

Fairhope Truly A Winter, Summer Playground On Bay Of Mobile

A summer and winter playground on Mobile Bay is one of the vast accomplishments of the city administration and the townspeople who are interested in drawing tourists to its gates all seasons of the year.

Everything is being done to provide just the activities that go with drawing citizens from all parts of the county to delve into the swing of things in the vitanized land of sunshine.

Fairhope is spoken of as the most beautiful resort on the Gulf Coast. It is one of the most densely populated towns of Baldwin County.

Two Miles Beaches

Two miles of sunny beaches with natural sand are maintained by the city for the convenience of visitors and plans are being made now by city officials to expand the beach play and develop more areas in order to accommodate more people.

Mobile Bay, On Which the beautiful resort town of Fairhope is located, has no dangerous tide, no underflow and no steep cliffs and is shallow for several hundred feet to the beaches. Even the youngest swimmers can find the beaches a safe place.

The city owns a municipal wharf, the longest on Mobile Bay, and here one finds swimmers and fishing sport fans. The pier, electrically lighted is more than a third of a mile over the waters of the bay.

Bay Fishing

For the fisherman, Fairhope offers bay fishing, deep sea fishing and fresh water fishing which are all close to the city. The Gulf of Mexico is not too far distant and fresh water streams are easily reached by good roads.

In the summer, visitors find plenty to attract them to Fairhope. The weather is temperate, cooled by Gulf and Bay breezes and free from excessive heat.

Boating, fishing, swimming, and land sports are available to the young and old alike. Bathing beaches with plenty of picnic space in park lands owned by the city keep many visitors near the water both after noon and day after day. Recreation continues throughout the winter months. A tourist club provides shuffle board and other games, a recreation program is carried on through the schools and the Country Club with its nine-hole golf course is also available.

Athletics Favored

A ten-acre athletic area is being developed which will provide visitors with an opportunity to try out the tennis courts or to cheer the Fairhope High School football team as it fights its gridiron wars under the stars.

The winter months are also temperate making the season just as enjoyable as in the summer.

Brennan Succeeds Parkman As Dothan Official

Jim Brennan of Dothan became a member of the City Commission or that municipality when James W. Parkman Sr. announced his resignation from the post he held for almost a year.

Parkman, who was appointed to the Dothan commission when Rave Lee McKinney resigned, said he could not devote the time necessary as a public official.

Commissioner Brennan was appointed by the Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Parkman which will be October 1947 and he has already declared that he will be a candidate to succeed himself by election in the primary next March.

The duties to which Commissioner Brennan has been assigned are those of Commissioner of Finance and Public Relations.

Saying for the best interest of Dothan, the new commissioner will be holding public office for the first time. He was prominently identified in civic affairs of the city and was twice elected president of the Dothan Chamber of Commerce.

Mobile Official Proposes Method Road Financing

Mobile County Board of Revenue Commissioner Charles F. Hackney recently made a proposal to re-finance the county's farm to market road program and the board has asked the State Highway Department to study the recommendation.

Commissioner Hackney suggests that the farm-to-market road act be amended to permit counties to earmark funds for this type of road and that the federal government be requested to appropriate its share for a 20-year period in a lump sum. The state would be authorized to issue bonds for the same period, giving counties 20 years of farm-to-market road construction in a period of one to two years.

It will relieve the counties of crippling maintenance costs, Hackney asserted. Mobile County is appropriating \$36,500 a year as its share of the farm-to-market road program, which is shared by the state and federal governments, is depleting its road maintenance account.

Hackney says the average maintenance cost of county roads is about \$250 per mile. He explains it is a financial impossibility to maintain the roads under the present set up which takes \$36,500 yearly from the maintenance account for the consumption of the farm-to-market road program.

Greenville Resurfaces Nine Miles Of Streets

Nine miles of streets in the City of Greenville are set to be resurfaced, soon, City Clerk J. L. Grant announced.

The city clerk said a contract had been made with a Montgomery construction company to undertake the much needed street repair work. Cost of the project, Mr. Grant said, was estimated at \$40,000 and work has already begun on the project.

Lawmaker



SENATOR HENDERSON

Federal Funds Go To Four Cities

More Federal Works Agency funds are coming into Alabama cities and towns with the announcement from Washington recently that Homewood, Fort Payne, Talladega, Sylacauga, and Guntersville are benefitting with the release of money for preparation of plans and specifications on a number of projects.

Homewood's federal grant of \$7,000 will go toward a new paving, resurfacing, curbs and gutter laying program estimated to cost about \$175,000.

DeKalb County Hospital Authority received a \$14,000 grant to push forward a new county hospital. Part of the estimated cost of \$389,400 will be spent in equipping the building.

New school buildings including classrooms, office, etc. and an addition to the junior high school building for a cafeteria, kitchen, and storage rooms are on the Talladega state. The federal agency made two grants for these projects.

Two advances to Sylacauga will be used also for a new school building in addition to include classrooms, a combination auditorium and gymnasium, etc. A swimming pool will also be constructed in the city with one federal grant.

Three advances to Guntersville will include a huge paving project. The city received \$12,000 on the triple projects for plans and specifications.

Senator Henderson Amendment To Develop Air Ports

BY HON. J. BRUCE HENDERSON
State Senator, Wilcox County

The development of air travel and transportation is Alabama's opportunity.

Among all of the states we are the richest in natural resources. We have iron, coal, hydroelectric power, forests and countless other natural resources and advantages.

VHF Ranges To Be Installed In Six Cities

High frequency radio ranges will be installed at airports in six cities in Alabama while another is scheduled to receive an instrument landing system.

Of the 32 very high frequency radio ranges to be allotted to airports in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida by July 1, 1947, the Civil Aeronautics Administration has announced that Anniston, Gadsden, Mobile, Montpelier, Montgomery and Tuscaloosa—all in Alabama—will be awarded these ranges.

The Journal attempted to contact Asa Rountree, Jr., State Department of Aeronautics, to find out how many are at present out in operation inside the state of the city. However, a full program of Alabama's part in federal aeronautics will be given in a later edition of the Journal written exclusively by Mr. Rountree.

Instrument Landing

Birmingham will be the only state to receive the installation of the instrument landing system. This equipment permits pilots to land their airplanes on the ground at ceiling zero weather. The Magic City airport system will be installed before June 30, 1947.

Birmingham, the civil aeronautics report said, already had a very high frequency range installed.

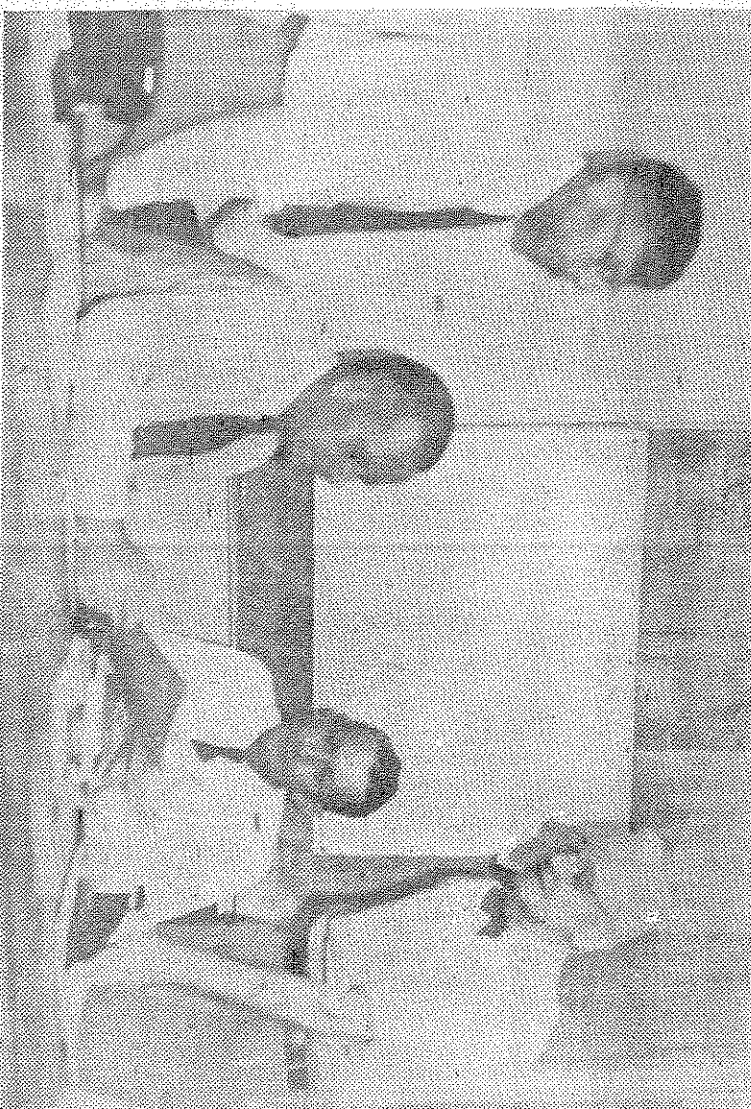
The very high frequency range is a wartime development. They are free of static and have proved with less interference than regular frequency systems.

Regular frequency ranges will continue operation. It was announced.

JACKSONVILLE PARK

Jacksonville may have a city park soon as the Exchange Club of the city recently informed the mayor and council that they planned to establish a park and playground near the city water works.

Mayor, Councilmen, Clerk Confer



MAYOR RUGE CONFERS WITH HIS COUNCILMEN, pictured above Mayor Howard Ruge discusses some important business with two councilmen and the city clerk. Shown seated are Mayor Ruge and

Urge Showing State Permits By Pest Operators

Municipalities throughout the state are being called on to help rid fly-by-night pest control operators by B. Livingston, State Department of Agriculture and A. S. Krawcheck, president of the Alabama Pest Control Association of Birmingham.

Pest control operators, the fly-by-night kind, come into the city pay a license tax to operate and hence charge large fees for worth that is almost worthless, Mr. Livingston said.

The State Department of Agriculture issue permits to lawful pest control operators who in turn must pass examinations conducted by the state, post a \$2,500 surety bond and a \$5,000 fire and explosion insurance policy.

President Krawcheck has asked the state authorities to keep these fly by night operators from coming in and endures that municipalities license departments refuse to issue licenses to them to operate unless they can show the state permit.

Under state law, pest control operators are governed by the Professional Service Law, Chapter 7 of the 1940 Agricultural Laws of Alabama.

*Fairhope's municipal officials and residents
join in extending you a cordial in-
vitation to vacation at*

FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

ON MOBILE BAY — LARGEST TOWN IN BALDWIN COUNTY



Home of famous School of Organic Ed-
ucation and Fairhope Single Tax
Colony.

* * *

One thousand eight hundred-foot elec-
trically lighted recreation wharf.

* * *

One hundred acres public parks and
two miles of bathing beaches. All
modern facilities and paved streets.
Excellent schools and churches.

Electric, water and sewerage system
municipally owned and operated.

Natural gas system (under contract).

* * *

Paved highways lead direct to Fairhope.

* * *

Nine-hole municipal golf course (rea-
sonable greens fee).

* * *

Fresh-water harbor for small craft.

SUMMER AND WINTER RESORT OF NOTE

State, county and municipal officials will find of particular interest a study
of Fairhope's Mayor-Manager plan of government, its public school system,
the experiments in education conducted by its School of Organic Education
and the functioning of the unique Single Tax revenue system as applied to
the lands of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

This Is Fairhope

This is Fairhope—a city of cosmopolitan ideas, businesses you would find in your own home town, recreation unsurpassed anywhere on the Gulf Coast, individualism as staunch as that which inspired the Plymouth Pilgrims and a government uniquely idealistic in its successful functioning under the theory of single taxation.

Fairhope has become a Baldwin County showplace in the recreation field. Two miles of sandy beaches along the Bay of Mobile and 125 acres of picnic grounds and park areas mixed with sunshine and extremely temperate weather help make Fairhope a paradise for vacationers. A summer playground for Southerners, a winter playground for northerners and an all-round paradise for people from all parts of the country.

Excellent Schools

Not only does Fairhope have an excellent accredited public school system but also two private schools—the School of Organic Education and the Quaker School. There is a fine library supported by the colony also which contains approximately 19,000 books and has reading rooms equipped with a variety of current magazines. Its museum is a fascinating place, preserving many local relics of historical value.

Fairhope's ten congregations are progressive and active in promoting the spiritual and social welfare of their members and friends.

The Recreation Council, in cooperation with the Organic School and the high school, seeking to ascertain the type of recreation desired by its young people so that wholesome and popular entertainment may be provided.

Recreation

There are dances at the County Club on Friday and Saturday nights. Boats may be secured for a small sum to use on Mobile Bay and the nearby fresh water streams while an excellent nine-hole golf course is provided by the municipal government.

Along the pier one sees the fisherman enjoying Sir Izak Walton's hobby in varied ways—some with the rod and reel, others with pole and line, while still others may be seen drawing their seines full of fish and crab. For those who prefer fresh water fishing, the nearby creeks hold their treasures. Deep sea fishing may be indulged in by sailing out into the open waters. The Yacht Club located on Fly Creek answers the "sea fever" of its three hundred members. Swimming also can be had in the crystal waters off municipal pier.

The parklands along the beach with their moss-draped trees, picnic tables and benches and winding roads are ideal and inviting sports for outdoor meals.

Tennis courts and bowling alleys provide more excellent sports activities for the young and old.

Stores Provided

If the tourist in Fairhope should find that he has forgotten anything, he has only to visit the shopping district. There are hardware stores, ready-to-wear shops, a photograph, boat building and repair shop, and just anything stores in your own home town would have.

Excellent accommodations may be obtained in Fairhope as tourists' homes and hotels have reasonable rates.

Truly, Fairhope is an excellent city—a cosmopolitan place where discriminating people work and recreate in the warm sunshine of the Mobile Bay region.

Operate Longest Wharf On Bay

The longest wharf on Mobile Bay is located at Fairhope, officials state.

The wharf, now a municipal project, was built by the members of the Single Tax Corporation by public subscription at a cost of \$1,300.

This wharf is over 1,800 feet long now. The original wharf, however, constructed in 1896, was exactly that length. The wharf was partially destroyed by a storm in 1906. Decided to the Town of Fairhope by the Single Tax Corporation, the wharf is now electrically lighted and many visitors are seen walking up and down the well constructed pier.

Plans are being formulated, city officials said, to make many improvements to this wharf.

Streets Of City In Top Condition

Take it from Street Superintendent J. N. Pope Fairhope streets are in good condition now and will be even better as soon as scarce materials can be obtained.

Mr. Pope said nine blocks were being paved as soon as materials are available. They have already been given top priority on the paving program.

The city now has 11 miles of paved streets and a huge paving program is planned to take in new subdivisions and other unpaved streets as soon as possible.

The city owns paving machinery and employs a crew of nine regular men for the street department. When paving is in progress some 15 men are secured for the detail. In addition to his street department duties, Mr. Pope is in charge of the garbage disposal. One general pick-up is made weekly with twice weekly service in the business district.

Fairhope Wants City Airport

What about Fairhope's airport?

In order for any municipality to grow and prosper they must think about a means for transportation and air travel is now becoming an important item on the city agenda.

Fairhope, officials say, have been thinking about the question but right now the city does not possess a field.

The town council at any rate has been contemplating the matter and the one concrete idea laid down was having a survey made for a site.

Two or three sites are under consideration at present but so far nothing definite has been accomplished.

If air travel is not secured, officials are confident it won't hurt the drawing power of the municipality. Neither does a railroad operate there nor does a major highway enter the town, and still it is densely populated.

Host Of Visitors Come To Fairhope

Fairhope has played hosts to such notable people as Upton Sinclair, a former Governor of California; Harold Ickes, former Secretary of the Interior; Frederick Wall, the noted artist came here to paint and Eleanor Riskey wrote a book about "Real Fairhope Folks." John Dewey, the noted philosopher on education, spent some time in the municipality.

Roderick McKenzie, a Mobile artist, has spent a great deal of time within the city for painting of scenery of the Eastern Shore.

The Organic School located several blocks from the city hall, has drawn many famous people to study its unique curriculum. Children of famous people have been students.

The Single Tax Colony, too, has been an interesting plan to many visitors who confer here with Dr. C. A. Gaston, son of the founder, and now its secretary.

Traffic Signals Are Installed

A red-yellow-green traffic signal has replaced the blink STOP light at the intersection of Section Street and Fairhope Avenue, the light being immediately installed after its arrival on September 16.

The traffic light ordered for seven months, will regulate flow of cars along Fairhope Avenue. Hereafter traffic going east and west were only cautioned while north and south traffic had to stop.

A blinker light will be placed at the intersection of Magnolia Avenue and Summit Streets replacing on all four corners.

Tourist Club - Begins New Season Soon

Fairhope's Tourist Club, a war casualty, will be revived with the city and the Chamber of Commerce cooperating to bring many tourists to the eastern shores.

Mayor Howard Ruge said the club has meant much to the visiting citizens and space now used by the American Red Cross near the municipal pier will be turned over to the club for its activities.

The mayor announced no date for the club to open as several improvements must be made before opening date can be set.

The club, before the war, has operated just as any travel club and has been instrumental in providing recreation, furnishing information to travelers.

Clubs Aid In City Progress

Fairhope has several functioning clubs that ably benefit the municipality and cooperate with city officials in various projects to make the town a progressive Summer and Winter playground.

The city has an active American Legion Post which operates a club for members of the Legion and guests. John H. Wisenand, Jr., is post commander.

A Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter, the Gaston-Lee Post, is also functioning. This club helped make Labor Day a big success.

A Rotary Club which survived during the war meets weekly at the Colonial Inn for meetings. Roy Moyers is club president.

There are also a Women's Garden Club, a Music Club, the Fadden Club and a Men's Camellia Club.

The Fairhope Yacht Club on Fly Creek is an asset to the city and many trophies have been won in various regattas and races on Mobile Bay and on the Florida coast.

NO PRIVILEGE LICENSES REQUIRED

If you should happen to open a business in Fairhope, and you drop by the clerk's office to pay your privilege license tax don't be surprised if he tells you there won't be any.

There's none charged in Fairhope to business operations with the exception of those wholesalers and retailers of beer and insurance companies. A flat fee of \$10 plus bottle tax per year is charged liquor and beer companies and this money is used in the general fund.

A special five-mill tax has been voted to take care of general expenses of the city and for acquisition of public property, the department, etc., which would have been made from funds collected by the payment of privilege license taxes.

Plans For Future Of Resort City Outlined By Mayor

Fairhope is taking no back seat in making plans for the future. Development of its park and recreation areas, planning the extension of water mains, laying five miles of paving and extending the sewer system some four miles are among the plans announced by Mayor-Manager Howard Ruge.

Top priority will be given the development of parks and playgrounds and recreation areas at the beach, the mayor said. "After all," he pointed out, "that's why so many people come to Fairhope. We want to keep them participating in our recreation program, use our beaches and in general have a good time."

Extend Beach
Bulldozers will start soon extending the beaches in both directions and plans are afoot for cutting undesirable brush. Widening and resurfacing the roadways in the parks and improving our wharf are still some of the concrete aims of the Town of Fairhope.

The ten acre land recently secured by lease from the Single Tax Corporation will enlarge the athletic space which will add to the attractions. There's plenty of work to be done there and every effort will be made to put it in good shape for winter sports.

Tennis courts, new bleachers, eventually a municipal gym, and plenty of parking area besides development of the baseball diamond and football gridiron must be accomplished.

The street to the athletic area will be paved, the mayor said, which will give easy access to the playground.

Five Miles of Paving
Five miles of paving will be accomplished. Nine blocks have already been given top priority in the plans and work will begin just as soon as materials are available. Outlying areas will be served by sewers as four miles are being scheduled.

Expansion of the water facilities to serve more customers will be included in municipal improvements. Six inch mains with five hydrants are planned.

GROSS REVENUE

Gross revenue of Fairhope is \$143,000 for 1945 with only 1-11th of the amount derived from taxation, Mayor Howard Ruge said.

The mayor pointed out that funds from utilities, fines and cost from beer licenses help make up the general fund.

MUNICIPAL CLINIC

There is a municipal clinic located not far distant from city hall to protect the general welfare of persons who want to participate in this free enterprise.

This clinic, City Clerk R. C. Yohn revealed, is served once a week by the Public Health Department of Baldwin County.

The town of Fairhope constructed the building and pays for the utilities used.

City Operates Country Club, Golf Course

Fairhope has a Country Club and a nine-hole golf course and it's all operated by the city for the benefit of its citizens.

The city maintains the club, provides a caretaker and pays the utilities. Private parties may secure the club by payment of a small fee. Civic clubs and charitable users are given the privilege of using the Country Club without charge.

A small fee is charged for using the nine-hole course which is kept in good condition.

The club is part of the city-owned recreational activities.

Town Finances In Good Shape

The town of Fairhope is in good condition financially, City Clerk R. C. Yohn has revealed.

The city clerk pointed out that both city utilities are operating in the clear. Nearly \$35,000 is net in the electric plant operation.

Mr. Yohn said that the auditors commended the mayor and council for their efficiency in conducting the business affairs of the town.

Bessener Council Sells Water Bonds

An issue of \$150,000 in general obligation warrants to finance improvements in the municipally owned water service system was authorized by the Bessener City Council, with three Birmingham firms purchasing the entire amount at an interest of two and a quarter per cent.

Henricks and Mayes and Watkins Morrow and Company, both Local Government Journal advertisers, along with Bessener Ferry and Company, were firms making the bid phase of the warrants.

A contract was awarded to a Birmingham construction firm for the construction of approximately four miles of 14-inch water mains to connect the new reservoir with the business and industrial sections of the city.

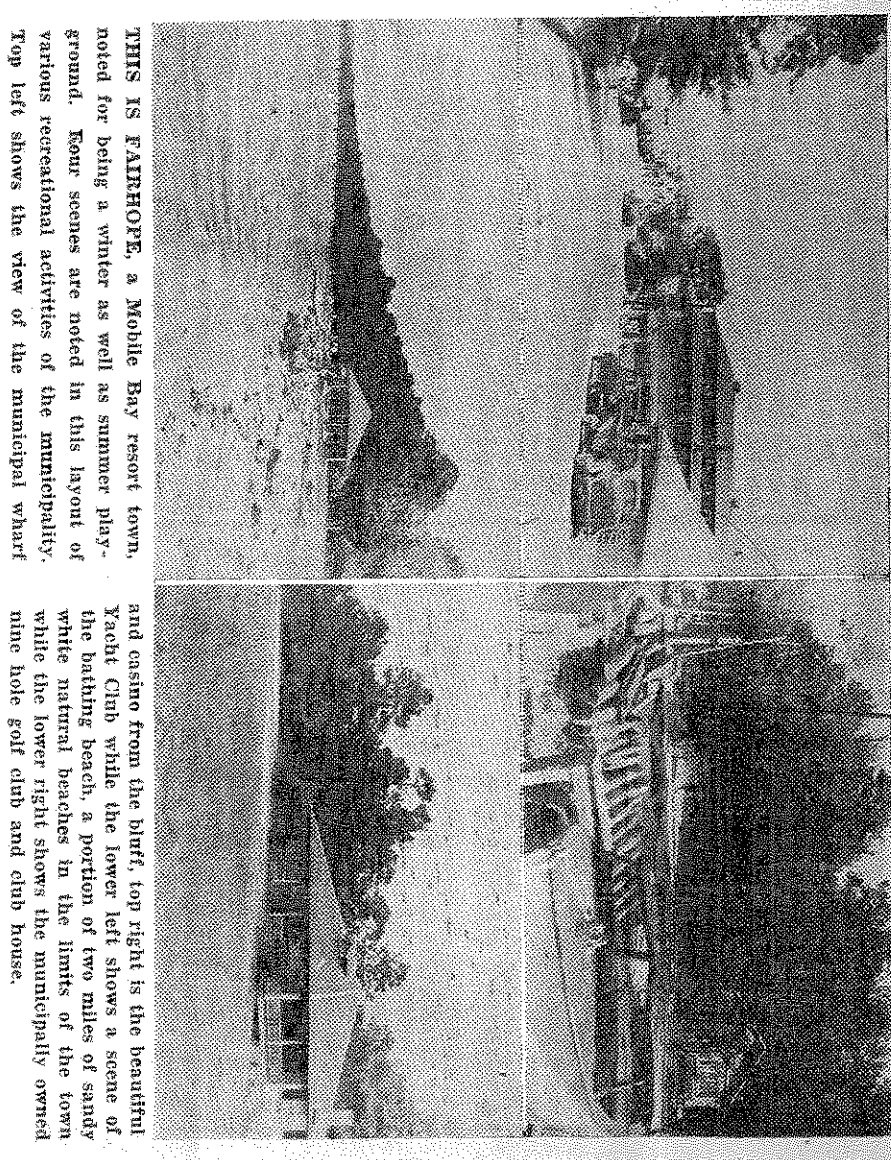
The council said the bid for the work was \$89,605.80, exclusive of cost of materials.

Increase In Population

Fairhope population is a fast increasing one. Federal census reports the figure at 1922 but an unofficial poll by city officials records the number at 3500.

Officials believe that the influx has been caused partly by the way when the overflow of residents of Mobile ventured into the city and many just remained to make Fairhope "home."

There's enough power and water to serve the population but some sewers must wait until meters and pipes can be installed.



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FEATURING FAIRHOPE

In this issue *The Alabama Local Government Journal* devotes considerable space to one of the state's most beautiful, progressive and best run cities—Fairhope.

Nature gave to this scenic spot in our state many advantages not shared by other municipalities, but the residents of Fairhope themselves gave the community good government. The city has been one of the most progressive found anywhere for more years than the oldest citizen can recall.

Headed by Mayor Howard Ruge, the Fairhope city government has done wonders for its people. There is hardly a service furnishable by a municipal government that is not rendered local citizens.

In other pages of this issue will be found interesting accounts of the city government, local institutions and local people that make Fairhope a great community—Alabama's seaside resort center and year-round playground.

NEW REVENUE SOURCES

In an exceptionally able and timely address before the North Carolina League of Municipalities at that organization's recent convention in Asheville, Birmingham's City Comptroller C. E. Armstrong stressed the point that with the decline of the property tax as a chief source of governmental support business and occupational license taxes and every conceivable type of special tax must be depended upon to support our local governments.

In a very forceful way, Mr. Armstrong pointed out that there is no such thing as "new sources of municipal support." He pointed out that by the time municipalities decide upon some local source state legislatures preempt the field and garner revenues so badly needed by local governments for support of state-supported governmental programs. The result is that the local governments have to go to their state and national capitol with "hat in hand" for aid.

The speaker made much of the point that when local governments necessarily go to state and national capitol for grants-in-aid they must expect to surrender their local powers and prerogatives. "The agencies that control the finances control the activities of government," he brought out in his Carolina address.

Armstrong mentioned that few states' local governments have fared well in the distribution of state-collected or federally-administered taxes without losing to a very degree their autonomy or their self-government prerogatives. He admonished local officials to find the solution to their revenue problems at home and depend less and less on assistance from the larger units or the superior levels of government.

Local officials were told by the Birmingham fiscal expert that their fiscal problems could be made lighter by an equitable division of principal sources of governmental revenues and a just hypothecation of services to be rendered by the various levels of government. To that end, he pointed out, leagues of municipalities and other federations of local officials direct their efforts in the future.

CULLMAN OFFICIALS PRAISED

The officials of the City of Cullman have for years been among the state's best. They have always done a great job. *The Cullman Democrat*, in a recent editorial, took occasion to pay the highest sort of tribute to the governing officials of that city. They editorial is so timely and appropriate that we quote it in its entirety: "One of the most thankless jobs imaginable is that of serving as an elected official to a city office, in communities the size of Cullman. Our city Councilmen, for example, receive a pittance in salary for the work that they cheerfully do for the town's welfare and progress. In addition to attending regular council meetings, these officials spend hours upon hours looking after various phases of the city's affairs—and in listening to innumerable complaints, most of which are without justification. We take their best efforts in our behalf for granted, and express our appreciation to them for their accomplishments all too infrequently.

"For an outstanding service to all the citizens—the present city paving program is a most commendable accomplishment. It is costing property-owners adjacent to the new and repaved streets absolutely nothing in the way of usual street assessments.

"The city's street building equipment deteriorated badly during the war. Labor was and still is scarce. Funds for a large scale resurfacing and new paving program were largely non-existent. And our paved streets were badly in need of repair.

"City officials induced the state, which had the equipment and materials on hand in Cullman to contract for resurfacing and paving miles of city streets—at almost unbelievably small cost to the city.

"The results speak for themselves. So, let's give our city officials a rising vote of thanks, a pat on the back, or otherwise express our appreciation for the truly invaluable job that they have done."

The Correct Viewpoint

Governor-nominate James E. Folsom was on sound ground when he told the annual convention of the Association of County Commissioners that the building of county farm-to-market roads should be a locally-directed and locally-governed program. He found the county officials mighty responsive to his words of assur-

ance that there would be no "control methods" employed from Montgomery during his administration. It is to be hoped that the incoming governor will feel the same way about all state-local programs that are operated at the local level. It would be pleasing to county and municipal officials to have a word from Mr. Folsom about that when he has another opportunity to discuss state-local relationships.

Another thing about Mr. Folsom's short address before the county officials that was impressive were his comments that indicated he is giving thorough and complete study to all programs which the state and local governments jointly operate. County and municipal officials and their statewide organizations will stand willing and ready at all times to provide the governor-nominate with any assistance needed in his analysis of state-local problems.

THE "WHY" OF FAIRHOPE

By COUNCILMAN C. A. GASTON

The inspiration to establish the community of Fairhope came to its founders as victims of one of the serious economic depressions that have periodically beset our nation (1894). They had studied Henry George and believed him to be correct in his conclusion that economic depressions result from a reduction in purchasing power brought on by an increasing scarcity in the opportunities for employment. They also agreed with Henry George that the limiting factor in employment is the accessibility of land, since all employment, whether self-employment or employment by another, is dependent on access to land.

While they believed government must eventually adopt the Henry George plan to insure land accessibility by making it unprofitable to hold land out of use they also realized that such might not be the case in their time and that they might hasten the day by setting up a demonstration that would prove the value of the plan. Therefore they founded Fairhope and set up the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation to hold title to the land and issue lease contracts to those who wanted land for use.

The lease contracts provide for rental charges that compel the lessee to use his land or suffer a financial loss. They also insure that such use must change with the needs of the community for the Single Tax Corporation, recognizing that the growth of the community increases the value of the privilege of leasing its land, increases the rental charges. Thus, to avoid a financial loss, lessees must put their lands to such new and more productive uses as the growing community may need.

It is only because Fairhope has the advantage of having the land of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation administered on this plan that it has become the largest, most attractive and most progressive town in Baldwin County. Other towns are more favorably located have more highly productive agricultural lands, are nearer to markets for their produce, are centers for larger trade areas, have superior transportation facilities, etc. A glance at the map of Baldwin County makes this apparent. Fairhope has no railroad and is not even located on a through motor highway.

It should not be necessary to organize a single tax corporation to give every other community and section the same advantages enjoyed at Fairhope. All that is needed is to change and public revenue taxation laws, making it possible to collect from all who enjoy the privilege of owning land, the market value of that privilege. The privilege of owning land has no market value except where society is performing services available to the owner and such a system merely makes it possible for society to collect from the owners to whom its services are made available.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am in receipt of copy of the last issue of *The Alabama Local Government Journal* and wish to compliment you on the very interesting collection of news-items, together with the advertisements which are interesting and valuable to municipal authorities.

J. S. Gilliland, Town Councilman, Goodwater, Ala.

I wish to thank you for your recent editorial which appeared in *The Alabama Local Government Journal* in regard to my activities as Mayor.

T. C. Russell, Mayor, Alexander City, Ala.

Let me take this opportunity to commend you upon the new format and content of *The Alabama Local Government Journal*. It is in every way a most useful journal for local government officials. I enjoyed every word of it.

E. Herndon Glenn, City Attorney, Opelika, Alabama.

I found the last issue of *The Alabama Local Government Journal* so interesting that I sat up more than half the night reading it. Accept my congratulations.

W. A. Gayle, City Commissioner, Montgomery, Ala.

I find *The Alabama Local Government Journal* most helpful to me in my work as a municipal official. Keep them coming.

E. W. McCrary, Mayor, Orville, Alabama.

I wish to thank you for publishing our recreation article in the September 5 issue of *The Alabama Local Government Journal*. We were so thrilled over all of it being printed on the front page, too. We also appreciated your splendid editorial.

Beth Wallace Yates, City Recreation Director, Sylacauga, Alabama.

Last night I read your *Alabama Local Government Journal* throughout. I want to compliment your fine

WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY

Civic Needs

What Birmingham needs (and how some folks do complain about what isn't here) is to transform this city into a desirable and livable place of residence and what we get are only as far apart as our ability to work for the attainment of our desires.

Present and on a paying basis are the Music Club's concert series and the Mid-summer Starlight Opera—because they were wanted sufficiently by those who who were not afraid to work.

In process of organization, with the first production scheduled and a director engaged, is the Civic Theater, which could become one of the city's star attractions, if there are enough of those sufficiently interested to develop it.

Nebulous at the moment, but perhaps nearer to reality than we know, whether the livestock coliseum becomes a unit of the property or not, are the City Commission's plans for Fair Park. There, if Jimmy Morgan has his way, will be a modern civic playground, a place for community entertainment on a massive scale. There, too, might be located the home of a state fair worthy of the name, a real public park, complete with museums, amusement rides and devices for children and grownups. Or some of these dreams, including a municipal zoo, might be translated into reality in Green Springs Park, as lovely a setting as can be imagined.

Talked about is the reorganization of the dead symphony orchestra, better utilization of existing parks, playgrounds and schools, an enlarged (and we mean substantially enlarged) Legion Field which could attract top athletic teams of the nation, an arboretum that would truly be a show place.

And the list could be extended.

There is a marked resurgence of interest today in Birmingham's future, in providing those things which will make the city a shining light in the Southeast.

Do we want them badly enough to stop grouching and start working? In your answer, both as an individual and as a member of any group, lies the possibility of attainment, or a continuation of getting along with the inadequacies of today's limited offerings.—*Birmingham Post*.

Warning To Gun-Toters

The police department and other city officials of Opp are clamping down on gun-toting within the police jurisdiction. Sheriff Tom E. Head of Covington County has been asked to revoke all license to carry a concealed weapon on any person within the police jurisdiction, and after today, those who fail to heed the warning will be arrested and given the extreme penalty of the law, stated Mayor Travis Cosby.

The Mayor and Council have given orders to the police department to be on the alert for violators and to arrest any person caught carrying a concealed weapon.

The officials of Opp and a delegation of prominent people are to be commended upon their asking Sheriff Head to revoke all licenses issued to people within this jurisdiction to carry firearms. It is a splendid move and should retard the lawlessness that has existed here over a period of years. It is a sensible attitude and no doubt will reap a rich reward in saving lives.

Opp is not the worst section in Alabama from a lawless standpoint, but over a period of years, she has gained her share of a reputation that has caused the law-abiding people to awaken to the picture and do something, and it is time.

If you are inclined to carry a gun on your person, it will be healthier elsewhere than Opp because the people of this section are not going to tolerate any more shootings and general disorder.—*Opp News*.

Geographic Evolution

Sheffield and Tusculum, Alabama, only a very few miles apart, are two typical American cities that not so many years ago were small communities, and by horse and carriage almost a day's journey from each other, and who have now grown into city proportions where consolidation seems the inevitable answer.

As is always the case, all proposed mergers will meet with the usual normal expectancy in the way of dissenting opinion, and much factionalism.

This is natural geographic evolution and while such evolution sometimes calls for merging of communities, it at other times calls for further separation in the better interest of all concerned.

For instance, right here in South Talladega County, there has been serious discussion of the possibilities of North Talladega County comprising a whole county of its own while the south half annex itself to adjoining Coosa County.

Coosa County is a comparatively poor county financially, and has but two rather small towns. Sylacauga, only a very few miles from each is the natural trading center and as a County Seat would seat up the machinery of a soundly and profitable governed new county.

Both South Talladega County and Coosa County citizens are very favorably impressed with such a move, and the north end of the county is more or less indifferent, but in that it take political control which is now centered in the north end, to promote such an idea, we must await, apparently, geographic evolution that will throw us so close together, union is imperative.—*Sylacauga News*.

work in procuring such a vast amount of information on municipal governments from one end of the state to the other. It certainly keeps officials of municipalities and counties posted on what is really going on in local government circles.

Henry J. Rosenstihl, Fire Chief, Unions Springs, Alabama.

Meet The Councilmen

Fairhope became a municipality in 1908 and has been functioning as one since that time.

A mayor and five-member council is now elected by the people for four-year terms. The city manager, which happens at the present time to be the mayor, Howard W. Ruge, is selected by the council.

The council meets twice a month and are paid \$5 per meeting.

A grocer, a saw mill operator, a laundryman, a school principal and secretary of the famous Single Tax Corporation sit together in council session to weigh the decisions of town business.

W. O. Keeble, the laundryman, became a member of the council during 1934 and was elected for a two-year term as the law then read. He returned to the council as a member in 1944.

J. H. Bennett, the high school principal, a native Kentuckian, began his service on the council at the last election, and has completed a year of a four-year term.

J. O. Stinson, the saw mill operator, is a long-tenured having begun his service on city council in 1932 and he's bene re-elected again and again.

H. P. Kamper, the grocer, took his seat in the council group in 1936. He is a native of Mississippi and has been in Fairhope since January, 1920.

Dr. C. A. Gaston, of Single Tax Corporation fame, has also been on the governing body since 1932. He is originally from Des Moines, Iowa, but has been a resident of Fairhope since 1894 when his father founded the town. He is also associated editor of the Courier which is sister edils. Dr. Gaston is a chiropractor but has given up his practice to devote all his time to the Single Tax operation.

Mayor Ruge has given much credit to the council for their assistance in conducting town business and putting through many accomplishments to make Fairhope a No. 1 recreation city.

Recreation Board At Tuscaloosa Given Funds

The Park and Recreation Board of Tuscaloosa will get a \$5,000 appropriation from the city commission for operating a recreation program during the next fiscal year. With the city's part in the funds necessary, it was pointed out that even with a \$5,000 request from the Community Chest, it would be impossible to carry on a full recreation program. However, plans are going forward for a full 12 months' schedule.

The Park Board has surveyed Tuscaloosa's recreation needs and has formulated plans for constructing tennis courts, ball fields and providing playground equipment for six areas. The employing of a full-time director has been advocated.

Atmore Provides Cemetery Upkeep

Atmore now has a functioning cemetery association and the city council made an appropriation of \$500 for this year's expenditure for the upkeep of the Oak Hill Cemetery. Mayor G. C. Crook announced.

Mayor Crook said the city council had made the grant of \$500 after an appeal to the city to pay for the upkeep of the cemetery. It was pointed out that drives need repairing, a general beautification program must be started and a fence is necessary for the grounds.

The cemetery association, Mayor Crook said, would employ a full-time sexton to care for the property.

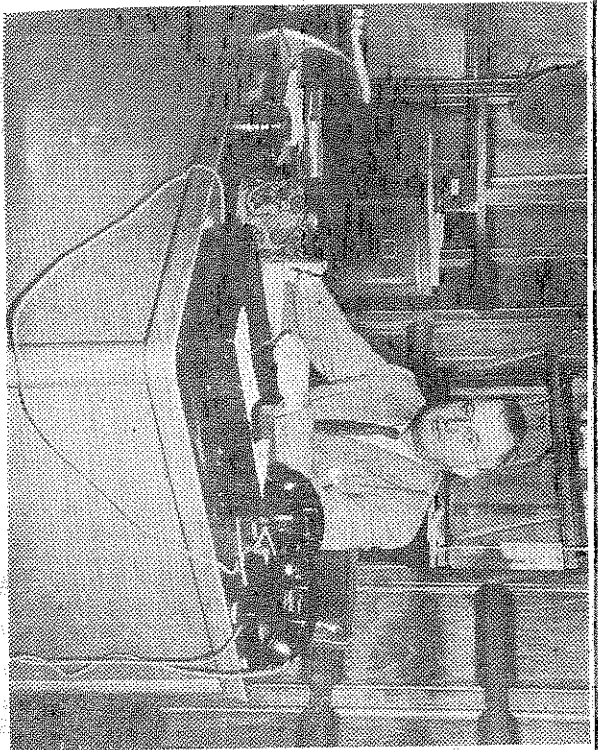
While Atmore's plan was being set up, Jasper's Commissioner of Public Finance Frank A. Brotherton said that a cemetery board should be established in his municipality.

The Jasper associate commissioner favored the appointment of a three to five-member board. He look after the Oak Hill Cemetery in his city.

FIRST TOURISTS

The first tourists to visit Fairhope were students of political economy who came here for the purpose of observing the Single Tax Colony, the first of its kind in the world. They wanted to see just how the Henry George Theory of Taxation was being carried out.

Montgomery Commissioner



Gayle Helps Make Capital City Best Place To Live

Colonel William A. Gayle, applying the same zeal and enthusiasm with which he filled the duties of Adjutant General in 1935, is devoting his energies and talent to making Montgomery a better place to live.

Commissioner of Public Improvement for the Capital City Col. Gayle has succeeded in returning Dannelly Field to the municipal government as an airport, developed recreation for youth, secured, after many miles of travel and conferences, surplus property for city departments and obtained more veterans housing than Atlanta or any city of that size among many accomplishments since resuming his place on the City Commission after Army service.

A Montgomerian, Col. Gayle is known as "Tackey" to his friends. He's served during the war as a colonel in Eighth Air Force as commanding officer of re-placement camps for personnel of the Eighth, Ninth, Twelfth and Fifteenth Air Forces. He is also a veteran of World War I, serving in the Dixie (31st) Division, first as a private and then becoming an officer in the 6888 Central Postal Directory.

Took Office in 1935.

He first took public office in April 1935, when Governor Bibb Graves appointed him Adjutant General of the State and he filled these duties until October of the same year. During this assignment, Col. Gayle, then with the rank of Brigadier General, was instrumental in securing for National Guard armories, with some 27 being constructed in the state. Another accomplishment was passing of a law by the Alabama legislature which provided funds to benefit for those injured in National Guard armories and drills.

He left the state service, resigning in 1935 to accept a seat on the City Commission of Montgomery to which he was elected at the same time the ticket of Gunter, Screws and Gayle became a by word to Capital City voters. Gayle was elected as Commissioner of Public Improvement and, he's been re-elected since. Next month will wind up 11 years of service on the city governing body. He has served continuously with the exception of nearly four years spent in World War II in this country and abroad.

Supervision

He is charged with the duties of supervising recreation, airports, streets, lots, garages, health pumping stations, parks, playgrounds, engineering department, cemeteries and utilities.

He has listed among his accomplishments during his service to the city as paving of streets, expansion of sanitary sewer system, increase of water supply, building of a new city hall, construction of the Fort Dixie Graves Armory, improvement of park facilities, development of an airport and securing of surplus property which saved the city thousands of dollars.

Recreation Program

Colonel Gayle said the recreation program for the city attracted thousands of children of school age. Jim Ryba, coach at Lanier High School, was in charge with playgrounds of various Montgomery schools used for games and sports.

Oak Park, with its zoo swimming pool, tennis courts and acres of ground, also attracted fans. Many improvements have been made to the park since he joined the City Commission.

The colonel pointed out that city recreation program had the largest attendance this year of any time before the war.

Surplus property procurement has carried the City Commissioner thousands of miles in search for heavy road machinery, trucks, bull dozers and other equipment that would aid the city.

Since housing became a No. 1 problem throughout the country, Col. has thrown his support to the veterans and has been able to obtain some 350 units which are now under construction on the Mobile highway. Montgomery received an even larger number of housing units than Atlanta, Ga.

Gets Airport

For an airport, Col. Gayle visited Washington, talked the Army into releasing Dannelly Field with no strings. Plans released by the City Commission call for the construction of an administration building, extension of runways and procuring very high frequency radio equipment. The base operators will build hangars on space rented from the city.

Col. Gayle and the street department has been instrumental in paving many miles of streets within the city limits.

A cross section file is obtained of all graves in the cemeteries. This was started as a WPA project and has been maintained. More than 55,000 names and lots are kept. References are cross indexed.

Col. Gayle has been active in the work of the American Legion. He has filled all the duties of local post officials and held every office in the state organization except that of State Commander.

Among his civic duties has been with the Red Cross having twice served as chapter chairman and for three times led Red Cross drives in Montgomery.

Red Cross Service

He's a firm believer in the Red Cross, too, having experienced the work of the unit while an officer in the Army Air Forces overseas. He's worked hard to help raise funds for their work and says "If it wasn't for the Red Cross the men in foreign theatres wouldn't have a "home away from home." They were located on every post, provided club motels, recreation advantages and they took over hotels in many of the leading cities so American GIs would have accommodations." Under the Reconstruction Act, Colonel Gayle has listed eight projects which he hopes the city will be able to obtain. Among these are:

sewerage disposal plant, drainage of Genetta Ditch, a new city garage, sewerage system, storm sewers, a malaria control project, a parking building and lot and a baseball park.

Good Health Department

Health, too, is a function of his departments and Commissioner Gayle is anxious for Montgomery to have a model health unit. Recommendations have already been made which will provide a reorganization of the department and the setting up of a training school for nurses, health inspectors and officers.

Under the Public Works Administration, Col. Gayle was instrumental in securing for Montgomery an appropriation increase from the original allotment of \$86,000 to \$347,000 for the extension of water mains, construction of a pumping station and building of reservoirs.

Col. Gayle served as Alabama chairman of the American Public Works Association and helped this state take a leading role in the securing of members. The Southeastern region, with Commissioner J. W. Morgan of Birmingham, as vice president, led the nation in the drive.

The family of Commissioner Gayle have also aided in the war effort. Mrs. Gayle gave thousands of hours as a nurses aid, his son spent 4 1-2 years in the Merchant Marine and he also gave his 36-foot boat to the Navy as well as serving as an officer.

LINDEN GETS MARSHAL

Linden now has a full-time town marshal as J. H. Honeycutt has been appointed to fill these duties.

The new marshal has served as a deputy sheriff since his return to Linden from naval duty. He began his full-time job for the Town of Linden on Sept. 1.

From The Day's Mail

BY MRS. LOUISE KASER
Staff Secretary
Alabama League Of Municipalities

In increasing numbers, municipal officials are availing themselves of the great reservoir of information accumulated and indexed in the League of Municipalities reference library at the League's new headquarters at 14 South Hull Street, Montgomery.

A few items from the Executive Director's mail basket may be of interest to other municipal officials and suggest subjects in which there is general municipal interest.

Building Code Information

During the month we furnished building code information to City Clerk L. E. Hamlet, Tusculumbia and City Clerk Viola Hook of Foley, and Town Clerk F. M. Higgins, Robertsville.

License Tax Information

Information on this subject was supplied by the League this month to: Commissioner F. A. Brotherton, Jasper; City Clerk Lane Grant, Greenville; Councilman J. S. Gilliland, Goodwater; Thomas Lelievre, Oakman; Mayor W. J. Jackson, Collinsville; City Clerk J. A. Harris, Boaz; Mayor Solon E. McGraw, Vincent; City Clerk M. W. Nordan, Abbeville; City Council of Union Springs.

Miscellaneous Information

Information on miscellaneous subjects was supplied this month as follows:

Planning Code: City Clerk Viola Hook, Foley.

Elections: Town Clerk Nellie McCrary, Pine Apple.

Subdivision Control: City Clerk Dayton Benham, Scottsboro; Commission President J. T. Jackson, Jasper; Mayor Lucien P. Burns, Selma; City Clerk T. C. Tollison, Opelika.

Tuscaloosa Has Police School

A Police Training School, held to familiarize the best possible training methods in law enforcement work, has opened in Tuscaloosa for a 10-day session.

Police Chief Homer D. Billingsley said classes were being held in the mornings and afternoons in three-hour sessions. These daily functions will enable all policemen to attend.

The school, conducted by the Tuscaloosa Police Department with the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will have instructors recruited from 20 divisions of the F. B. I. and of agents currently assigned to Alabama headquarters.

Speakers for the training session include J. Frank Livingston, police commissioner; Chief N. W. Kimbrough, enforcement division, Department of Public Safety; Inspector H. L. Thornton, in charge of the highway patrol sub station at Decatur, and Ray J. Abbatechio, agent in charge of the Birmingham field office, F. B. I.

Sacrifices depicted as well as police department representatives from surrounding cities are scheduled to send men into Tuscaloosa for the extensive training course.

Whiteways Extended On Two Decatur Streets

The whiteways lighting system in Decatur is being increased with two more streets added to those already lighted. It was announced.

Materials ordered by the city council more than a year ago have arrived and installation has already begun on Moulton and Railroad Streets.

Harry Pembleton

Edwin B. Mims

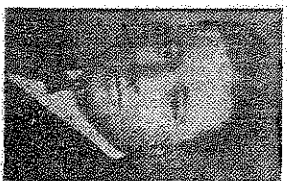
Member American Institute of Architects

PEMBLETON & MIMS

Title Guarantee Building

Birmingham, Alabama

Folk's we're glad we know!
by Ed E. Reid



Frank Livingston—the League's general and popular president—and this columnist had a delightful visit a few days ago with the officials of two DeKalb County municipalities—Fort Payne and Collinsville.

We dropped in on Mayor W. J. Jackson and Police Chief E. E. Martin in the town hall of Collinsville and found them busily discussing local police problems. Later we called on City Clerk Joe Crowder of Fort Payne. It was President Livingston's first visit to that city's beautiful city hall. He was enthused over what he saw. To our extreme regret Mayor Henry Harrison was away from town. . . .

Chief Martin has headed the Collinsville Police Department for years. Before going there he was chief of the Boaz department in Marshall County.

Cushman's Indimtable City Clerk George Kramer always watches with abiding interest the progress of Federal Judge Guy T. Helvering of Kansas. George knew him when he was a young congressman. George worked in a congressman's office when Helvering was getting started. Since then Helvering has been a veteran congressman, commissioner of international revenue and now is an outstanding federal judge. George likes to recall the times when he served as an audience of one to hear Helvering's "trial speeches." "I might have been referred to as a guinea pig audience," the able Cushman official laughingly remarks.

We never enjoyed ourselves quite so much as when we recently attended a barbecue given by Mayor Laverne of Reform in honor of his new volunteer fire department. There we saw old friends like Mayor Jim Fendley of Gordo, League President Frank Livingston, Fire Chief Pete Matthews of Tuscaloosa, and Mort Wallon, State Fire Training Instructor. Representative-elect Bruce Donnelly of Pickens. The barbecue was fine and the fun of participating in the setting up of a volunteer department was worth driving hundreds of miles to experience. Ernie Farrer is an All-American host, anyway.

Covington's Prosecutor Bowen Simmons, an old League official, dropped in on us the other day. His visits are more than welcome because he always has something interesting to tell us. Bowen is not only one of the state's finest lawyers and prosecutors, but one of the finest gentlemen we ever knew.

The League of Municipalities is indebted to Ray Abbatichello, Agent

Jasper May Vote Again For Change In Government

As five Alabama cities this month were considering changing their governments, another municipality joined the ranks, as a petition was filed in the Walker County Probate Court at Jasper to return that city to the mayor-council form of government.

Jasper voters not many months ago went to the polls and favored the change to a commission. Now they want the Mayor and council plan reinstated.

Jasper joins with Mobile as that city has also petitioned for a change from commission to a mayor council government.

J. T. Jackson is commission president of Jasper with Frank A. Brotherton and E. Dick Burrow as Associate Commissioners. The former Mayor was J. H. Burton. Tusculum, Haleyville, Pritchard, Bessemer and Mobile were the five cities that had made known their desires to change governments.

In charge of the Birmingham office of the FBI, for the fine men sent from his staff to the organizations district municipal meetings. For the Brewton meeting he sent Ed Jones of the Mobile office and to the DeKalb County meetings he dispatched H. A. (Don) Donohoo. Ray attended the Guntersville meeting himself and to the Montgomery meeting he sent Clifford Hartley. All of these men were fine speakers, told in a most interesting sort of way the work of the FBI and how that agency aids municipal police departments. They are doing a great job in Alabama and we are proud indeed of the part they have had in our series of district conferences.

Our friend, Mayor E. W. McCrory of Orville, missed the Demopolis meeting. He dropped us a note afterward saying: "We're going to attend the meeting at Demopolis, but all my children and grandchildren—26 in number—came for a get-together, the first in fifteen years."

We more than regret that we were away from League headquarters recently when our friend, Senator Bruce Henderson of Wilcox, paid us a visit. When we returned we found this appreciated note: "I called because I wanted to thank you in person for the fine editorial that you wrote about me. You have always been almost too nice to me—a great deal more than I deserve. But, nevertheless, I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. Have been at home 'sawing wood' but when I get back in Montgomery I hope I see you more often and I hope to be permitted to work with you." As we said in our editorial, Senator Henderson is one of our finest and most loyal friends. It will be a pleasure to work with him.

One of our friends was in the other day to say how much he enjoyed contacting Town Clerk Fayette Pitchett of Thomaston and Town Clerk T. M. Baggett of Camden. . . . Said they were doing exceptionally fine jobs with their towns. . . . Our congratulations and best wishes to them. . . . Mr. Baggett is the new clerk of Camden. . . . This same friend found that Demopolis' lovable Mayor N. C. Floyd had been ill for several days. We sincerely hope his recovery has been complete.

Fayette's young and capable City Attorney Alex Smith, Jr., was in Florida vacationing when we had our meeting for his district—the Tuscaloosa meeting. Alex wrote us: "I regret very much that I was not able to attend this meeting, and have been there. We missed Alex, too. He has been one of our favorite city attorneys for a long time."

Visits to League headquarters from Laverne's capable city clerk—Seven State Cities Issue Bonds In Month Of August

Seven municipal governments took advantage of Department of Local Finance services in August. John P. "Speck" Shaffer, chief of the division, has announced. Graysville, Bay Minette, Foley, Fairhope, Cullman, Athens and Ragland consulted this important cooperating division about bond issues.

Here's the agenda of the department and what was accomplished as released by Mr. Shaffer:

- Town of Graysville, First Mortgage Water Revenue Bonds—\$210,000.
- Town of Bay Minette, Gas Revenue Anticipation Extension Bonds—\$35,000.
- Town of Foley, Gas System Anticipation Revenue Bonds—\$419,000.
- Town of Fairhope, Gas System Revenue Anticipation Bonds—\$53,000.
- City of Cullman, Electric Revenue Anticipation Bonds—\$200,000.
- City of Athens, Electric System Revenue Bonds—\$435,000.
- Town of Ragland, Gas System Revenue Bonds—\$43,000.

Foster Haygood—are always welcomed. He is certainly a great booster of the League and a great believer in its work. Foster has just been elected clerk of the Crenshaw County Circuit Court. He will do a fine job in any place of official responsibility.

The Decatur Daily had this to say editorially about Mayor H. R. Summers of that city: "Mayor Sandy Summers spoke sincerely to the Kiwanis Club this week on 'Your Town and My Town.' The Mayor came to the conclusion that Decatur will grow just as far and just as fast and just as right or just as wrong as the citizenship directs the growth. The development of any town comes not through natural resources, but through the employment of brains and energy on the part of the citizenship." The mayor's talk no doubt made a profound impression on The Daily. He's that kind of speaker.

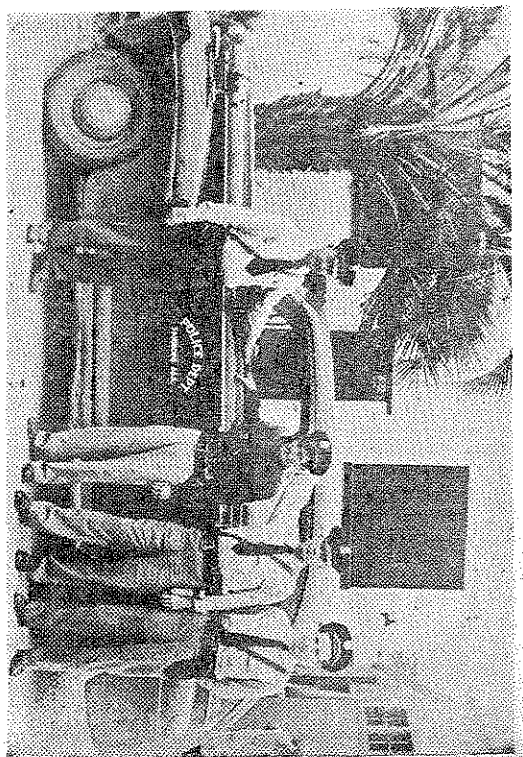
Vincent is another of Alabama's small towns with an outstanding mayor. Solon McGraw has long been a favorite of ours. We knew him first as a leading merchant, then as a county commissioner, a leader in the affairs of the Democratic Party of Shelby County and now as Vincent's municipal head. He is in every sense of the word a leader. We enjoyed seeing Solon recently and taking over municipal problems with him.

It was our pleasure to attend a special meeting of the Union Springs City Council a few nights ago. The meeting, called to discuss license tax problems, was one of the most orderly and smoothly run that we ever attended. Every member was present, each showing the keenest sort of interest in the financial affairs of the city. It was really worth attending. We were impressed with the way Mayor C. A. May and his council go after things. The councilmen present were William Lawrence (former mayor), Jimmy Chappell, A. M. Reed, R. C. Branscomb, Robert Watson. Mrs. Charlie Ely, efficient city clerk, and the able city attorney, Bob Cope, were also present. This city has a well-rounded and effective city governing body.

We continue to receive through mutual friends the finest kind of reports on an old friend—Wayland Mills, former mayor of Florida—who is now attached to the executive or administrative staff of the Judge of Probate of Escambia County. Wayland was a progressive and enterprising mayor. Every report we have is that he is making the same kind of aide to Judge Tom Peavy. We are always glad to have glowing reports about former municipal leaders.

Our old buddy Commissioner of Public Works W. A. Gayle of Montgomery, dropped in at our office a few mornings ago to tell us that he had stayed up half of the night before reading the Sept. 5 issue of The Alabama Local Government Journal. Col. Gayle greeted us with these welcome words: "That paper is the finest thing in the world for municipal officials and employees. I found it more informative and worthwhile than anything I have read on local government." The Colonel must know how good this sounded to us. It made us feel that the many midnight hours that Charlie Burns and I had put into that issue were hours well spent.

Jimmy Chappell, likable member of the city council of Union Springs, had a good word, too, about The Alabama Local Government Journal. At the council meeting we attended he remarked: "You are certainly setting out a valuable publication



NOTED FOR THEIR RECORD in traffic safety is the Police Department of Fairhope. Since 1942, no traffic fatalities have been recorded in the city. Left to right are shown acting Chief D. M. McLaurin, Grady Rushing, M. D. Cox and Arthur Thomas.

No Traffic Fatalities In Fairhope Since 1942

No traffic fatalities have occurred in the Town of Fairhope since 1942.

Acting Chief of Police D. M. McLaurin is proud of this record for more than 800 cars travel through the municipality daily.

Chief McLaurin beams when he talks of that number but the average of automobiles increases on the week-ends that many times in the summer the number jumps to 2,500.

Library Books Number 19,000

A modern library of 19,000 volumes, a well kept museum with curios gathered of Fairhope's history, a collection of rare books by the late Edward Howland and a well developed section of the history of the municipality are maintained by the Fairhope Public Library, believed to be the best and largest small town library.

The library was founded in 1900 and has as one of its best supports the Single Tax Corporation. The city pays for the utilities used by the library.

An entire room for children is maintained and the library is used a great deal by pupils of the elementary and high schools.

A large stained glass window honors the memory of Marie and Edward Howland. It was the Howland collection of 1,200 volumes that was instrumental in beginning the Fairhope Library.

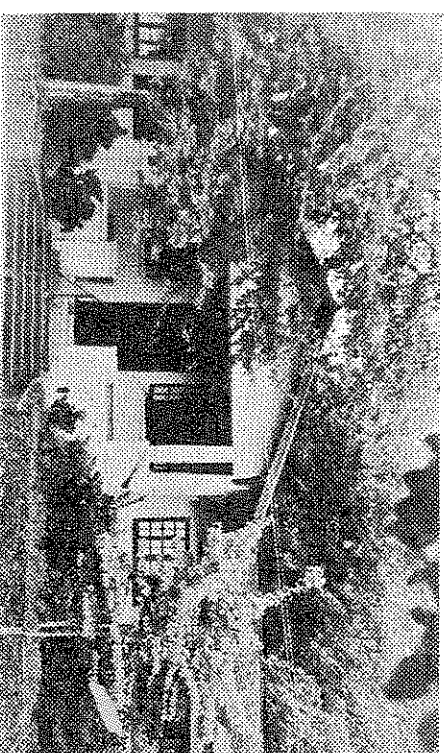
A functioning library board has as its president Mrs. J. E. Gaston. The librarian is Mrs. Bertha Merriam and Mrs. Mary Heath Lee is acting librarian. Miss Ruth Jeffcott is assistant librarian.

The library is open five hours a day. The Summer schedule is from 9 to 12 and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., while in Winter the building is available to interested persons from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The smallest library in the world is maintained a short distance from the heart of Fairhope on the eastern shore beach at Point Clear.

for all local officials—county and municipal."

We had the pleasure a few nights ago to run into our old friend, Representative Hugh Kaul of Jefferson. With him was Representative-nominee Will Sadler. It was our first opportunity to meet Mr. Sadler. We were certainly favorably impressed. We had known so well and so favorably Hugh Kaul, that we were glad to meet one of his colleagues. We look forward to seeing more of them when the Legislature meets. Hugh did long and distinguished service in the Army. It is certainly good to see him back in civilian clothes — legislative



The FAIRHOPE LIBRARY, shown above, is the home of a museum, a children's room, and contains over 19,000 volumes.

Traffic, too, is the big problem of Fairhope Police but all the work in the municipality in enforcement is accomplished by a four-man force.

The personnel of the force is composed of Arthur Thomas, M. D. Cox, J. H. Arnold while extra policemen Grady Rushing, Jack Griffin, Ted Lizer and Floyd Phillips are sometimes used.

Police work on a salary rather than commission. Usually the force increases to fifteen men during the rush Fairhope July 4 and Labor Day week ends when it is necessary for this number to be employed by the city to direct traffic and handle the many visitors who are in town for the holidays.

20 Years Experience

Chief McLaurin, who has about 20 years of law enforcement work to his credit, has been a member of the Fairhope Police Department since August, 1942. He has served as acting chief since Chief J. H. Thus was disabled in line of duty in 1944. He has been on the Mobile force for a number of years, served as a deputy sheriff in Mississippi and worked on the shipyard force before coming to Fairhope.

The city, Chief McLaurin points out, operates 125 acres of parks which is under our jurisdiction. A good memory is possessed by the acting chief as he can almost tell you a hundred per cent names of law violators, day convicted and fines imposed. This is needed in law enforcement work.

City Jail

Chief McLaurin acts as city jailer too. The jail is located in the rear of city hall and there facilities are kept for violators of city ordinances.

1936 or 1937

The Fairhope Police Department, organized eight years ago, operated with a force of three men until 1942. With so much space the city owns and the miles of parks and beaches it was necessary to put another man on the force. The department has one car which is maintained in service at all times.

Check Parks

The police keep a close scrutiny of parks during the week-ends. No alcoholic beverage is allowed in these recreation parks. A city ordinance regulates this.

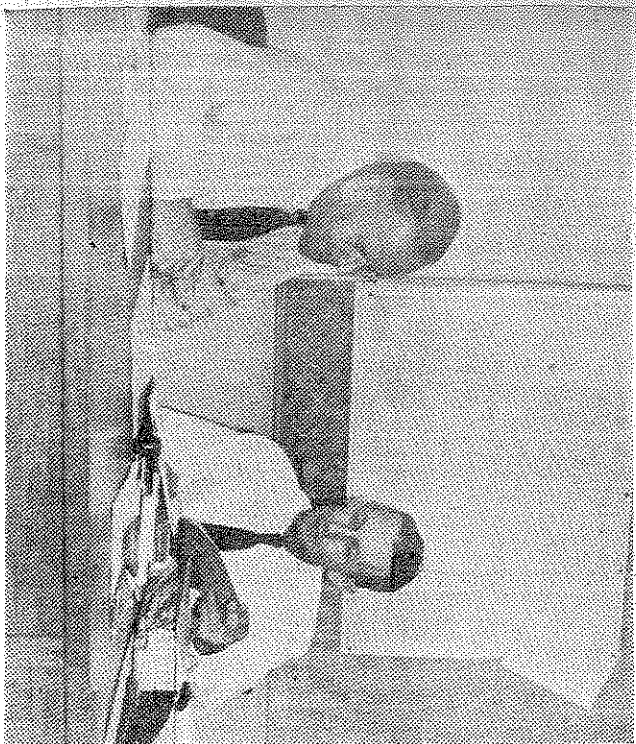
Mayor Ruge holds court two days a week, Monday's and Friday's chief said but only a few minor cases are brought up.

Major crimes and juvenile delinquency are things of the past, Chief McLaurin said.

Dohhan Adopts New Plumbing Code

A new plumbing code which supersedes the one used by the municipality for more than 20 years has been adopted by the Dohhan City Commission.

This new code regulates plumbing installations in the city and is an incorporation of the same basic ideas used in the old code with up to date standard methods.



IN A HUDDLE around city manager's desk are Mayor-Manager Howard Ruge, left, and City Clerk R. C. Yohn, of Fairhope, as they go over some problems together.

Ruge Capably Guides Destinies Of Fairhope

Associates of Mayor-Manager Howard Ruge, of Fairhope, are confident in their municipality being one of the best run in the state. They have an excellent council and a man in the mayor's office who is efficiently operating the city that it has received nationwide publicity.

An associate of the Mayor-Manager recently said that if all the towns in Baldwin County could be placed under the guiding hand of one municipal official, that leader should be Howard Ruge.

Fairhopeans approve his tactics. back him in his undertakings and support his program of recreation that places the municipality in the top bracket as a model Alabama city.

His Modest

Manager Ruge, however, doesn't force his way into the limelight. He's modest about taking credit where credit is due but the real story of Fairhope's development is in the capable handling of city business by their efficient mayor-manager. Real pleasure and enthusiasm is assured when Ruge has the governmental reins. He breathes, works, sleeps and lives Fairhope and is one of its loyal supporters.

The Mayor, like most of Fairhope citizens, is not a native of the community. He's a New Yorker who came to the municipality in 1911, two years after the town was incorporated, and he's been there since. He was educated in the schools and is a graduate of the School of Organic Education.

Mayor-manager Ruge, genial, pipe-smoking executive, has many problems in directing the affairs of a city with \$1,500,000 in assets. It's big business but the financial records reveal that he's making municipal functions pay dividends.

Recreation No. 1

Recreation has been his No. 1 interest and he, with the excellent cooperation of the council, has been instrumental in appropriating ten thousand dollars yearly to Fairhope's recreational activities which attract over a million people annually.

Developing the municipality into a winter as well as summer playground is also Ruge programmed. Football games have attracted nearly 3,000 visitors to a single game. Athletic contests, tennis, baseball, a stadium and eventually a municipally owned gymnasium are planned for a recently acquired ten acre plot for winter and summer sports.

125 Acres Park

Fairhope has 125 acres of playgrounds and park areas, two miles of sandy beaches. Next year will find still more improvements to city owned lands. This program has helped to place Fairhope in the eyes of the world as the "Atlantic City of the South."

Mayor in 1934

Since assuming office of mayor in 1934, city departments have been separated. A good functioning police department and a volunteer fire department have records that never have been unsurpassed.

The municipal sewer system has been declared a model one for a small town the size of Fairhope. A study of this set up has attracted many students of sanitation from abroad to study its layout.

The electric system and the water plant are municipally operated. Both are operating in the black with a net of \$35,000 being realized dur-

Anniston Water Board Reports

The Anniston water board in its report to the city commission showed that \$725,031.22 had been paid into the city treasury since 1935 and that they were ready to pay off on October 1 a line which had been laid to Fort McClellan.

In 1940, the board reported, \$300,000 was spent for a large pipe line to the Fort and next month the obligations incurred for this would be paid in full.

General improvements already made and those planned just as soon as materials become available were made by the board to the city commission.

The report, submitted to the city commission by Charles S. Martin, Fred Williams and Charles S. Wolf, showed in part that:

"From April 17, 1935 to Sept. 30, 1940, there has been transferred from the Water Department to the city, funds of \$160,638.98.

"Since Sept. 30, 1940, with the transfer of \$25,000 which was made from the Water Department to the city as of Sept. 9, 1946, the Water Department has transferred to the city \$425,031.22.

"This amounts to \$725,031.22 paid out in six years by your Water Department on account of the city of Anniston in addition to the regular interest obligations and reductions in the original bond issue, all of which have been taken care of."

RICHARD SETS UP NEW DOG POUND

The impounding of dogs in the City of Prichard must be growing by leaps and bounds as city council recently authorized the construction of a pound.

Previously the stray pooches were housed in a makeshift pound at the police station.

16 former service men enrolled while some 52 veterans are taking night classes there.

Recreation Given No. 1 Priority By Council

Recreation is a No. 1 priority with the Fairhope Council and Councilman J. H. Bennett, high school principal, can tell you that for the past four years the program has functioned smoothly.

Councilman Bennett is also a member of the city-wide recreation council composed of five members who supervise recreation activities through the schools.

Much credit has been given by the Mayor for the part the school has played in keeping down juvenile delinquency.

Councilman Bennett said the program was initiated four years ago in March with the Organic School and the public school cooperating. Faculty members and a few interested citizens directed the project.

Winter and Summer

The recreation program during the winter months is held on Friday and Saturday nights usually at the high school auditorium. Here from 7:30 to 11 p.m. students gather to participate in games, dances, a good time. About 200 to 300 attend before an evening is over.

On Friday night, students in the high school and Organic School grades have their good times while the next night is devoted to the ninth through the 12th grade students.

Democratic Students

The students participating are so democratic, the principal points out, that a few days ago they cast ballots to decide whether they preferred no planned program other than social dancing, ping-pong and checkers, or variety shows including group games, singing local talent numbers a dancing, game parties, folk dance and square dance parties as well as seasonal and student night parties. The recreational council believes in giving the part-

The Montgomery County Board of Revenue has approved the paving of several streets in Ramer, County Engineer Thomas Edwards will supervise the project.



Electricity Does It Economically And Better



Riviera Utilities

A Municipal Electric Operation



FAIRHOPE - FOLEY - ROBERTSDALE - DAPHNE
SILVER HILL - SUMMERDALE - MAGNOLIA
SPRINGS - LOXLEY - ELBERTA - POINT CLEAR
LILLIAN - PERIDO BEACH - BELFOREST - MALBIS
SPANISH FORT - MONTROSE

Ten Religious Denominations In Fairhope

The four freedoms and more than these—an opportunity for expressing one's own individuality await the visitor or resident of Fairhope. Here there are many ways of thought and the observer is impressed with the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the city.

There are 10 different religious groups in Fairhope: Methodist, Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Church of Christ, Christian Scientist, Episcopal, Quaker, Lutheran, Assembly of God, and Catholic. Every church has services every Sunday, with the exception of the Lutheran congregation which meets on alternate Sundays in the Episcopal church building. The Society of Friends, as the Quakers are called, hold meetings every first and fourth day of the week. Most of Fairhope's churches have both a morning and evening service on Sunday.

The oldest denomination is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), organized at the home of Dr. Clara E. Atkinson in Fairhope, Sept. 8, 1894, just two years after the founding of the town. Rev. E. A. Shupe of Cleveland, O., was the leader of the original group of worshippers. The church recently celebrated its golden anniversary with a special program.

Purchases Property
The Methodist Church has recently purchased four and a half acres of land comprising an entire city block on the corner of Section and Fels Avenue. They plan to erect a new church and also an educational building which they will offer as a community center for the young people. Girl Scout and Boy Scout meetings will be held here and a well-planned recreational program will be inaugurated. The only Methodist Church also owns the Hammond Organ in Fairhope. Although there is not a local ministerial organization in the city, most of the pastors are members of the Baldwin County Ministerial Association. Several of them also serve churches at Daphne or other points in the Eastern Shore.

They are also active in community affairs, several of them being connected with the local Rotary Club and the Recreational Council.

The Quaker Church maintains its own grammar school. Mrs. Mable Stanley is the instructor.

The three largest groups according to membership are: Methodist, Rev. Cullen B. Wilson, pastor; Baptist, Rev. Williams Evans, pastor; Christian, Rev. Woodrow H. Damon, pastor. The Episcopal vicar is Rev. Joseph Horn. Father Dennis Grey, who lives at Daphne, conducts early mass at the Catholic Church each Sunday.

The visitor or resident of Fairhope, whatever his religious choice, will find a welcome awaiting him when he joins in worship at one of the cities many churches.

JASPER SURVEY BEING MADE

Jasper engineers have begun a survey of needed street paving and other projects in order for the municipality to take advantage of the federal appropriation of a \$65,000,000 program for public improvements.

J. T. Jackson, city commission president urged property owners to petition the city government for work they wanted accomplished.

Commissioner Jackson said the city wanted to blueprint the needed improvements anticipated in several years as well as those necessary now.

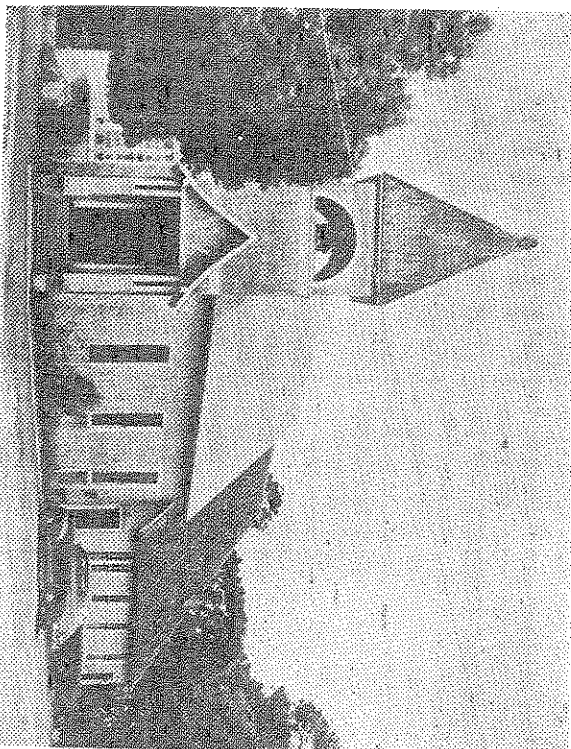
Engineers making the survey would be paid by federal funds with the amounts considered as a loan to the City of Jasper and would be repaid later.

The city commission. President Jackson said, have submitted a summary of needed projects to officials in Montgomery. These included paving streets, construction of sidewalks and curbing and building a city swimming pool.

Improvements to be made will be assessed against property after the work is accomplished. Commissioner Jackson stated.

It was pointed out also that Jasper's unpaved streets would be resurfaced before Winter arrives.

Fifty Years Of Progress



THE OLDEST CHURCH in the municipality is the Christian, founded some fifty years ago. The church membership recently celebrated a half century of service to the community. Ten religious denominations are in Fairhope.

Unique Education—The Organic School

Unique is the word for the school where there are no desks, no examinations, no fears of failure, no marks yet the same subjects are taught that are prescribed for any pupil in high school, junior high and grammar school today.

This rather unique school is the School of Organic Education, which this year began its thirteenth session with an enrollment of 130 children ranging in age from two and one-half to 18 from all parts of the country.

Hitler Is Principal
Edgar E. Ritter, a native Californian beginning his first year as principal, said the faculty numbered 18 when the classes began on September 5th, another member joined the group recently and still another is expected to be added.

The Organic School originated in the mind of a Fairhope woman, Mrs. Maurelia Johnson who founded the school for the purpose of studying the development of the child and to provide right conditions for this development. These conditions, she said, were not taught in the public schools.

Found On Needs
She founded the institution, which has attracted world-wide attention, in these needs: music and rhythm, dancing, singing, fullest self-expression through an abundance of handwork, nature study (science), stories of history and geography that soon become social studies, literature and languages, fundamental conceptions of numbers which naturally grow into all mathematical work.

The aim of the work in the School of Organic Education is to provide activities and exercises that will minister to the health of the body, develop the finest mental grasp and preserve the sincerity and self-consciousness of emotional life.

12-Acre Campus
The school began functioning in a small cottage with six students attending and how many buildings on a 12-acre campus provide classrooms and a school home for students from all sections of the country. Any morning around 8:30 at Fairhope you'll see many laughing children with books under their arms ready to go to school. It reminds one of the "good old school days." It's not public schools they're going to but the Organic School.

"Lived On Look"
Another unique thing about this school at Fairhope is that it has a "lived on" look. The rolling campus has no "keep off the grass signs." You can roam anywhere you please and feel free to do it. But one wouldn't find that in public schools nor would they on a visit to a public school campus find children practicing folk dances, or boys doing a sword dance with long poles. Folk dances helps develop the child emotionally, mentally, and physically.

Conventional school children are seated at desks but one doesn't find this at the Organic School. Look into a history class and see eight students seated around their teacher, discussing a principal of government.

An arts and crafts shop teaches the children to learn by doing. Here woodwork, painting, and other projects are found. One of the

school's ethics is training in the initiative.

Classes sometimes are held out on the grass, others may even take place on the nearby beach.

Freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors too have seminars once a week with their teachers and here they find out just how the principles they learned apply to everyday life. This is a new function of the school this year, Principal Ritter will tell you.

Hands, Brains Used
Last winter when the poll tax became an important issue, the students in government class canvassed the Fairhope, brought the record of their townsmen's views back to class, analyzed each position on the issue, and crystallized their own opinions in thoughtful letters to the Southern Election Reform League. When it became apparent that the school gymnasium floor was inadequate last winter, students inquired and learned that manpower shortage prevented the laying of a new floor; the high school boys and girls laid the floor themselves. During the gubernatorial campaign this Spring, the government class made a study of each platform, studied each candidate's record, and became sufficiently interested to campaign for their favorite candidates in the community.

A pretty girl of high school age smiled when spoke to the principal. She stopped and of course the JOURNAL reporter admired a beautiful bracelet on her arm. Asking where it could be bought she heartily laughed. "That wouldn't be organic."

Since viewing the school, hearing of it believes and its traditions, the JOURNAL reporter knew exactly what she meant. She had used the initiative to make it in the school's silvershop—and that's organic.

Gadsden Approves New School House

There'll be another school building for Gadsden as the city commission authorized the expenditure of \$17,725 for purchase of a site for extension of building and facilities of the Disque Junior High School, adjacent to the property.

Details of the new proposed extensions or facilities were not made known by the City Board of Education.

Mobile, Prichard Lose Housing

Mobile and Prichard are losing housing units which will be gained by other cities in this state and others where acute housing conditions exist.

The Federal Public Housing Authority will dispose of about 7,500 wartime housing units of which 4,111 are permanent and 3,321 are temporary.

Rodgers' Letter Important

Editor's Note: The following letter, self explanatory, has been received by Ed E. Reid, Executive Director, Alabama League of Municipalities from E. N. Rodgers, Acting Director, State Highway Department. It is urged that all municipal officials shall read the full text of this letter as it contains information which concerns a large number of mayors, city managers, and other officers.

"As you know, for some time we have had the policy of cooperating with the municipalities in Alabama on street resurfacing jobs which were a part of our State Highway System and under which policy we ask that the municipalities furnish the material and we would pay all costs relative to the placing of same. This is a fine arrangement and we believe has resulted in much benefit to both the municipalities and our department. Probably occasioned by the above policy, requests by municipal officials for us to do work with our forces off our highway system and on other streets has continued to gain in momentum until we are being swamped with requests to do jobs which are very large. It is hard to draw a line between where to start and stop on a proposition of this kind but during the past year we have on certain occasions postponed necessary work on our highways to accommodate certain municipalities, only asking them to pay the actual cost to us on the streets which were off our highways."

"It is still our desire to be of as much service to the municipalities as we can but there are two reasons that now make it necessary that we keep this construction program at a minimum off our State Highways. First, we do not have sufficient men and equipment to do work which is outside of our necessary routine maintenance program and, second, there is a good deal of confusion developing among the contractors in their State and consulting engineers regarding our competition with them on jobs which are sufficiently large to be attractive to them. I have had filed with me on August 16 a formal protest from the Alabama Road Builders Association regarding our competition with the contractors on city jobs which are off our highway system and on a previous occasion I have had several complaints from the consulting engineers over the State."

"In order to be of as much assistance as we can to the towns on jobs which are too small to be done by contract and on which specialized equipment is required which they do not have, we will continue to cooperate provided the total cost does not exceed \$500.00 and provided the town is willing to pay the actual cost to us."

"I wish you would pass this information on to the members of your Association and I hope that the towns of Alabama will understand our position in this matter. If I can be of any further assistance to you or any member of your organization, I will consider it a pleasure to do so."

Chamber Of Commerce Lists Varied Opportunities

Developing recreational facilities, beautification, to interest small cottage type industry in locating here, operating a tourist club, and creating a civic center are among the over-all plans of the Fairhope Chamber of Commerce.

John H. Wienand, chamber president, told the *Journal* that his organization is striving to meet those aims. Although stymied during the war, the unit was organized again in January and is now meeting once each month.

The club president pointed out that the Chamber now has a membership of 130. Plans are now being formulated to secure a full-time secretary.

Build Better Fairhope

The Chamber believes that Fairhope has all possibilities of becoming a leading city for conventions and many small groups were already inquiring about accommodations.

"We lack," the Chamber president said, "housing accommodations and convention hall facilities. However, it is one of our goals to create a civic center. It takes capital to do this but committees from the Chamber have been organized and will report back soon on their accomplishments. We feel sure that before many more years the Eastern Shore, Fairhope in particular, will be drawing conventions for summer and winter."

Labor Day Activities

The Fairhope Chamber recently sponsored a gigantic Labor Day holiday with boat races, contests, and a huge fireworks display among the activities of the day.

At a meeting on Friday night, September 13th, the Chamber put forth proposals to organize a safety council and recommend a zoning ordinance to the town council. Among other plans proposed were for house numbering, a fire prevention

City Clerk's Office Busy Spot In Town Hall

Right-hand man of Mayor Howard Ruge of Fairhope is the city clerk who has at his fingertips the figures necessary for business statements and on whose shoulders fall the responsibility of "footing" the bills.

That person is R. C. Yohn, formerly of Enterprise, Ala., who came to Fairhope in 1931 and has been a resident of the city since.

City Clerk Yohn, quiet, easy-going official, joined the city employees as city clerk in January, 1940. He maintains a complete accounting of funds, keeps the records, serves as city treasurer, tax assessor, and

handles all the bookkeeping for the light and water departments, both under city ownership.

Mr. Yohn, assisted by Mrs. Theresa Creamer, assistant clerk, keeps busy taking care of the city books. Their records too are up-to-date and they have been praised by the auditors for their efficient keeping of city records.

Mr. Yohn maintains a record of all persons doing business in the city.

Miss Betty Lou Hales, of Edway is now working in the city clerk's office in the Homewood City Hall.

Accident Rate of Montgomery Soars In August

The traffic accident rate in Montgomery, the Alabama capital city, is up and the monthly rate in August just jumped about three times that of the corresponding month last year.

Police Lt. Nelson C. Lingo of the Montgomery Police Traffic Department, reported that a total of 95 accidents took place in August as compared with 30 in 1945. One of the accidents was fatal.

The Montgomery traffic officer said that 692 accidents had taken place since January, 1946. Of this number nine were reported killed and 169 were injured.

Speeders Caught

Reports of traffic arrests in August showed 54 summons for running red lights; 44 arrests made for running past stop signs; 100 speeders brought in; six reckless drivers were arrested; nine were arrested for driving while intoxicated; 106 no driver's license cases were on the docket, and five cases each for improper brakes, improper lights and improper left turns.

The traffic officer reported that men attached to that department issued 89 warning tickets for "borderline" cases for running red lights, 60 for violating stop signs, 115 for speeding, four for reckless driving, two for improper brakes, 132 for improper lights, and five for making an improper left turn.

Lingo Says

Lt. Lingo said that the Traffic Department was not in operation primarily to apprehend speeders and violators, but to protect the life and limb of Montgomery citizens.

"If we could but make Montgomeryans realize," Lt. Lingo related, "that we have certain traffic laws that must be obeyed, and make citizens know that we intend to enforce those laws to the best of our ability, we would have achieved the ultimate purpose of our work."

Health Need Cited In Rotary Talk

A full-time health officer, better hospitalization for charity, 100 per cent immunization, an additional veterinarian and better garbage control in all communities are among the requirements necessary for health needs in Anniston and Calhoun County, Dr. William White, acting health officer, revealed.

Dr. White, addressing the Rotary Club of the city, pointed out to have a model health unit these five steps must be taken immediately and he listed them as top priority for the health needs.

The acting health officer pointed out that it was a tremendous job but the staff and funds to carry out a well rounded health program in the state were lacking.

Annual Reports, Audit Must Be Filed With State Finance Dept.

John P. Shaffer, chief of the division of Local Finance, State Department of Finance, has notified clerks of all municipalities in the state that each city and town must submit certified copies of its annual audit, annual budget and an annual statement showing its indebtedness and obligations.

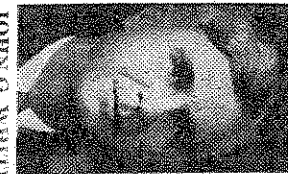
These receipts, under law, must reach Mr. Shaffer's office within 30 days after the adoption and the submission of the annual statement of indebtedness and receipts and disbursements not later than the first of November of each year.

The letter which Mr. Shaffer sent to city clerks, stated the requirements were set up by Section 151 of Title 56, 1940 Code of Alabama.

The division chief said the annual statement must show its indebtedness and obligations, general or special, payable from any source whatever. He also stated that the law requires an itemization of receipts by sources and disbursements by classification.

Under The Court House Dome

BY JOHN G. WHITE, Secretary Association of County Commissioners



Since the last newspaper went to press, we decided that changing the name of our column to "Under the Court House Dome" would give us a chance to bring in some other county officials that

usually you would not meet along with our Association members. We hope the name now meets with your approval. We'll also appreciate any material that you might consider interesting to our county officials. Send it along to us so we can pass the information to the readers.

Among the members of our Association attending the committee meeting to select sites for regional columns were Clarence Pinson, chairman of the Jefferson County Commissioners Court, Bob Green, Probate Judge of Hale County and also president of the Association; Probate Judge Irbby Pope of Perry County and G. C. Blanton of Dallas County, National President of the County Commissioners.

I am indeed sorry to learn that K. E. Agee of Wilcox is retiring as a commissioner from that county. His services will long be remembered and he will be missed.

County officials are finding I. B. Rutledge, Chief of the Bureau of County Aid of the Highway Department, indeed cordial and helpful during their conferences with him on farm-to-market roads. He is a busy man these days.

I am glad to report that your columnist and a group of County Commissioners who conferred with Governor-elect Jim Folsom on September 3 found the incoming governor attentive and very friendly. "Big Jim" however was ordered to bed the next day and we all send best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Perry County's popular Judge Irbby Pope accompanied by Commissioner Joe Dwyer, and County Engineer R. M. Drew conferred with highway officials recently about farm-to-market roads for that county.

My good friend, Bill Stewart, one of the distinguished legislators from Morgan County was seen under the capital dome this week. It is always a pleasure to see Bill.

My old friend and acquaintance of many years, Mike Jenkins has resigned from the Board of Revenue of Montgomery County. Carl Bear, appointed by the Governor as his successor, is well qualified to carry on at the pace set by his predecessor. I hope Mike will not

NEW TAX YEAR

October 1 begins a new tax year. On that date tax collectors will start collecting property taxes which become delinquent on Jan. 1.

Assessments of property for the tax year 1946-1947 may be made after October 1 at the Tax Assessors office in the county court houses. Tax payers who own their homes, and live in them, may apply for Homestead Exemptions when they make their assessments. This exemption reduces the tax on homesteads at the rate of 65 cents on \$100 valuation, up to \$2,000.

The law provides that assessments may be made without penalty and homestead exemptions claimed through the third Monday of January. After that date a penalty of 10 per cent must be charged and no exemptions of any kind can be allowed.

WAR MEMORIAL RELIC

Bay Minette's City Hall lawn now contains a big 155 millimeter gun as a memorial to war veterans in the area.

The gun, mounted on a concrete platform, was obtained from the United States Army.

lose contact with us. It will be a pleasure to see him him at any time.

For many years L. R. Grimes has served on the Montgomery County Board of Revenue and it is with great pleasure for us to hear that he has been chosen as President of that county governing body. We send our heartiest congratulations to him.

The roll won't be called boys, but many thanks again for the swell time your column enjoyed on the recent boat party along the Gulf Coast. The Mobile hosts really knew how to make one happy. Our hats off to them.

The smiling countenance of my good friends S. P. Dale and C. E. Powell of Wilcox following their recent conference with highway officials indicated some measure of success to the undertaking.

My legislative comrades, Hunt Frazier of Dallas County and Cecil Duffie of Tallapoosa County were on hand to present the claims of their counties for one of the regional columns. Too, I must congratulate my friend, Bill Garrett, chairman, and members of the coliseum committee for what seemed best for the state's interest.

Here's good news from Henry County. A contract has been awarded for 9 1/2 miles of paving that will complete the gap between Headland and Columbia.

It was good to see County Engineer D. H. Padgett of St. Clair County, at an early morning breakfast table. He gets things accomplished in his part of the state and I don't think I can go wrong in saying that before January 1 20 miles of county roads will be under construction. Another contract will be let for roads up his way soon.

From Judge Alex Branley comes announcement of a contract signed for about 6 1/2 miles of grading, drainage and paving from Glenwood to Henderson.

Judge J. Lee Smith of Clanton tells me about the recently letting of 6 miles of farm-to-market road in Chilton County. This road serves as a connecting link and extends through a vast farming area.

Earl Bruner, the Jefferson County Commissioners, dropped in for a chat during his recent visit to Montgomery. Earl was in the capital city for a conference with highway officials. He is doing a fine job for Jefferson County.

I was glad to see my friend J. R. Mitternigh, member of the Board of Revenue of Mobile County. A recent honor has come to him which we must mention. He has been appointed a member of our Legislative Committee from the First District. Congratulations.

Our national President Judge G. C. Blanton, of Dallas County has returned from a meeting of the State Association of County Commissioners of Pennsylvania. Clatiborne is very enthusiastic about the possibilities of the National Organization as an asset to the counties. It is a pleasure to give him the fullest co-operation and to back him in developing his ideas.

My friend Judge I. R. Reddock of Crenshaw leaves a land-mark to his credit before retiring from office on January 1. This is the establishing of 12 1/2 miles of paved road between Lapine and Luverne, running through the towns of Bradleyton, Petrey and Patsburg. Through the splendid co-operation of the Board of Commissioners, consisting of M. W. Petrey, G. W. Slaughter, Earl Moody and J. F. Weed, the Judge leaves a long list of accomplishments from Crenshaw County as evidence of the success of his administration.

Another paving project of about 6 1/2 miles from Airport to Reeltown in Macon County is needed to complete the unpaired stretch.

Bear Member - Montgomery Revenue Board

Carl Bear, Montgomery lumberman, has become a member of the Montgomery County Board of Revenue having been appointed to that post by Governor Chauncey Sparks immediately after the resignation of J. M. Jenkins, president.

Mr. Jenkins, president of the board since February, 1941, tendered his resignation to the governor saying that heavy business demands of a personal nature that he could not attend to those duties as well as perform satisfactorily the public service necessary at this time.

A member of the Board of Revenue since the appointment of the late Cyrus Brown to the Montgomery City Commission, Mr. Jenkins service would have terminated in 1948.

The new board member has long been a personal friend of the governor and served as his secretary after the primary until he assumed office. He was recently discharged from the Navy.

Mr. Bear's present term will end in 1948 as he was appointed to fill the unexpired period of service of Board President Jenkins. New president of the Montgomery Board of Revenue is L. R. Grimes, long a member of that body. He has already assumed his new duties.

New Building For Jefferson Public Welfare Office

The Jefferson County Public Welfare Department will soon have a permanent roof over their heads when a long sought permanent building now seems assured with the purchase of a lot across from the Court House.

The Jefferson County Commission said the cost of ground would be \$13,750 and the building would be constructed for \$80,000 to \$90,000, the costs to be shared 45 per cent by the county and 55 per cent by the city.

Miss Frances Cassman, welfare director, said her department had been forced to move 10 times in the past 11 years.

Work is expected to begin in 30 to 60 days and occupancy should take place in six months. Board President Clarence Pinson said.

Montgomery Court Separates Docket

Separate dockets of the Montgomery Recorder's court for traffic and criminal cases was planned by City Recorder John B. Scott.

The Montgomery judge said that traffic cases are not to be treated as criminal cases and for that reason it should not be confused with the ordinary problems of crime.

The city judge indicated that traffic problems was still grave. He placed the traffic docket first on his court, then the criminal.

Kohn Named As County Attorney

Montgomery County has a new county attorney now that John Kohn has been appointed to the post by the Board of Revenue.

The new county attorney succeeds A. H. Arrington who died recently. Prominent in civic affairs, Mr. Kohn has served as captain in the State Guard before the war and during the World War II saw service overseas. He ranked as captain.

HONOR GOES TO SON OF WHITE

Municipal and county friends of John G. White, secretary of the Association of County Commissioners, will be interested to learn that Governor Chauncey Sparks has appointed Mr. White's son, John Morgan White, as a member of the Pardon and Parole Board.

John Morgan White comes to Montgomery from Mobile where he has been in charge of the Mobile office of the State Department of Labor since 1944.

Prior to joining the State Labor Department, Mr. White served as a field investigator for the pardons and paroles board for five years.

White succeeds Robert M. Hill who becomes a judicial judge in Florence having also been appointed to that post by Alabama's Chief Executive.

Fiscal Report Of Magic City Shows Heavy Expenses

The Department of General Administration headed by Mayor Cooper Green and Public Improvements with Commissioner James W. Morgan in charge showed savings in the budget but the expenditures of the entire City of Birmingham for the past fiscal year the expense exceeded appropriations by more than \$48,000.

City Comptroller C. E. Armstrong said the General Administration Department had an appropriation of \$586,547.50 but was \$13,282.32 less while Commissioner Morgan's unit showed a saving of \$4,369.91 out of \$830,000.

Accounting for the excess expenditures were a substantial outlay for repairs at Municipal Airport, not estimated in the budget; added appropriations during the year to the firemen's pension and relief funds; more than \$5,000 spent on Harrison Park; expenditures of more than \$3,000 at Slossfield Health Center; and a number of smaller miscellaneous expenditures not included in the original budget.

Expenditures in the Department of Public Safety, Health and Education, under Commissioner Eugene Connor, went \$8,750 over budget appropriations with equipment for accounting for the extra expenditures.

The annual report showed that major items of city revenue for the year included \$1,129,560 on city licenses and fees; \$423,247 on the one-cent gasoline tax; \$282,787 on bottled beer and \$1,026,641 on real and personal tax.

Capital Centennial Celebration Is Set

Mayor John L. Goodwyn of Montgomery has proclaimed the week of December 22-28 as Capital Centennial Celebration Week observing the 100th anniversary of moving of the state capital from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery.

The Montgomery mayor in his proclamation cited the development of the state in the last century and urged Montgomeryans to join in the activities planned to celebrate the occasion.

Parades, a gigantic parade and the Blue and Gray football game are scheduled for the week of celebrating.

Fairhope Ice & Creamery Co.

Manufacturing

Azalea Brand Ice Cream

MILK, CREAM, BUTTER AND ICE CREAM

MIX

Fairhope

Alabama

MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Fire Department In Fairhope Functions Well

When the fire alarm at the fire house in city hall sounds less than a minute passes before the truck is started and on its way to the scene of a blaze.

The alerted fire department who quick as a flash are ready to fight any Fairhope blaze or any fire that occurs within the vicinity is not a paid group. They're all volunteers and anxiously do their part to aid the city.

John McDaniel, a hardware firm employee and present chief, is proud of the fact that the city has had no fire loss in the past three years.

24 Volunteer Members

The chief, who is closing out his first year as head of the volunteer force, can tell you that each of the 24 volunteer members attend drill periods, meet once each month for a business and social session, and waste no time in getting to a fire the second the alarm sounds. He's even had a waiting list for membership in the department.

The Fire Department answers all calls on the eastern shore. They'll tell you about the time they saved a Daphne residence five miles away from burning and how quickly they responded to an alarm from Point Clear south of the city.

Organization

The fire department of Fairhope was first organized in 1926 and re-organized again in 1932. Officers are chosen by the men for annual periods but two terms is all they can serve. The first Tuesday in each month is a business meeting night for the volunteer firemen and attendance is exceptionally good.

Fairhope has a low insurance rate and could have an even lower one if they had a paid fire department. Since the volunteer squad is serving this organization efficiently a full paid force can wait. City Manager Howard Ridge is firmly convinced they're doing a job as well as they can and he's quite satisfied with the progress being made.

Members

J. F. McDaniel serves as Chief; Bill Funk as Assistant Chief; Arthur Stenzel is secretary and Collos Ward, treasurer, of the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department.

Other volunteer men and positions

DOTHAN ELIMINATES FIRE HAZARDS

Defective wiring led the list of hazards when Fire Chief R. H. Ryan of Dothan reported to the city commission that 23 fire hazards were found in the city during inspections in August.

Chief Ryan said 103 defective wiring hazards were found with 83 businesses having rubbish as the next most frequent cause.

Fire loss in the city during August was \$34. This compared with 333.75 in July and \$2,697 in June. All of the August loss was covered by insurance. Chief Ryan said.

Chief Ryan said business firms were co-operating with his department in trying to eliminate possible fire hazards.

The Inspector George Baker said R. E. Tredder, recently appointed electrical inspector for the City of Dothan worked with him in locating fire hazards.

Fire Plugs Will Lower Rates On Insurance

If Alberta City near Tuscaloosa is taken into the city limits, Commissioner W. H. Nichol said that the insurance rates would be lower on property within 1,000 feet of each plug.

The Commissioner stated that if the fire plugs are installed, property within a thousand feet of a plug would carry an insurance rate of 35 cents per \$100.

Commissioner Nichol said that if the property is annexed, the city plans to place fire plugs on all lines in the area of proper size within 90 days.

The present insurance rate on the residential property involved is 81 cents per \$100.

they fill on the department are as follows: George Dyson, nozzlemaster; Harold Miller, Eddie Woods, Jenkins Nelson, Russell Joiner, Bayard Good, Johnny Lucassen, Ray Newman are hosemen; Ed Titon, Harold Gooden, and Gordon McClean take care of salvage operations; Robert Falkenberg, Emmet Stokes, Leo Keller and Rudolph Trueson are plugmen; Jack Titus and Ed Walshaw are policemen; Bill Brown and Bill Anacker are drivers.

Two trucks owned by the city are operated by the Fire Department. Drill periods are conducted to keep the men in practice.

Chief McDaniel and his men are always at the service of the city and they've been praised by the council for the fine work accomplished since their organization.

Licenses Sold By Tarrant Fire Chief

The place to buy hunting and fishing licenses in Tarrant City is not from the city clerk. That duty is performed by the fire chief, C. J. Kittrell, as this month he announced the receipt of the 1946 licenses.

Old licenses expire in October and now the new ones are on sale at the Tarrant City Fire Station.

Don't Shoot Fireworks In City Of Dothan

Don't shoot fireworks in Dothan. That's an order from Police Chief Eddie Kelly and he means to enforce the city ordinance on it.

A city ordinance regulates the sale or use of fireworks within the corporate limits or police jurisdiction.

Tarrant Fire Chief Honors Associates

To express his gratitude for his associates in the help they have rendered Fire Chief C. J. Kittrell recently gave a watermelon cutting on the lawn of the Tarrant City Hall.

Chief Kittrell has been with the Tarrant Fire Department for 19 years and he held this party to honor his men for the cooperation given.

Improvement In Fire Alarm System Of Capital City

Montgomery has made numerous improvements to its fire alarm and traffic control system, Commissioner of Public Safety W. P. Screws announced recently.

Commissioner Screws said that an automatic control arrangement had been installed in the central headquarters of the fire department to safeguard against accidents involving fire trucks leaving the station.

This new system, operating on receipt of an alarm at headquarters throws the lights on the corners of Madison and Perry and Court and Perry to permanent red and blinking yellow. Traffic must pull over to the side.

The Public Safety Commissioner further revealed that arrangements are being made to place identical lights at all corners on Perry and Court Streets from Madison Avenue to Adams Avenue.

It was pointed out that such a system would allow the apparatus free and rapid egress from the station through the congested downtown streets to the south portion of the city.

Two new blinking lights and seven red-yellow-green traffic lights are

Proclaim Fire Prevention Week

Governor Chauncey Sparks has proclaimed October 6 through the 12th as Fire Prevention Week in the state, calling attention and asking the cooperation of all persons in Alabama to observe the period to keep fires from occurring and eliminating hazards.

"I urgently invite every man, woman and child to assume his individual responsibility in order that the lives and property of our nation may be conserved for the rebuilding of a greater America," Governor Sparks declared.

He pointed out that fires this year threaten to exact the greatest toll of lives and waste of material resources this nation has ever experienced, particularly at a time when the country is faced with shortages of essentials necessary to recover from the devastation of World War II.

"The vast majority of fires are preventable by the exercise of common sense," he said.

in those towns. The chief of the department, J. E. McDaniel states there is a waiting list for membership. The department has a three-year record of no loss of property.

Appoint Mobile Fire Personnel

Appointments of 16 firemen in Mobile and two in Pritchard have been announced by officials of the two municipalities.

Commissioner C. A. Baunhauer of Mobile said:

The 16 appointed included 10 wait service appointees who will now have permanent positions in the fire department. The six new appointees are: W. R. Camp, R. L. Carmichael, J. D. Howard, B. L. Knight, L. T. McAtee, E. V. Sullivan, D. P. Ward, Jr., Johnny Wheeler, R. F. Wheeler and V. C. Withner. The six new appointees are H. E. Smith, Tim Vaughn, W. R. Parham, L. F. Scott, D. W. Shaw, and C. L. Haskew.

T. F. Moseley and C. E. Lotz were named by officials as members of the Pritchard Fire Department.

greater care and caution on the part of our citizens," the chief executive said.

The Huntsville Police force now has a fingerprint expert. Claude Smith has assumed these duties. He was formerly on the investigation staff at the Huntsville Arsenal.

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