent the people who elected them. With your support we can make a difference together."

Bishop estimates the campaign, if mounted, could cost \$50-100,000 for the Republican primary and up to a quarter of a million dollars for the general election.

Bishop is employed as transportation supervisor for Scott Paper Co. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in education from Troy State University and has taught part-time at Faulkner State Junior Colleg Fairhope Center.

Bishop has served for the past four years on the Fairhope Public Library Board, two years as chairman, and has been Sunday School director at First Baptist Church of Fairhope for the past seven years.

## District needs steady hand, Edwards says

by Vickie Fildes

U.S. Rep. Jack Edwards, who has announced he will retire after 20 years as the Republican congressman from Alabama's First Congressional District, was obviously impressed with the turnout Fairhope Republican David Bishop received Tuesday night at a political rally.

"This is what it's all about," Edwards said as he looked out over the crowd with a large grin on his face and remarked that at his first such meeting only a handful of people showed up. Bishop, a three term Fairhope councilman, drew close to 100.

"I am on the way home and someone of consequence has got to go up there," Edwards said of the per-

son who will follow him in the House.

Edwards has stated that he will endorse the GOP nominee for his seat. Although Bishop did not declare himself a candidate Tuesday night, he indicated the response from Tuesday's meeting would lead him to make a decision one way or another.

"One of the great jobs facing us over the next year is to find the right person to take the seat in Washington," he continued. That person must be someone who is calm, determined and deliberate, who will keep a steady hand on the tiller, and who doesn't come up with "knee jerk" reactions to things but can be studious in their approach to government, Edwards added.

The veteran congressman also

said his successor must be someone who can fit into an environment of 435 House members and 100 senators "and do credit to the district."

What the district doesn't need, according to Edwards, is "some kind of headline hunter" but someone who will "hang in there and work with the other House and Senate members for the good of this district and the good of this nation."

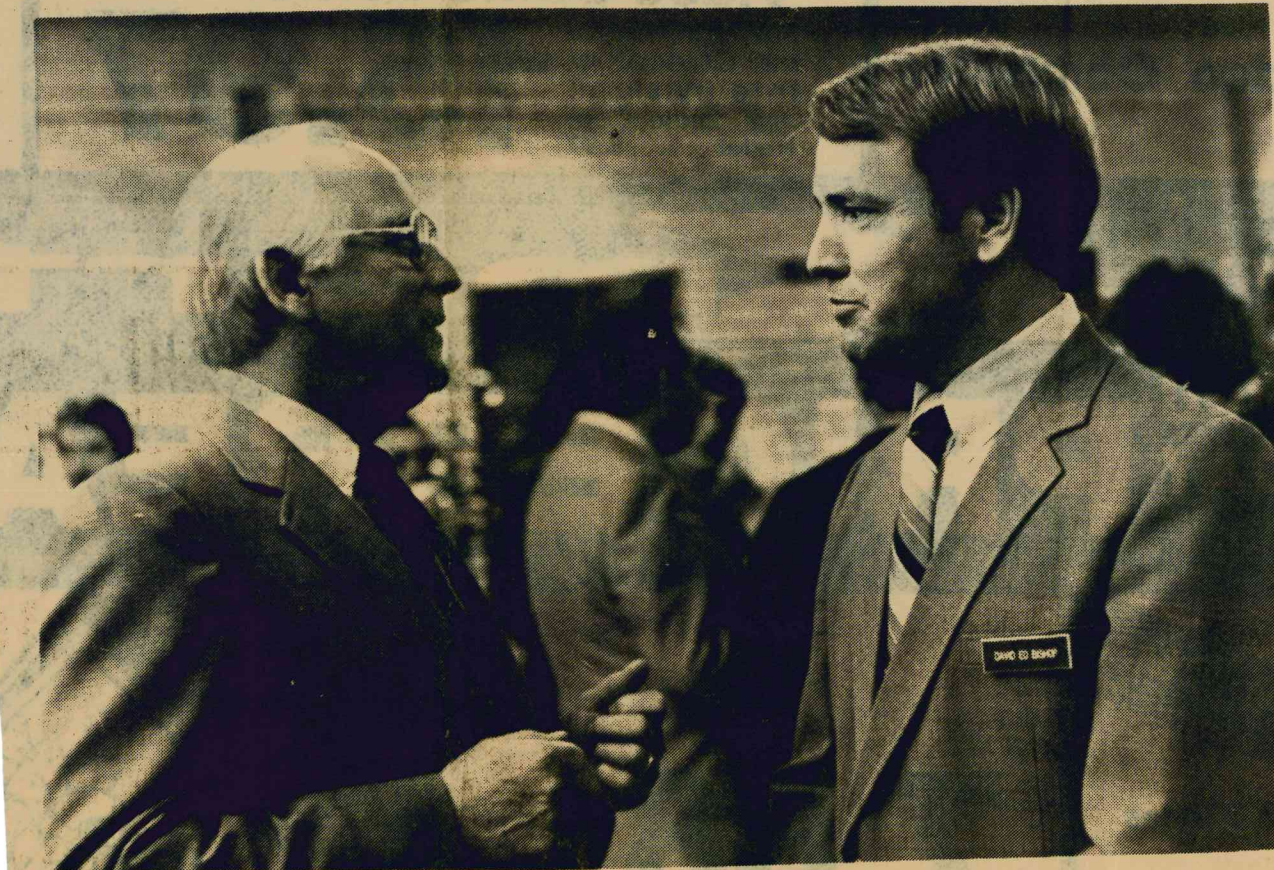
While Edwards did not say Bishop is the man for the job, he did say he had counseled with Bishop and found him to be a straight thinker and a straight shooter.

Edwards said one of the blessings of representing the First District, which includes Baldwin, Mobile, Washington Escambia, Monroe, Clark and Wilcox counties, has been

that the citizens of the district understand that they need someone who can handle their needs, and move into the national realm as well.

Edwards stressed the importance of keeping what he called a better balance in the House between the Democrats, who have controlled the House for almost 30 years, and the Republicans, for whose cause he said he will be working during the coming year.

"Tip O'Neill (the speaker of the House) has it pretty much his way in the House," Edwards commented. "We can do ourselves a service and our country a service by sending someone up ther to keep that side of the aisle from running away with our government," he added.



**Political plans** Congressman Jack Edwards, left, and Fairhope Republican David Bishop discuss Bishop's future political plans Tuesday night at the Fairhope Civic Center.

Courier 10/24/84

## Editorial

# Four more years

"Four more years."

These three words have been the official chant of the Reagan-Bush campaign since the incumbents were nominated for re-election at the Republican National Convention earlier this year.

As the election approaches, we believe President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush deserve another term in Washington. We have seen nothing new emerge from the Democratic Party campaign effort that would cause us to believe that a change in administration in Washington would be in the best interest of the American people. Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, in our opinion, represent the usual liberal line of thinking that more and bigger government is the cure-all for our nation. The free enterprise system has been given another chance under Reagan and that opportunity needs to be extended for an additional four years.

It goes without saying that all has not been perfect with Reagan in the White House and Bush just a heartbeat away. Still, this nation is far better off in virtually every aspect than it was four years ago when President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Mondale left office. Inflation is down far more than anyone thought possible, jobs are once again available, the nation is respected again in most parts of the world and dependency on social spending has subsided somewhat.

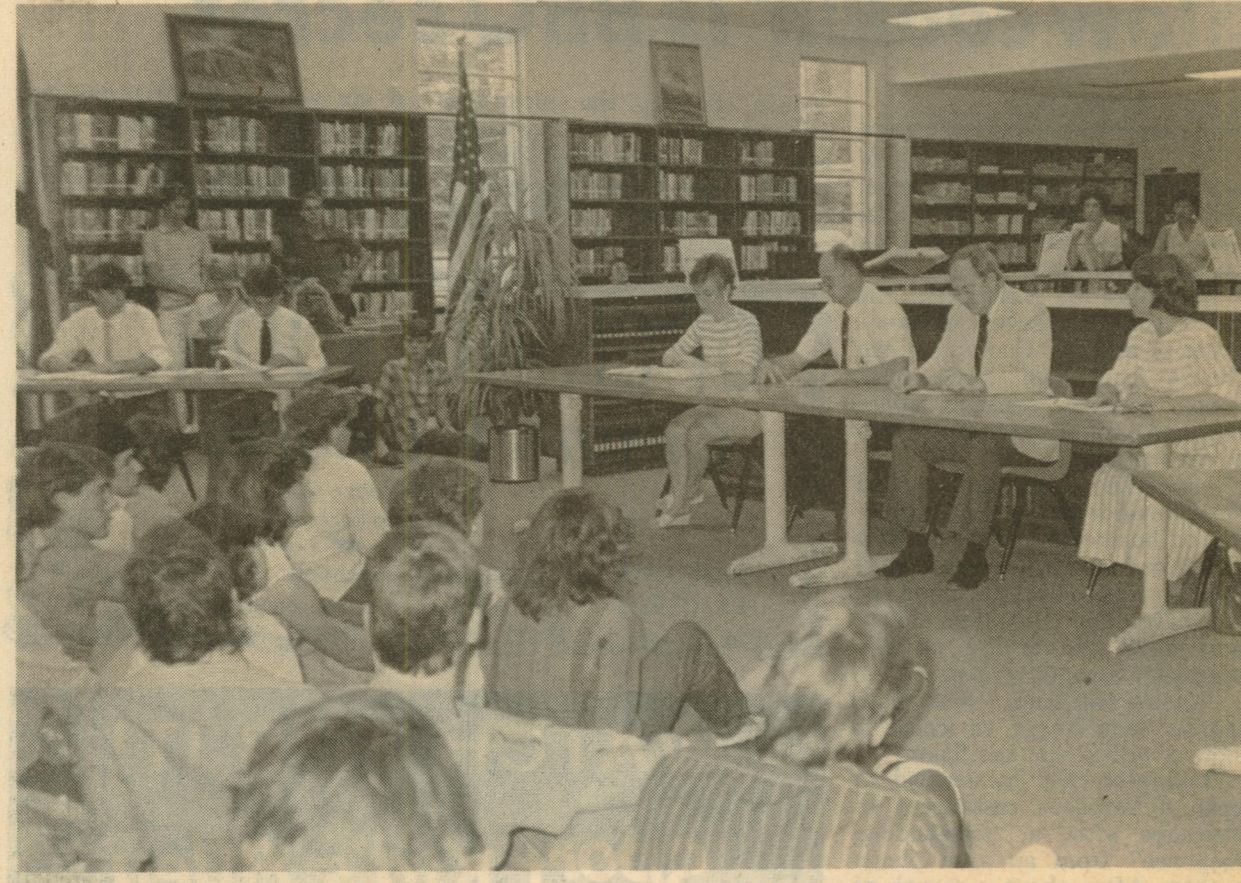
The size of the federal deficit does loom as the greatest failure of the Reagan Administration. However, one cannot talk about deficits without talking about the Democrats. The Democrats invented and promoted social programs that made deficit spending an acceptable practice. At this writing, the Democrats still control the House of Representatives and deficit spending will likely continue to be a problem until more conservatives or fiscally responsible people are elected to the House. Still, Reagan, in our opinion, probably could have helped heal this sore spot by trimming defense spending and performing a few more cost saving cuts in federal employees.

During the campaign, extensive rhetoric has been generated over the age issue. The 73-year-old Reagan is already the nation's oldest president and this concerns some folks. At least for political reasons, they say they are concerned. However, the President has never given an indication that he is too old for the job. He seems fit and his doctors agree that he is fit.

Now that the face-to-face television debates (if you can call them that) have ended for this presidential election year, we have nothing left to do but make up our minds and cast our ballots. In Sunday night's encounter, the news media gave a close decision to Walter Mondale, the challenger. However, the people of America gave the edge to Reagan, the incumbent. Polls indicate that it may have been too close to call. Nevertheless, the candidate who impresses the people is far better off than the candidate who impresses members of the press. After all, it is the people who must make the ultimate decision.

Of course, we believe the choice in this election is a personal one. Voters, here and everywhere, should draw the curtain and vote their true convictions on Nov. 6. Our future is at stake and we should forget what all the polls say or who the newspapers endorse or who the journalists say is the best debater. Instead, we should arm ourselves with the best possible information and then and only then should we make our personal decisions.

In this space, we have simply stated our preference. This is any newspaper's privilege under First Amendment protection. We have taken advantage of this privilege in the presidential race because we do believe the re-election of Ronald Reagan is important to our freedoms and our future. America, under Reagan, has grown stronger. We feel good about that and we believe four more years of this same type leadership is needed.



### Pre-election debates

Campaigns and debates. With elections this week area schools got involved in the political scene by holding presidential debates last week. Topics to be discussed during the debate were researched ahead of time by the participating students. In the top photo, students at Fairhope High School debated with the republicans winning. The bottom photograph was taken during a debate at the Fairhope Middle School.



### Daphne planners approve Eastmont Subdivision plat

By SUSAN MATHEWSON  
future right-of-way. Approval was granted after the commission agreed the subdivision plans had complied with July's objections. Starke Irvine requested preliminary approval of a proposed commercial park with professional office space to be located on property near Scandinavian Imports on U.S. 98. No preliminary approval was granted Forest Bluff until the ownership of Jordan Road, the dirt road which leads to the property, has been determined. Mason said "everything has been taken care of concerning the drainage problem" and added that a 40 foot strip on the road of the subdivision has been reserved for "A Parent's Guide To Smoking and Teenagers" Call 1-800-4-CANCER

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Q: What kind of carpet (if any!) is resistant to staining from pet "accidents"?  
A: Your best choice is a carpet constructed with an olefin fiber. Olefin is a man-made fiber that is colorfast, even bleach applied directly will not change the color. Most of your problem with these stains is the discoloration caused by acid. An olefin carpet will not suffer any discoloration normally caused by these acids, and you can clean it with a stronger cleaning solution than you would be able to use with a nylon carpet. We will be glad to show you a complete line of carpet constructed of olefin fiber.  
**Taylor's DECORATING CENTER inc.**  
909 Daphne Ave. Proprietors: Bob & Charlyne Taylor 626-6584

### Meals-on-Wheels marks growth

The fifth anniversary of the formation of Meals-on-Wheels will be recognized Sunday, Nov. 11. An open house for all volunteers of the organization will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Sedgley, 552 Jan Drive, Fairhope, from 3 to 5 p.m. Five years ago, when Meals-on-Wheels was organized, the purpose was to provide meals to those who had physical disabilities or were unable to prepare their meals for other reasons. A working relationship was established with Villa Mercy where meals are prepared under the direction of the dietician or under the direction of the attending physician. The initial scheduling of deliveries consisted of three routes serving 12 meals a day. Today, there are five routes serving on the average of 40 meals per day. The area serviced now includes Fairhope, Point Clear, Daphne, Belforest, and Spanish Fort. During this 5-year period, some 100 drivers as volunteers have offered their services. The organization receives no outside funds, and volunteers drive their own cars and they give their time. There are no paid representatives and funds are generated by the participants' contributions along with contributions by individuals, churches, or other organizations.

### Bazaar set for Saturday

The Halloween party held by the Fairhope Adult Recreation Club was "a great success," members report. Dorothy and Roy Bahringer displayed especially good costumes, they added. The club's bazaar, which is scheduled for Saturday, is turning into a good display of Christmas ornaments, handmade dolls and Christmas gifts. The bazaar will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center on Morphy Avenue. Soup and sandwiches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and homemade cakes and coffee will be available all day. The bazaar is the club's only money-making effort. China painting and air brush ceramics will be demonstrated during the day. The next supper will be Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. and a film will be shown.

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We'll help. Will you?

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Alabama Auto Service Centers, Inc.  
Hwy. 98 at Lake Forest  
**Baldwin County Tire Sale**  
All Tires On Sale Thru Nov. 10  
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"Fresh Seafood Daily"  
•Mullet •Sheephead •Crabmeat  
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•Croaker •Scamp •Alaskan  
•Flounder •Oysters •Snow Crab  
•Red Snapper •Shrimp •Bait Shrimp  
•Soft Shell Crabs  
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OPEN: TUES. SAT. 11:00-5:30  
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LUNCH BUFFET  
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\$3.65 all you can eat per person  
INCLUDES: salad & soup plus eight dishes  
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Vol. 89 • No. 37 Wednesday, November 7, 1984 Two Sections • 26 Pages • 25 Cents

## Republicans sweep Baldwin races



SONNY CALLAHAN U.S. Representative  
ADRIAN JOHNS Tax Assessor  
PHIL NIX Tax Collector  
RICHARD JENKINS County Commissioner  
ALTON WHITE County Commissioner  
NELDA SCHULTZ School Board

### Heflin saves face for Demos

By ROD DUREN  
President Ronald Reagan's coattails stretched deep into Baldwin County in Tuesday's general election with the California Republican sweeping to an unofficial 77.5 percent winning margin while trying to become the first president ever to sweep all 50 states. Only Minnesota stood in Reagan's way of a clean sweep of the 50 states late Tuesday. The Reagan coattail effect pulled First District Congressional candidate H.L. "Sonny" Callahan along to a 60.5 percent victory over Democrat Frank McRight in the county. But late Tuesday night the race was too close to call across the seven-county district, especially with the absence of votes from Wilcox County. Callahan, a Democrat-turned-Republican, held 5,605 votes with about 95 percent of the district boxes reporting. In Baldwin County, the GOP candidate recorded 18,461 votes to McRight's 12,038. But also in the county, about 1,140 absentee ballots were not counted Tuesday night. The near-Republican sweep of the county narrowly missed U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin, but the one-term Tusculum senator managed to squeeze by challenger Albert Lee Smith of Vestavia Hills by 1,660 votes. However, Heflin won his second six-year term easily statewide. The Democrat pulled in 15,822 votes to Smith's 14,162 while Libertarian Party candidate S.D. Yana Davis polled 238 Baldwin voters. Heflin devastated Smith in Bay Minette by 984 votes (2,279 to 1,295), but it was the senator's lone walkaway in Baldwin County. Heflin also outdistanced the GOP challenger by 322 votes in Daphne. By narrow margins, Smith carried Stapleton, Silverhill, Rosinon, Seminole, Summerdale, Baywell, Spanish Fort (Precinct 2-1), Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Magnolia Springs, Lillian, Elberta, Mifflin, Bon Secour and Lottie. In the congressional race, Callahan surprised McRight by carrying the county's Democratic stronghold in Bay Minette by 263 votes, according to unofficial results. McRight carried only four vote locations in Baldwin County, all of which are in the extreme northern portion of the county: Tensaw, Perdido, Stockton and Little River. Callahan took control of the Baldwin vote three-quarters of the way through Tuesday's vote count, extended his lead from 55 percent to the unofficial 60.5 percent winning margin. A total of 32,094 Baldwin Countians cast ballots in Tuesday's general election — about 55 percent of the 58,302 registered voters.

By STEVE MITCHELL  
Republican candidates apparently made a clean sweep of local offices in Baldwin County in unofficial returns tabulated Tuesday night. With 73 of 74 boxes counted, the only race which appeared to be too close to call was the tax collector race. Republican Phil Nix Jr. of Fairhope was leading Democratic incumbent Milton Wilson of Bay Minette by only a 553-vote margin with some 1,140 absentee ballots not counted. Nix had 14,238 votes to Wilson's 13,685 in unofficial returns Tuesday night. Officials of the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office said the absentee ballots were being counted Tuesday night but the count was not expected to be finished until Wednesday morning. Wilson would have to take approximately 75 percent of the estimated 1,140 absentee votes to overtake Nix and retain his office. Two long-time political figures in the county, W.B. "Bill" Cooper of Rosinon, who has served 20 years as a commissioner, and Ina Becker of Bay Minette, who has served 12 years as tax assessor, both Democrats and both incumbents, were unseated by Tuesday voting. Defeating Cooper was Republican Alton White of Roberdstale. White received 60.9 percent of the vote to Cooper's 39 percent. White's vote was 17,279 to Cooper's 11,076. Republican Adrian Johns apparently has defeated Becker for tax assessor in a close race. Johns received 14,998 votes (53 percent) to Becker's 13,299, giving Johns a victory margin of 1,699 votes in the unofficial returns. The uncounted absentee ballots could bring this race much closer, but even the total of the 1,140 ballots would not change the winner. In the other county commission race, two newcomers to politics, Republican Richard Jenkins of Bay Minette and a Democrat Winston "Pee Wee" Stewart of Bay Minette faced each other with Jenkins pulling 63 percent of the vote. Jenkins received 16,887 votes to Stewart's 9,891. Jenkins had defeated incumbent Republican Stephen R. Still in the primary. Incumbent Republican Nelda Schultz of Foley won this race with 56 percent of the vote over Democratic candidate Glenn Moyer, also of Foley. Schultz received 16,476 votes to Moyer's 12,930. In the only contested constable race in the county, Republican Richard A. Lowell of Loxley won over Democratic opponent Elroy McKenzie Jr. of Fairhope for constable, Precinct 2. Lowell received 61.9 percent of the vote, getting 9,652 votes to McKenzie's 5,924. Baldwin County voters turned out Tuesday in what poll officials said were the largest numbers they could remember. Unofficial figures showed 32,094 out of 58,302 qualified voters casting ballots for a 55 percent turnout. The official count of ballots is to be made Wednesday, according to officials of the Sheriff's Department. No unofficial count was made of amendments on the Tuesday ballot or of the advisory referendum concerning county government.

## Fairhope official lauds judge's decision on 1984 Electric Service Territories Act

By BETH BARMETTLER  
The Electric Service Territories Act, enacted in April by the 1984 regular session of the Alabama Legislature, has been declared unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Robert Varner issued his decision in Montgomery Friday, declaring the act unconstitutional under the Alabama and U.S. constitutions. According to Phil Rutherford, City of Fairhope general superintendent, "The act attempted to divide the state into exclusive service territories, in each of which only one electric supplier could provide retail electric service." He said the act would have "taken away the city's (Fairhope's) right to expand." Rutherford said the present system saves electricity customers money because Fairhope buys power wholesale from Alabama Power. The Fairhope City Council accordingly sets rates for the city's electricity customers. "The electric system (in Fairhope) puts a good bit of money in the General Fund, they run efficient utilities. That's one reason Fairhope does not have a city tax," said Rutherford. Rutherford said he thought Judge Varner handed down a "good judgement." "It's hard to justify locking a city down from growth," he added. Robert Segall, one of the attorneys for defendant Alabama Power and three dozen cities with municipally-owned systems, said, "The real thrust of the decision is that the court said (the act) denied the franchise rights of the cities." Under the Alabama constitution, municipalities have final authority over who will supply utility services by giving a franchise to a utility company. This includes areas annexed by a municipality. Alabama Power Co. was named as a defendant in this case as part of the act's validation procedure. Wendall Cauley, another lawyer for the defense, said this validation procedure gave cities a single opportunity to oppose the legislation through the courts, denying them future opportunities to bring litigation. Segall said this was a "denial of access to the courts and due process," making the validation procedure unconstitutional. "We're faced with the continuation of the problem (of higher rates)," said Conway. "We're quite confident this decision will be appealed to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals."

### How Baldwin voted

	MONDALE	REAGAN
President	6,953	24,001
Senate	HEFLIN 15,822	SMITH 14,162
Congress	McRIGHT 12,038	CALLAHAN 18,461
Tax Assessor	BECKER 13,299	JOHNS 14,998
Tax Collector	WILSON 13,685	NIX 14,238
Comm. Dist. 1	STEWART 9,912	JENKINS 16,930
Comm. Dist. 3	COOPER 11,094	WHITE 17,325
Board of Education	MOYER 12,941	SCHULTZ 16,476
Constable Precinct 2	McKENZIE 5,924	LOWELL 9,652



**New firehouse dedicated**  
The Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department rolled out the red carpet Sunday afternoon for the dedication of its new fire house on south Ingleside Street. On hand to cut the ribbon was Fairhope Mayor James Nix and city council members Trisha Nelson and Roy White. The new station No. 2 will house some of the bigger trucks such as the ladder truck. (Photo by Tina Harbuck)

## Courthouse plans proceed

By GYLYNN WILSON  
Roads and bridges bit the dust Tuesday as the Baldwin County Commission voted to allow architect Renis Jones to proceed with the \$2.2 million courthouse renovation and expansion. The \$6.35 million in capital improvement warrants sold by the commission last month included only \$1.6 million for courthouse construction. But the commission had said the balance of the 1 percent county sales tax would go to the Baldwin County Highway Department for roads and bridges. Now, according to Commissioner Clarence Bishop of Fairhope, "We had dedicated that balance to roads and bridges. Now there is nothing left." According to County Administrator David Wood, the commission estimates the renovation will be completed by May, 1986. The bids should be ready by Nov. 21, according to Jones. "We're working around the clock to get ready for that date," Jones said. "We're gearing up to move on." The commission is also moving on the construction of the new Baldwin County Jail, which will be built behind the existing structure on Hoyle Avenue in Bay Minette. The jail has been under federal court order to reduce overcrowding for about a year. Wood said the commission estimates the jail will be completed by October, 1984, at a cost of \$3.4 million, which was budgeted in the warrant sale last month. Wood reported the commission received a better interest rate on the highly rated AA bond issue than Jefferson County.

**Fairhope Pirates**  
begin fight for state championship, Page 6A

# courier calendar

eastern shore community happenings

N	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		
NOVEMBER							

## Ongoing events

Adult Basic Education classes are being held at Faulkner State Junior College in Fairhope on Monday from 8 to 11 a.m. and on Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m. Call 928-7038 for more information.

Free business counseling by SCORE for opening or maintaining a business is available to anyone each Tuesday from 9 a.m. until noon at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Fairhope. SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) is sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Chamber of Commerce. All information is held confidential. Call 928-9324 for an appointment.

The World War II aircraft carrier USS Cowpens CVL25 will hold its 42nd anniversary reunion June 19-21, 1985, at Cowpens, S.C. Write to Ray F. Baxter, 906 Palmer St., Chester, PA, 19013 or call (215) 494-5545 for details and newsletter.

## Wednesday

Fairhope Emblem Club 241 will meet Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. The meeting time has been changed from 8 p.m. due to the end of Daylight Savings Time. This meeting is formal. All members are asked to come and support each other.

The Eastern Shore Art Association/Friends of the Fairhope Public Library film series will continue Wednesday, Nov. 7, with "All the King's Men" at 7 p.m. at the Whiting Art Center.

## Thursday

A Wilderness Survival Seminar will be taught by Medrick Norstrup on Thursday, Nov. 8, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Daphne Nicholson Center. Registration is \$10 and the event is sponsored by the Eastern Shore YMCA. Call 626-9179 for more information.

The next regular meeting of Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club 3248 will be held Thursday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m. in the board room of Central Bank of the South in Fairhope. All interested persons are welcome. For more information call 928-0012 or 928-3517.

Camera South will have a special presentation on "Matting for Display" by Steve Cushing on Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Red Cross Building, Broad and Dauphin streets, Mobile. Non-member fee is \$5. For further information call Carolyn Nelson at 476-0219.

Eastern Shore Chapter 427 of the American Association of Retired Persons will hold its annual meeting and election of officers on Thursday, Nov. 8, in the Delchamps Suite of the Fairhope Civic Center. The coffee hour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the business meeting at 10 a.m. Fincher Allen, director of Alabama Consumer Protection Division, Montgomery, will present a program on "Consumer Concerns."

## Friday

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore Institute for Lifelong Learning will meet Friday, Nov. 9, at 3 p.m. in the board room of Central Bank of the South in Fairhope.

A joint meeting of Ecor Rouge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the General Galvez Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, will be held Friday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m. in the Delchamps Suite of the Fairhope Civic Center.

## Saturday

Gayfers Jubilee's annual Christmas auction for employees will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, beginning with breakfast at 7:30 p.m. followed by the auction. Proceeds go to the Baldwin County Foster Children's Fund.

Gayfers Jubilee will host a "Holiday Happiness" children's fashion show on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. in the children's department. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

Robertsdale VFW Post 5226 and Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor the third annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. beginning at the Robertsdale Park. All groups and individuals are invited to participate. Anyone with an antique car interested in participating is asked to contact Chief Williams at the Robertsdale Police Department. All other contact Mabel Frey at 947-4212 or the post home at 947-6016.

The Mobile Bay Audubon Society will sponsor a field trip to the Mobile Causeway to watch for early wintering ducks and other species of birds on Saturday, Nov. 10. Meeting time and place are 8 a.m. behind the motel at Battleship Park. Participants are asked to bring binoculars, fieldguides, walking shoes, lunch, beverage, etc. For information call 928-0296 or 928-4318.

The Fairhope Adult Recreation Center will sponsor a bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center, 352 Morphy Ave. Christmas ornaments, handmade dolls and a large variety of Christmas gifts will be available. Soup and sandwiches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Homemade cake and coffee will be served throughout the day.

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Baldwin County will sponsor a "mini" yard sale on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 510 Sherwood Lane, Daphne.

## Sunday

A Veterans Day flag raising will be held Sunday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the VFW Post Home on North Mobile Avenue, Fairhope. The public is invited.

## Monday

The Eastern Shore YMCA will offer an aerobics/exercise class with optional work with weights beginning Monday, Nov. 12, through Dec. 5. Classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 11 a.m. to noon at the Daphne Nicholson Center. Fee is \$20. Call 626 9179 for more information.

A walking for exercise program will be taught by qualified YMCA personnel each Monday and Wednesday at the Daphne Nicholson Center from 6 to 7 p.m. beginning Monday, Nov. 12. Call 626-9179 for more information.

The Mobile Bay Handweavers Guild will meet Monday, Nov. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of George and Dorothy Weems, 702 Washington Drive, Fairhope. Visitors are welcome. For more information call 928-0552.

Fairhope Chapter 127, Order of the Eastern Star, will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12, at the Masonic Temple.

# Intermediate School lists honor rolls

Fairhope Intermediate School has announced its honor rolls for the first six weeks.

**A HONOR ROLL**  
Fourth grade — Tiffany Calloway, Spring Clark, Ethan Davies, Jannah Godwin, Shelley Ingersoll, Lori Kahlbau, Margaret McDuff.

Piper Bartels, Shanna Boyington, Michael Moore, Rix Threadgill, Susan Tucker.  
Fifth grade — Lia Crane, Chris Davis, Bryan Pennington, Karl Self, Heather Fleming, Bryan Moore, Katherine Goldader, Jason Lone, Melanie Therrell, John Threadgill.

**AB HONOR ROLL**  
Fourth grade — Bill Cox, Jamar Lambert, Jason Lewis, Jeremy Lewis, Christine Meyers, Titus Packer.

Joni Boyd, Chauncey Packer, Robyn Robbins, Keith Verhoestra, Charles Antinarella, Chris Haney, Rachael Hunt, Ron James, Wykinna Johnson, Stacy Newton, Alicia Reed.

Brian Boone, Katharine Duke, Leah Dyer, Mina Fetchler, Shawn Gardner, Gina Havel, Pree Middleton, Chris Miller, Davy Norland, Mary Leigh Patrick, Dera Perry, Beverly Petty, Andy Pipkin, Andy Roberts, Shernita Rudolph, Julie Skinner.  
Jennifer Banks, Joseph Fant, Jennifer Gafford, Wendy Lambert, Karen McKibbin, Paul Mullik, Lynn Potter, Jason Shaw, Jeffrey Shaw, Loan Tran, Natalie Vick, Omega Wester, Jennifer Wilson.

Tiffany Bishop, Linda Fisher, Danny Hartley, Jimmy Kinard, David Martin, Jenny McCarthy, Dee Anna Moody, Trae Pompey, Lori Roe, Stephen Threadgill, Jason Turner, Shay Walker, Hollie Woodard.

Fifth grade — Katherine Brodbeck, Grier Donald, Ruth Girdler, Shane Hughes, Brian McNeill, Cedric Packer, Kristen Sims, Natalie Weeks, Amanda West, Christine White.

Ashley Dumas, Jessica Gaston, Jennifer Hagle, Brandy Henderson, Miles Johnson, Paul Jordan, Angela Moore, Ken Tolbert.

Todd Boothe, Christina Burden, Les Crow, Connie Davis, Robbie Dozier, Jason Hartley, Andy Malone, Becky Robinson, Erica Thomas.  
Philip Boutwell, Rich Dailey, David Garrick, Kendra Hale, Amanda Hall, Shelly Jackson, David Roberts, Suzanne Winstead.  
Brett Barlow, April Cain, Sarah

Caldwell, Beth Caminiti, Jeff Hardy, Christopher Halloway, Shawn Johnson, Renae Lancaster, Tara Lipscomb, Bradley Moore.  
Shelie Bookemeiell, Alex Cantrell, Ellen Goldader, Michael Green, Amanda Kearney, Buddy Kinsey, Christi Leavins, Tracey Loy, Lesli Stacey, Jennifer Zimmermann.  
Rebecca Barry, J.B. Bruce, Wendy DeCunper, Kristy Grimes, Timmy Hunter, Colby Joyner, Jennifer Kudrick, Chris Lovelock, Cheyl Moore.

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Chiropractic Physician  
**SEVERE BACK PAIN**

If you've been suffering severe back pain, maybe you've had a bad fall, or some other recent accident has caused it. Or maybe the pain has come on gradually because of misalignments in your spinal column that have been there for a long time without your knowing it.

Over a period of time, faulty spinal alignment will cause a gradual weakening of the disc fibers and other ligaments that your spine depends on to operate with comfort and flexibility. But there's more to the problem. Misalignments in your spine may also be interfering with the normal functioning of your nervous system. Nerve impulses travel from the brain through the spinal column to all of your body's vital organs and cells. They need an adequate supply of nerve impulses to function properly. Misalignments in your spine may be interfering with that supply.

Doctors of chiropractic use gentle manipulation and other techniques to correct the misalignments that may be causing pain and discomfort. With proper treatment, the pain can be relieved and your body returned to normal functioning.

In the interest of better health from the office of:  
Dr. Michael Thompson  
Chiropractic Physician  
Bayhouse Business Park  
Lake Forest 626-7722

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Oysters \*Take-out Service  
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\*Sun. 6:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 44 Fairhope Ave.  
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- + Automatic Loan Payments so you can easily make your Baldwin County Savings loan payment from your Checking + Interest automatically each month.
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Smoke House staff  
Pioneer Smoke House employees are, from left, George Waters, Timmy Wilcut, Jackie Tolbert, Shelia Turner and Sharon Henry. Jerry and Linda Boyington, owners of the new barbecue restaurant on North Section Street in Fairhope, and Lisa Bass, employee, are not pictured. (Photo by Beth Barmettler)

## Local FFA chapters sell fruit

Members of Future Farmers of America chapters at Daphne Junior High and Fairhope High School are busy conducting their annual fresh Indian River Citrus Fruit Sale.

Fruit is available in four fifth bushels weighing 40 pounds and two-fifth bushels weighing 20 pounds. Cost of the four-fifth bushels and fruit available: navel oranges, \$16; hamlin juice oranges, \$14; tangelos, \$14; pink grapefruit, \$11; and white grapefruit, \$10. Cost of the two-fifth bushels: navel oranges, \$10; hamlin juice

oranges, \$9; tangelos, \$9; pink grapefruit, \$8; and white grapefruit, \$7.  
Daphne FFA officers suggest customers order directly from any FFA member or call the school between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.  
Proceeds from the Daphne sale will go toward air conditioning the agribusiness department, additional tools and renovation of the agribusiness building.  
Fairhope FFA members, who suggest giving the fruit as a Christmas gift, are selling door-to-door throughout the Fairhope

## pin action

After eight complete weeks of league bowling at Fairhope Classic Lanes the standings are as follows:

**Monday Night Ladies League**  
The top three teams leading the league on Monday are the No. 9 team, Styles Unlimited, and Busy Bee.  
On Monday, Oct. 29, Betty Frey rolled a high 212.  
Frey also rolled the high series for the night with a total pin score of 539.

**Classic Scratch League**  
Sitting in the Tuesday night Classic Scratch league are the No. 6 team, No. 3 team, and the No. 2 team.  
On Monday, Oct. 29, Mel Lander rolled the high game of the night by scoring 254.  
Byron Lau posted the high series of the night with a 644 score.

**Tuesday Night Men's League**  
Top teams in the Tuesday night league are King Arthur Clock, Classic Lanes, and Great Ole Big Uns.  
On Tuesday, Oct. 30, Mark Brown rolled 244, which was the high game for the evening.  
Mark Crocker rolled the high series with a 603 score.

**Wednesday Night Men's League**  
Manning the top three slots in the Wednesday league are the Who Its, Classic Lanes, and Pitman Fab.  
On Wednesday, Oct. 31, rolling the highest games was Mike Thompson with a 217 scratch game.  
Irving Austin rolled a high 525 scratch series.

**Wednesday Night Mixed League**  
The top three team in the mixed league are C's and B, Team No. 7, and Dynamite Denims.  
On Wednesday, Oct. 31, rolling the highest games were Danny Pulliam with a 241 and Margie Shell with a 198 score.  
Jeff Williams rolled a 584 series and Maudine Williams rolled a 539 series, both were high for the night.

**Thursday Night Mixed League**  
Tied three ways for first place in the Thursday night league are the Ho-Ho's, USFO, and Double Trouble.  
On Thursday, Nov. 1, Sherry McGill rolled a 215 and Bill Brown rolled a 235, both posted high games for the evening.  
McGill also bowled the high series for the night with a score of 586 and Frank Buchanan also posted a high series of 606.

**Friday Night Mixed League**  
The top three teams leading the league on Friday night are Hit & Miss, The Pitfalls, and Shadow Bowlers.  
On Friday, Nov. 2, Mark Crocker rolled 214 and Barbara Hamlin rolled 199, both were high games for the night.  
Crocker and Hamlin also rolled the high series for the night with scores of 629 and 483.

**Sunday Night Mixed Doubles**  
Manning the top three slots in the Sunday league are The President's Team, No. 7 team, and S & W.  
On Sunday, Nov. 4, Sherry McGill rolled a high 215 and Bobby Weston rolled a high 219.  
Rolling the highest series were McGill with 530 and Charles Stephens with a 594 score.

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# Slow cookin' is BBQ secret

By BETH BARMETTLER

"We're sticking to the subject of barbecue," said Jerry Boyington, who, along with his wife Linda, owns Pioneer Smoke House on Section Street in Fairhope.

According to Boyington, the menu contains seven different types of dinners. Customers can choose from beef, pork, pork chops, chicken, sausage, spare ribs, and a combination of any two of the meats.  
All of the meats are cooked slowly over a pit. In the pit, Boyington burns green red oak as a base wood and hickory for flavoring. Boyington said the green red oak burns and smolders slowly and does not create an unnecessary amount of heat.

"That's the trick," said Boyington "you've got to (cook) it slow or you'll ruin the flavor."  
Boyington said he decided to open a barbecue restaurant in Fairhope after a "tremendous response" from an area phone survey. After about a month of planning, the Boyingtons opened the doors of their new restaurant Tuesday, Oct. 9.

"Tantalizing" was the word Boyington used to describe the food serves at the Pioneer Smoke

House. He said "the smoke was driving people crazy." Boyington said he had to turn away "30 to 40 people" a day before they opened. The Boyingtons and their staff of six will be serving dinners, sandwiches and desserts from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

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