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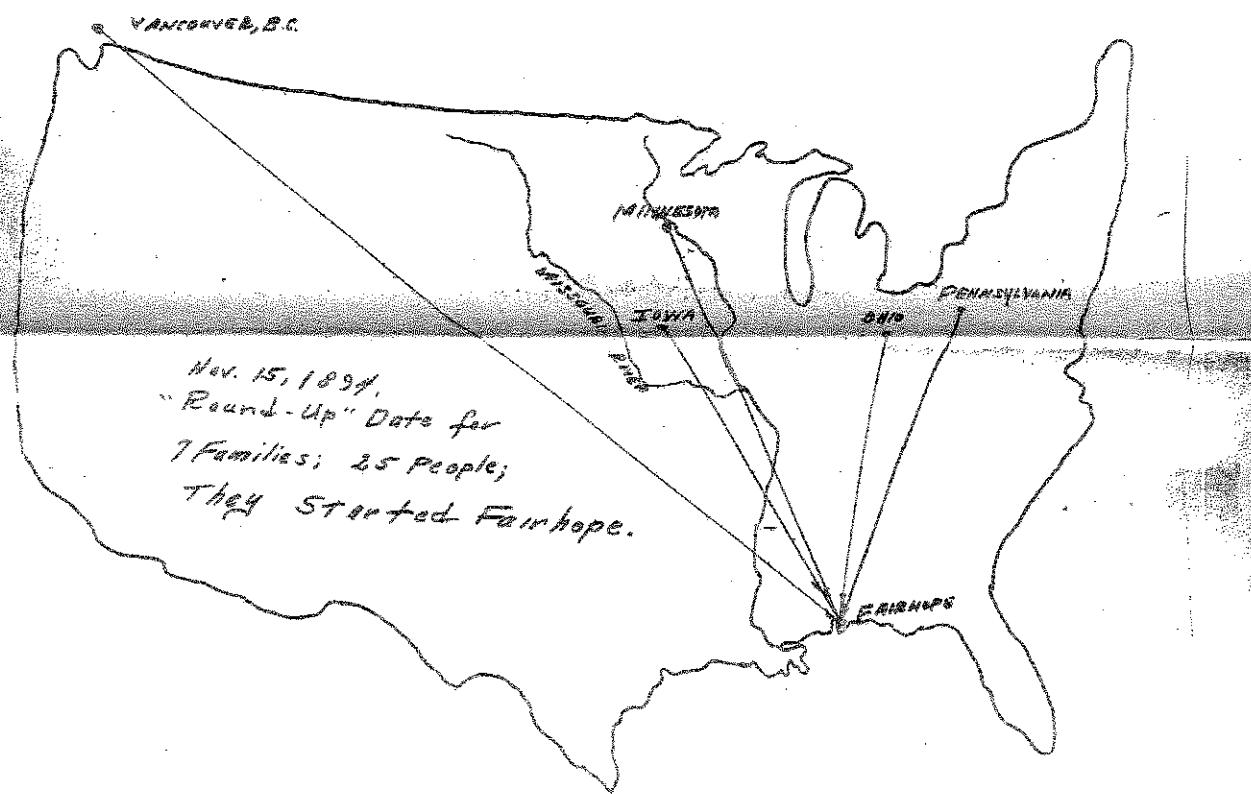
PAGE 1 The Fairhope Courier  
Single Tax Section  
THURSDAY, November 13, 1969

**SINGLE TAXERS CAME**

**To Begin**

**FAIRHOPE**

**In 1894**



**Y'ALL COME**

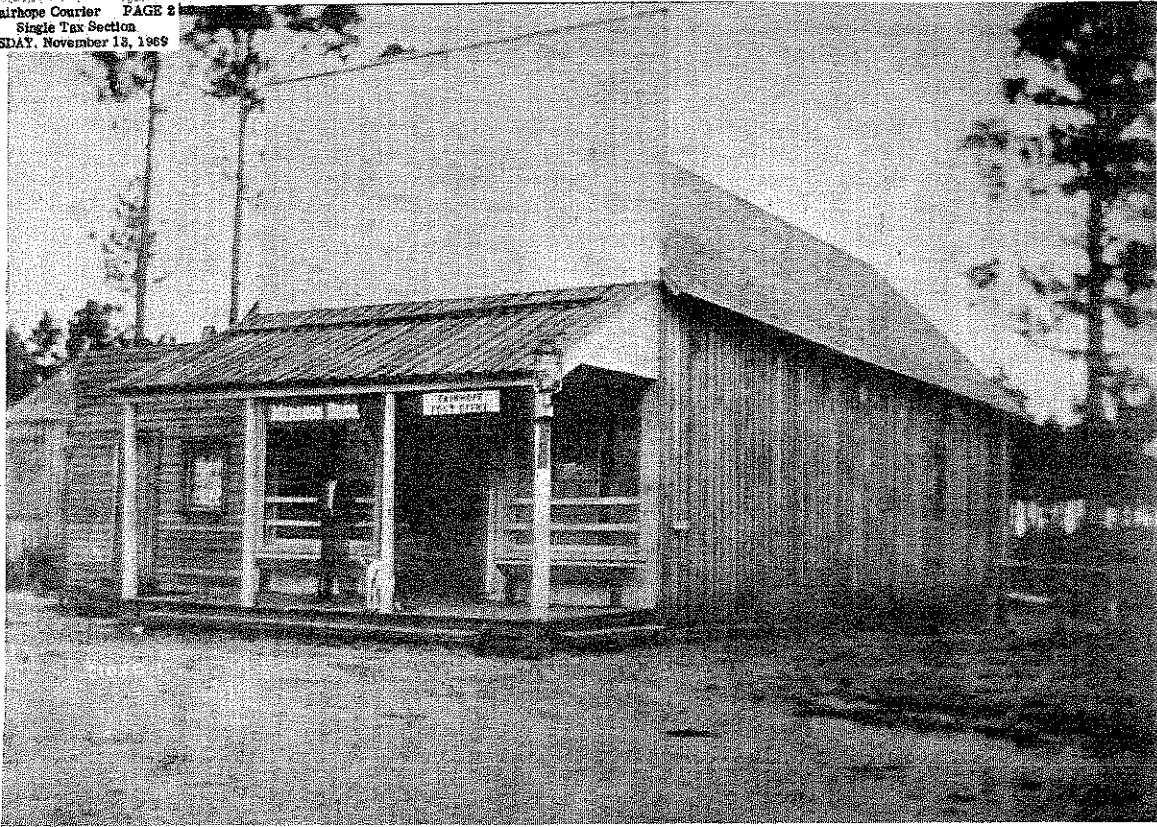
- - - - We're Celebrating

**To**

**75th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE**  
IN 1969

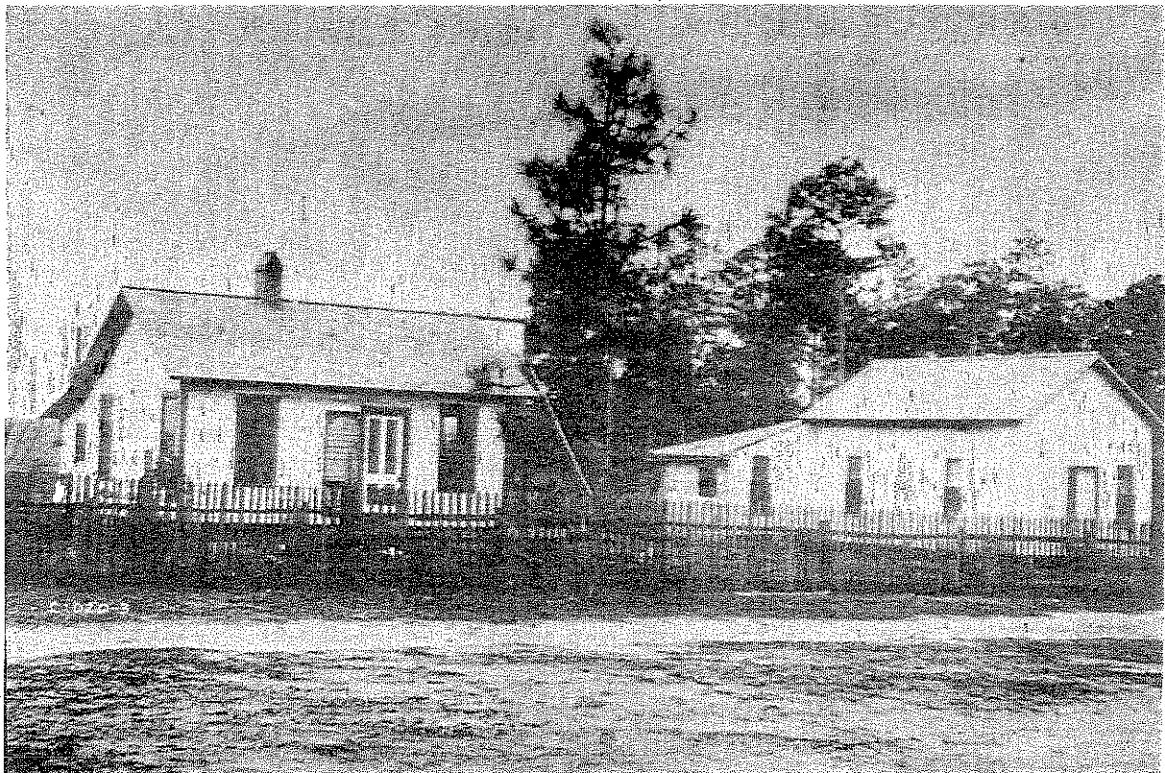
8a.m. to 5p.m. - Colony Offices - 336 Fairhope Avenue

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1969**



WHEN THE SINGLE TAX enthusiasts arrived here 75 years ago this Saturday, Fairhope was little more than a cow pasture with a name and a dream of things to come. One of the first commercial buildings of the new town was Mershon Bros. store, a view of which from around 1898 is here shown at top. The store also was the first postoffice of the new town, as the sign over the porch indicates. Though the settlers came here Nov. 15, 1894, there already had been much planning and arranging in

an effort to make it a success. One of the things which had been done prior to arrival here was to establish a newspaper, The Fairhope Courier, which was first published Aug. 15, 1894. In the photo below is shown a view (right) of the first building in Fairhope which housed the newspaper office and equipment, while at left is the home of the newspaper's first editor, E. B. Gaston, who also was one of the founders of Fairhope. These pictures were taken from the files of The Courier.



# History Of Fairhope Proves To Be Interesting

In the files of the Fairhope Courier are to be found many items of interest pertaining to Fairhope and the Single Tax Corp., and the development of both.

For the 75th anniversary of the founding of Fairhope—Nov. 15, 1969—we show here a few which point up a completely different attitude and way of life from the past.

F. F. Ingram, a single-taxer, a prominent manufacturer of Detroit, writes to The Courier in the Aug. 1, 1902 issue: "Enclosed find fifty cents for a year's subscription to the Courier. Am glad there is such a paper; hope its circulation and influence will grow. You are doing a good work in an original and daring way. May the Fairhopeans increase!"

Kind words from friends of The Courier found in the Sept. 15, 1902, issue—says C. S. Blanchard of Chicago: "The Courier is a dandy little paper and I enjoy it very much; have been watching the progress of Fairhope the past year and am very much pleased with the progress you have made."

C. S. Whipple of Deer Lodge, Tenn., writes: "My wife and myself have made your little place two visits and have become very much interested in its welfare. We are both of one accord that it is the neatest place we ever visited. We are planning to spend the winter there if possible, and perhaps to make our home there. Enclosed find renewal to Courier which has been a constant visitor in our home for two years and we think we cannot get along without it."

A step forward for The Courier was made in Sept. 1, 1903, when the new cylinder press was installed. A report of the incident was: "The Courier's new Campbell cylinder press is duly installed, and this issue of the paper is printed from it. The saving of time, labor and expense is most gratifying, and the quality of the work done 'speaks for itself.' With our meager printing facilities hitherto, we have not had the courage to push very vigorously for a larger circulation; but we now want to enlist the hearty support of our friends in a determined and

continuing campaign for new readers."

A front page ad in blue ink for the issue of Dec. 15, 1905, was striking and unique, including the dragon. The ad was by Calls with a Merry Christmas message. "My Christmas goods are now in. The finest selection I have ever had. Fine Japanese Porcelains, Japanese Lacquered Trays and Boxes. Novelties in Sterling Silver, Beautiful Side and Back Combs, Sterling Silver Waist

Sets, Latest Novelties in Waist Pins. Lace and Silk Collars. Silk and Leather Belts, Purses and Hand Bags. Large Line of Kimonos. See locals for Descriptions and prices. Be sure to visit us."

Friday, Aug. 24, 1906, The Courier closed its twelfth volume. "This number completes the twelfth volume of the Courier, quite a ripe old age for a 'reform' newspaper, reached only, as our fellow reform editors will especially

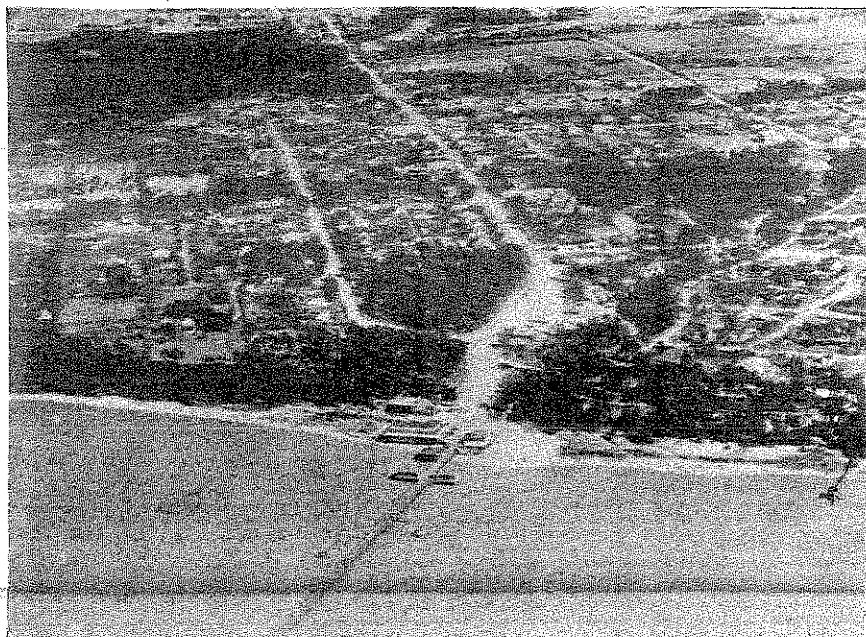
appreciate, by persistence and self-sacrifice on the part of the publisher and generous support from the paper's friends. Thanks to these, the Courier, having seen during its twelve years, the downfall of contemporaries by the score, is on a better footing than ever before and able to announce an enlargement of more than fifty per cent with the beginning of the next volume."

Found in the Dec. 1, 1901, issue of the Courier a local

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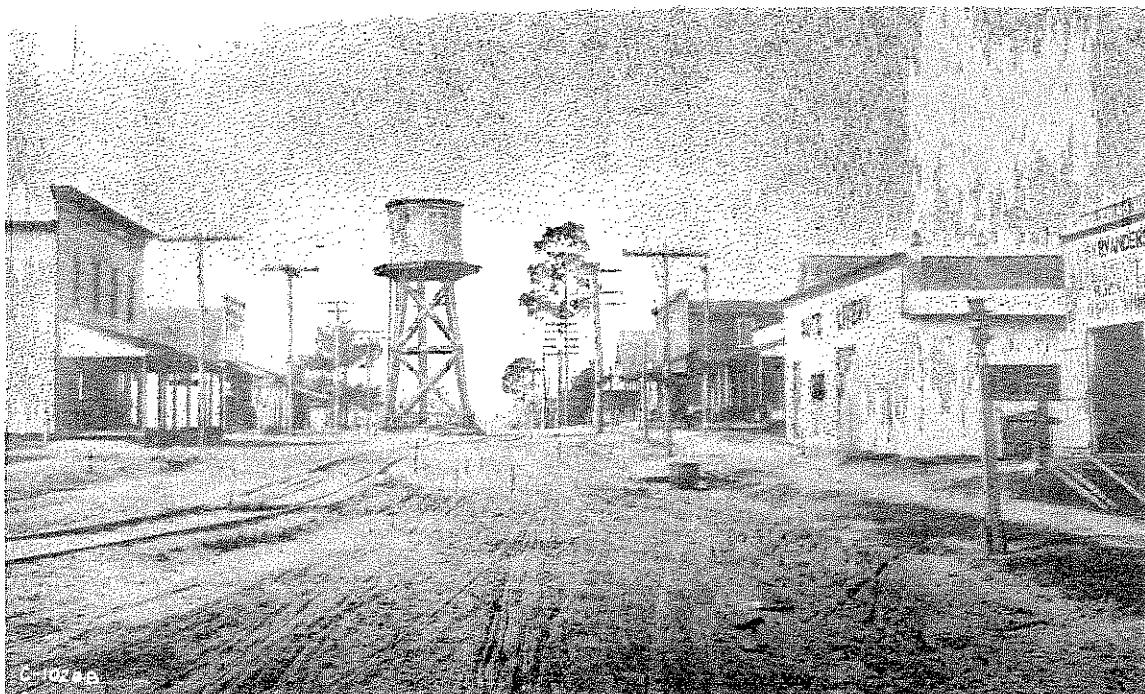
item: "The Baldwin County Times, Bay Minette, is desirous of having a correspondent at Fairhope. This would be excellent journalistic training for some of our young folks and help to the desired end of keeping Fairhope 'in the public.' The Times will furnish postage and stationery. Lacking a correspondent the Times makes liberal use of the news columns of the Courier."

Continued on page 5



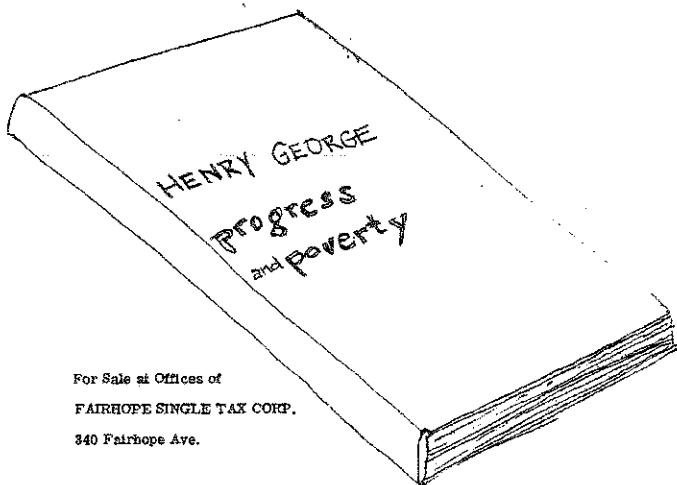
HOW FAIRHOPE LOOKED about 35 years ago is shown in the aerial view above. The public pier, the second one built by the Fairhope Single Tax Corp., can be seen in the foreground while much of the city at the time can be seen in the background. Still older is the view below, which shows the first water tower in Fairhope. This photo was taken early in the present century

and shows unpaved Fairhope Ave., looking east to west, about the vicinity of Section St. Also seen in the lower picture is a part of the tracks of Fairhope's only railroad, which ran from the town up on the hill down to and out on the pier. This rail line served to transport loads to and from the bay boats which docked at the pier.



# FAIRHOPE

First An Idea



FAIRHOPE-Not as good as it ought to be; Better than it might have been.

UNIQUE, meaning "one of a kind", or "the only one of its kind" is a correctly descriptive adjective for FAIRHOPE. There is simply no place like it, anywhere.

The thing "different" about Fairhope is the basic reason for it being.

The real force behind Fairhope has been and is a desire and a intention to make life better for everyone, everywhere.

Most towns try to "grow" for selfish reasons: in order for their residents to make money; to keep somebody "out"; to let only certain ones "in"; to "keep it small and take it all".

The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation has not tried to "grow"; only to show it has tried, successfully, to show that "Site Value Taxation", or "Land Value Taxation", or "The Single Tax" could and would work.

Fairhope has grown as well as it has because the "Single Tax" idea promotes growth. Other factors also influenced growth, but the other factors worked in the rest of the towns around Fairhope just as they did here-the only difference was the Fairhope application of Henry George's ideas.

Henry George, (loosely quoted):

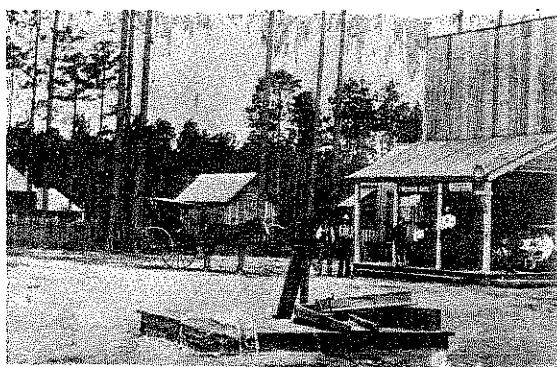
"What a man produces he should freely enjoy. Government has no right to confiscate any part of any man's production."

"Do you think that the Single Tax would be a panacea for the ills of mankind?"  
Not But Freedom would!

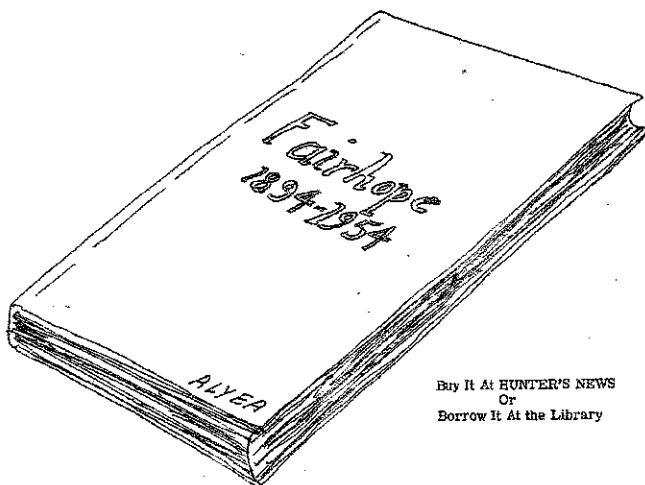
"The community created increase of land values would finance all of the legitimate expenses of government (except such unusual items as war).

"Every man for himself--under the law of equal justice".

"Man should be free to act as he will, so long as his actions infringe not on the rights of others.

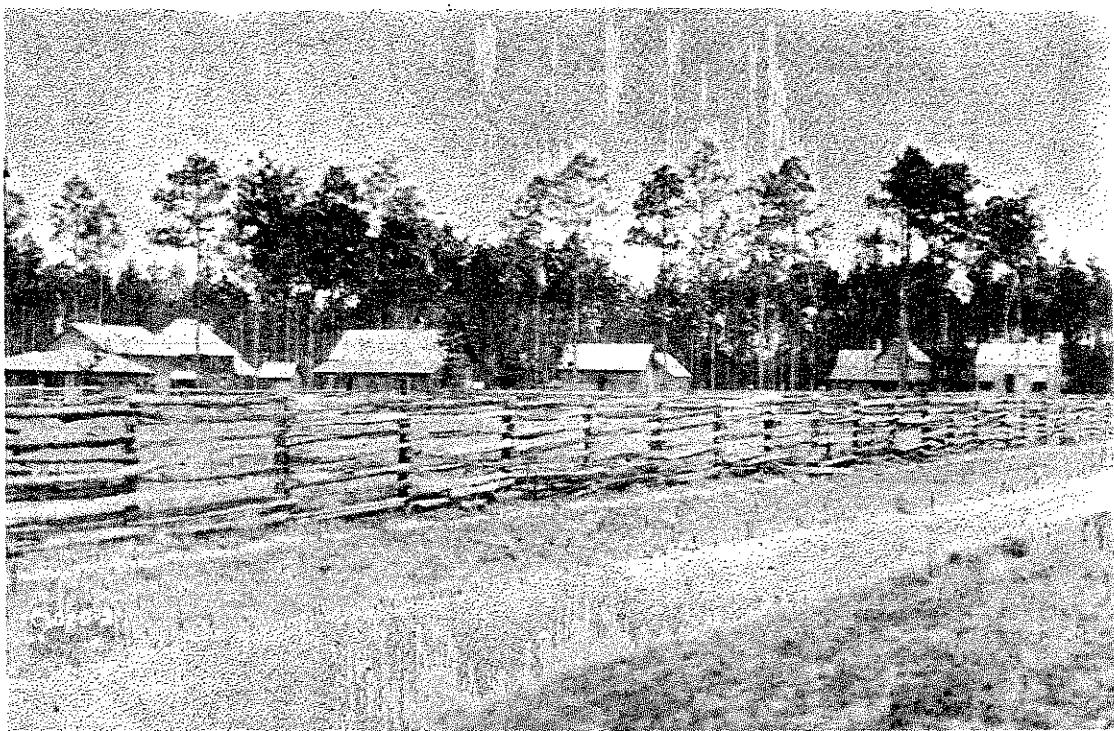


Fairhope About 1897



Through Diligence And Good W

**FAIRHOPE GREW**



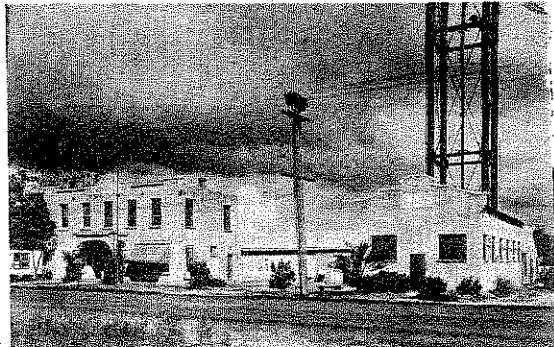
Fairhope About 1896: Americans Valiantly Rooting An Ideal

Some people gathered land on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay in 1894 and made it available with "No Down Payment" and "No Mortgages".

The land was leased for 99 years. People heard about Fairhope; they came, built homes, started businesses, raised families.

They built a community. As they built and because they built, land values increased.

The community collected the increase in land values (most of it) until the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation leased out all its lands in about 1964. When no more land was freely available private interests started collecting this community created value.



"FAIRHOPE" is a word known in many parts of the world. Colleges, universities, political offices, wherever economists gather, the name has been heard and talked of, world-wide. Yet few who live in this City of Fair-Hope seem to know Why this small city enjoys and deserves such renown.

Laziness, cussedness, or just aggressive ignorance?

## Single Tax Colony

### Supported Library

Fairhope takes pride in the fact that the town had a public library even before the much larger City of Mobile had established one. Thanks to the public spirit of one woman - Mrs. Edward Howland - a library was formally opened to the public in Fairhope April 18, 1900, only six years after the Single Tax group had come here and established its new town.

Mrs. Howland moved to Fairhope in 1898, bringing with her 200 books which had been collected by her husband, a Harvard graduate and a journalist who had died in 1890.

Even before arriving in the new "Single Tax Colony" of Fairhope, Mrs. Howland had expressed her desire to find a home that would be in a location suitable for a library. She wrote: "I want to help form a library in the place I settle and teach some young woman to

manage a library and leave all my books to that library when I die."

Thus it was that the Fairhope Public Library had its start and opened its doors in Mrs. Howland's own home in 1900. Mrs. Howland served as librarian for the collection of 1,700 books - her own volumes plus 500 others donated by some other interested persons.

A library association was formed in 1905 to support the library through volunteer help and funds raised from a small membership fee. With the back-

Continued on page 7

### More History

Continued from page 3

In the same issue was found the item "The Courier printing office has added to its equipment a small job press, and can now turn out job work much more easily and promptly than heretofore. It is not necessary to go to Mobile or Bay Minette for your job printing. Come in and see samples of our work and let us figure on yours."

Found in the Sept. 1, 1901 issue was the item from F. G. Anderson, Jamestown, N.Y.: "Please find enclosed \$1 for the Fairhope Courier from Sept. 1, 1901 to Sept. 1, 1902. The Courier is always a welcome and valued visitor to my house. It is with quite a degree of satisfaction, pleasure and pride that I read of the progress and growth of our only Single Tax Colony, Fairhope. Though absent in body I am with you in spirit."

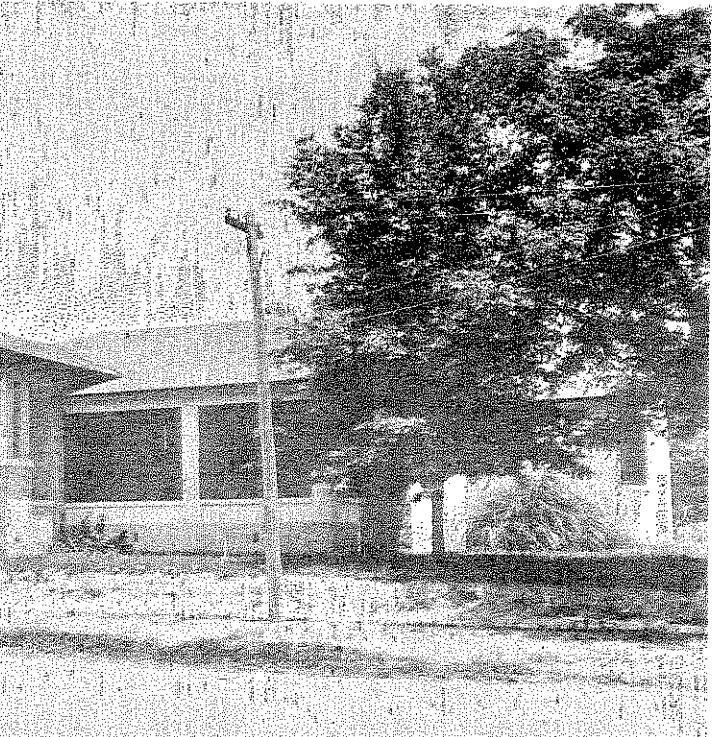
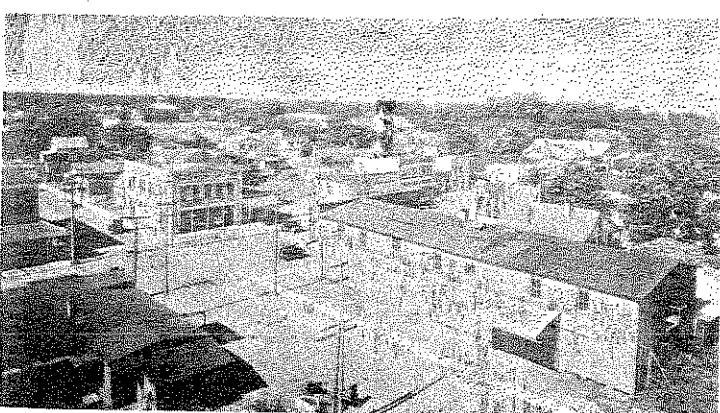
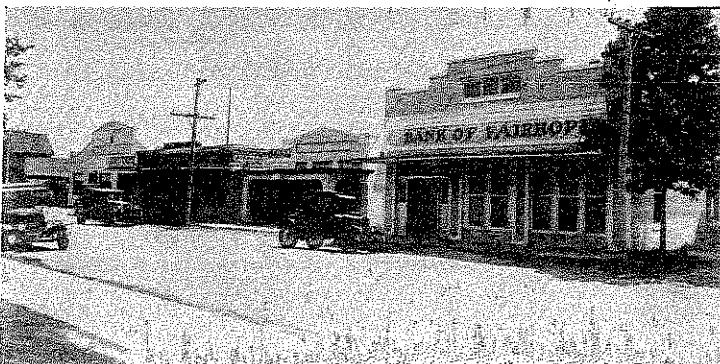
A personal item found in the Sept. 15, 1901 issue that

brings back many memories to some, reads as follows: "Mr. Call designed to christen his new barn with a dance when built last fall, but had to so hurry his hay crop into it that he couldn't carry out his wish. Tardy opportunity offered however on Saturday evening, Aug. 31, and a merry party gathered in the large room for the double attraction of a dance and an old-fashioned corn-husking."

Several local items from the issue of July 15, 1902 are as follows: "Mr. Graham of the well-known firm of Graham & Delichamps, printers, of Mobile, who once printed The Courier, made his first visit to Fairhope on July 4th."

"Mr. F. W. Stalker, who has been foreman of the Baldwin Times office for several years has resigned that position and been enjoying a vacation of a few weeks along the Eastern Shore, part of the time at Fairhope."

An ad in the same issue should bring back memory to some, perhaps not pleasant: "Boiling the wash is nasty, sloppy work. To avoid it use Fels-Naptha soap."



THESE THREE PICTURES show Fairhope after it had gone modern, but with streets still unpaved. The top photo, showing the first building housing the Bank of Fairhope, which was established in 1917, was taken in the mid or late 1920's and also shows telephone and power lines for the city. In the second photo is a view of the heart of town, Fairhope and Section, at about the same time, showing many of the business buildings at that time. The lower photo is a view of the Fairhope Public Library in the '20's when this facility was still operated under the jurisdiction of the Single Tax Corp.

## More Library

Continued from page 6  
ing of the association, a single room building was constructed on Fairhope Single Tax Corp. property, and in September, 1908, the books in Mrs. Howland's home library were transferred to the new building and given to the Single Tax Corp.

The library association assumed the management of the library while the Single Tax Corp. held title to the building and the books.

Funds for the library were derived from a monthly allowance from the Colony Council, dues from members of the association and donations from friends and it was kept open two days a week.

From this modest beginning, the Fairhope Public Library has grown to a collection of nearly 27,000 volumes. The original one-room has been expanded several times and the library has extended its hours to six days a week.

After Mrs. Howland's death in 1921, much of the work involved in keeping the library open fell to Mrs. L. J. N. Comings, who served as president of the Library Association 35 years, until her resignation in April, 1941. One of her accomplishments was to have a small museum opened in connection with the library in 1928, which remained a part of it until lack of space forced its removal to make room for more books.

As financial conditions began to improve in the latter part of the 1930's, some remodeling was done to provide a workroom for the staff and more shelf space for books, and by 1941 the Fairhope Public Library had grown to be the fifth largest in the state.

In 1941, Mrs. James E. Gaston Sr., assumed the presidency of the association, a position which she held most of the time until the Library Association ceased to exist and operate the library in 1964.

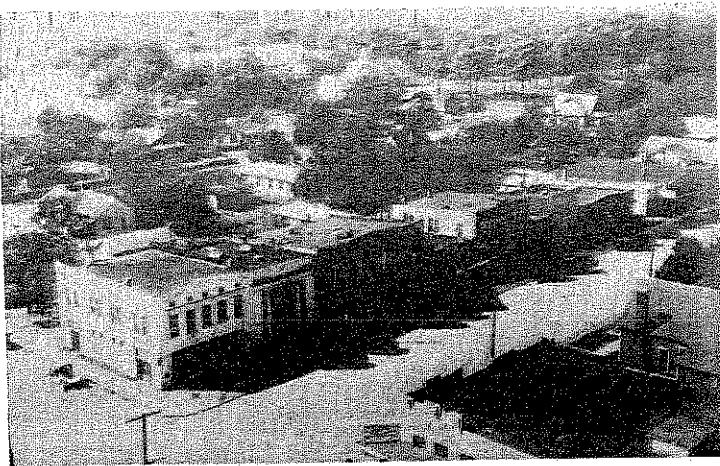
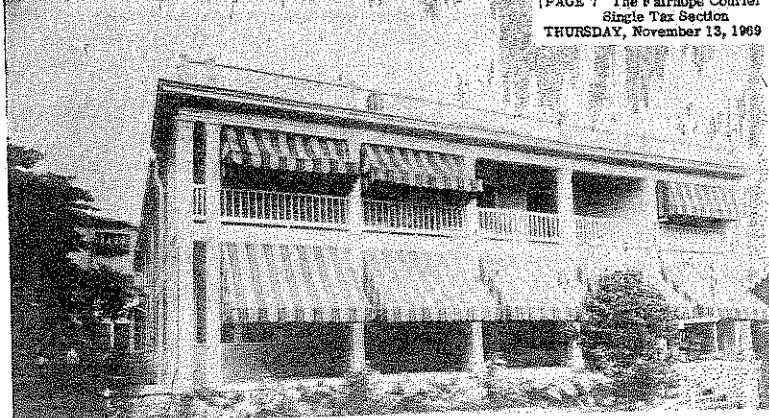
With the dissolving of the Library Association, the Single Tax Corp. ended 56 years of operating the Fairhope Library.

The biggest change in the his-

tory of the library occurred in April, 1964, when the Single Tax Corp. transferred all the books and equipment and agreed to lease the building housing the library to the City of Fairhope. At this time the library was put under the management of a board of trustees composed of five members named by the City Council. The first members were Mrs. James E. Gaston Sr., Dr. C. A. Gaston, Mrs. Celia Frazeal, Mrs. Mamie McNulty and James Lipscomb.

The city allocated \$1,000 a month for operation of the library at that time.

Present members of the board include Mrs. Gaston, J. W. Lipscomb, Jason Kutack, Mrs. Douglas Barrall and Mrs. Claude O'Gwynn.



ANOTHER TRIO OF PICTURES showing many of the familiar scenes of the city is here. At top is a view of the front of the picturesque Colonial Inn, taken about the tail end of the '20's, as it overlooks the bay, which it still does. In the next photo, a "high up" view of the area along Fairhope and Section taken in the '30's shows a number of changes which had taken place

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by that time. In the bottom picture is a view of Fairhope Ave., looking toward the west, which was taken in the late '20's. Slightly left of center in this picture can be seen the building which houses the Single Tax Corp. offices today and at that time also housed the Courier. Here also can be seen the hotel and other buildings of the time.



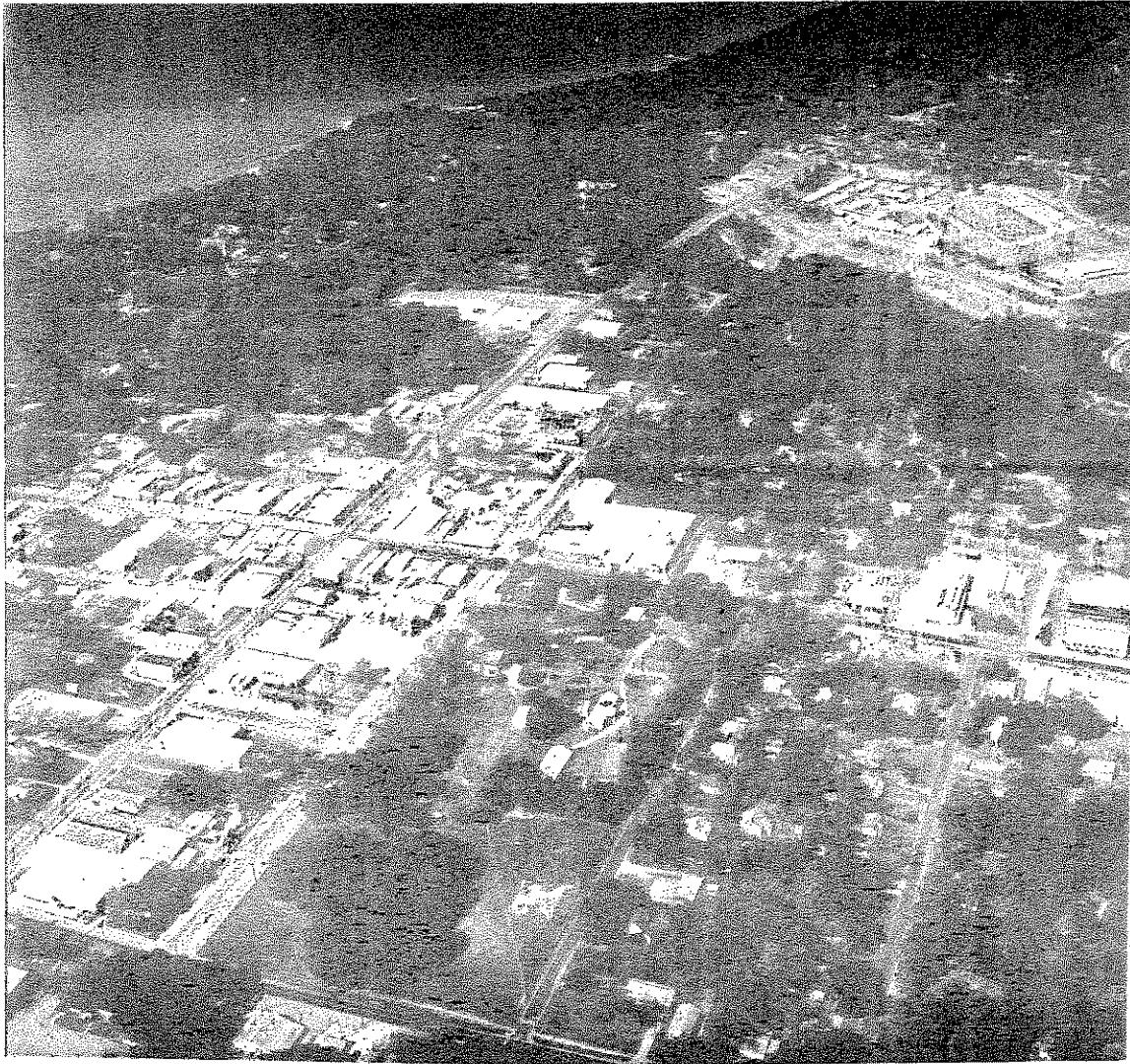
## Why Lease Colony Land?

### Try These Reasons:

- \* Access to land, almost free.
- \* Possession of land with nominal cost.
- \* Guaranteed title to land.
- \* Simplified assessments and tax payments.
- \* Property tax refunded.
- \* Automobile tax refunded. (All ad valorem taxes up to amount of annual rent can be refunded)
- \* Less money required to start a business.

Why hasn't anyone else tried it, if it is so good? They have—with variations. But they failed, because of the variations. In every case they "improved" on Henry George's scheme—but the improvements wrecked the procedure, every time.

- \* Property on Colony land is easy to sell. (115 sales in 1969; 1100 households; 10% turnover)
- \* Free cemetery space for resident lessees.
- \* Rent paid is not and cannot be used to buy more land.
- \* Rent collected must be spent for community benefits.
- \* Rent collected cannot go to corporation members as dividends.
- \* Colony does not impose taxes, only pays them.



#### FAIRHOPE:

Not as good as it should be—true. Yet the Gastons, Bellangees, Dysons, Woods, Comings's, Marshons, Rockwells, Smiths, Simpons, and all the rest who came to the Fairhope Single Tax Colony with high hope, firm resolve and determined intention to help light man's way out of the night of economic chaos that keeps so many chained in poverty, assuredly deserve votes of thanks and high praises.

#### POLITICAL ECONOMY is a Science:

Single Tax is a scientific application of political economy. Because it is scientific, the basis of the Single Tax is natural law, and nature's laws will not be denied, no matter how long men insist on breaking them. Fairhope's Single Tax Corp. will prosper as long as the natural laws supporting it are followed and applied. You are invited to join us.