

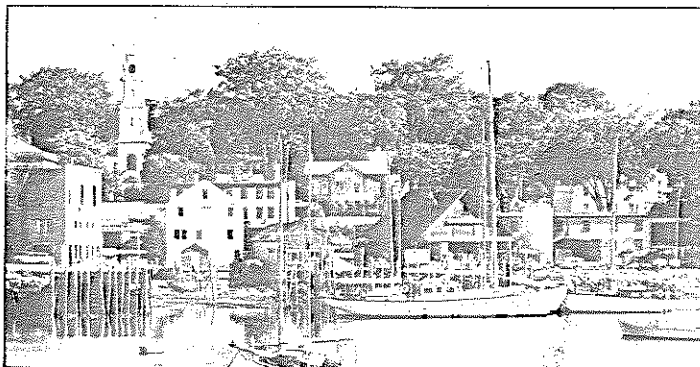


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SAFE PLACES EAST

by David and Holly Franke



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DAVID FRANKE was born in Houston, Texas. His journalism experience includes stints on *Human Events*, *National Review* and *The New Guard*, and he is now a senior editor for a New York book publisher. Mr. Franke compiled *Quotations from Chairman Bill: The Best of Wm. F. Buckley, Jr.*, published in 1970. HOLLY LAMBRO FRANKE was born in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and attended Boston University. She worked several years on Capitol Hill, serving on the staffs of Congressman Gene Snyder and Congressman Thomas J. Meskill, now Governor of Connecticut. David and Holly were married in 1969 and live in Manhattan. Their interests include traveling, conservation and local history.

SAFE PLACES EAST

by David and Holly Franke

Drawings and Maps by Dexter C. McDonald

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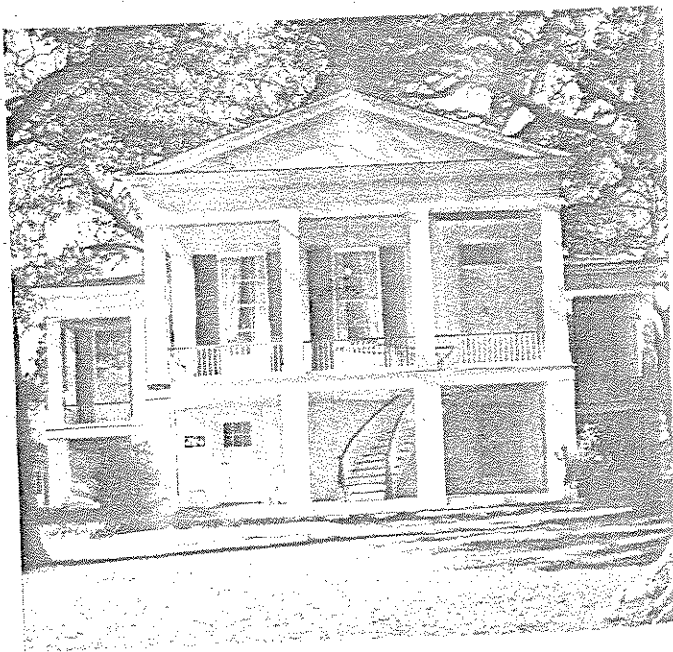
Dozens of Americans provided us with a cordial welcome and reams of essential and helpful information as we traveled across country in our search for SAFE PLACES. Housewives, small business entrepreneurs, teachers, students, real-estate agents, Chamber of Commerce officials, retirees, town officials, policemen, editors, judges, blue-collar and white-collar workers—they all helped make this book as complete as it is, and we are grateful. They are too numerous to be listed here, but we acknowledge their help in each individual chapter.

Our trip also offered many opportunities to renew old friendships and make new ones. In Michigan we were guests of our good friend George McDonnell—he's "like family"—and as always enjoyed his company and that of his equally convivial sister and brother-in-law, Paul and Marianne Kasper. George suggested our SAFE PLACE for Michigan, so if you get mugged in Gaylord, send your complaints directly to *him*, not us! At Johnny's Cafe at the Omaha stockyards, an outstanding steak dinner was preceded by a round at the bar served by Shorty the bartender. Shorty treated us not only to the round but also to a fascinating short course in Midwest brewing history. Friends Bill and Kaye Quast, two of Montana's most ardent spokesmen, joined us in Yellowstone country, and couldn't understand how we could think of returning to work in New York now that we had both sampled heaven. Next we were guests of Dick and Bonnie Grover, who had returned to their native Washington after a year or two in New York; *they* couldn't understand why we didn't pack bags for Seattle, and we must admit both Montana and Puget Sound were tempting. It was family reunion time in California—in San Francisco with David's brother and sister-in-law, Durwood and Rita Franke, and their two delightful moppets, Rachel and Gretchen; in Los Angeles with Holly's oldest brother Phillip, a composer of considerable talent who introduced us to zen macro-

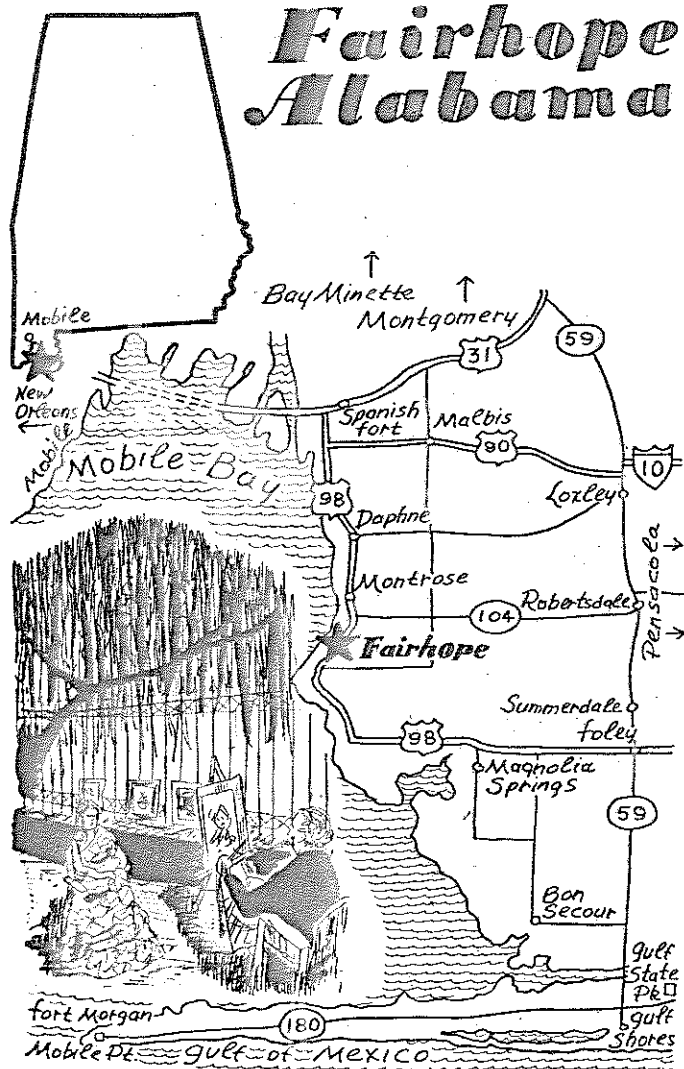
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FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

In its stately old homes, moss-draped trees, and azalea and dogwood foliage, you can see the heritage of the Old South. But Fairhope is much more, too—a town located in an area with strong French and maritime cultural influences, where you can feast on scrumptious seafoods and Creole dishes in the restaurants. It was founded by single-tax advocates, and today offers minimal taxes and a low cost of living, a gracious style of life, a zesty cultural calendar, and excellent swimming and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and Mobile Bay. This is what much of Florida was like before its population explosion.



Fairhope Alabama



WE HAD PARKED ON ONE OF FAIRHOPE'S MAIN business streets, and as we made ready to leave we were greeted by a smile from a lady who had noticed our New York license plates. She and her husband, it turned out, were retirees from Stamford, Connecticut, and had lived in Fairhope for ten years. "I originally came from the D.C. area," she told us, "and so we thought we would settle in Maryland or Virginia. But we kept coming farther south in order to escape the winters. When we reached Fairhope we knew we didn't have to go any farther—we love it here."

That's a rather common story in Fairhope, for some 15 percent of the town's population consists of retirees, a good number of them happily transplanted Yankees. In Fairhope they find the respite from the winter cold that others seek in Florida—but they find it without Florida's growing commercialism, increasing crime and escalating cost of living. Fairhope is not just a retirement center, however; the great bulk of the population are working breadwinners and their families, with considerable commuting to Mobile (20 miles away) and the smaller towns of Baldwin County, in which Fairhope is located. They settle in Fairhope for much the same reason as the retirees—it is such a *pleasant* place in which to live.

The streets in Fairhope are shaded, the houses and neighborhoods set amidst the flowers and plants one associates with the Deep South—azalea, dogwood, wisteria, iris, caladium, among many others. Moss-draped trees line the highways and lotus crops are on the bayous along the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. The entire upper Eastern Shore, an area some 12 miles or more in length, is one of the more scenic and delightful residential areas of the South, a succession of small communities situated on high, densely wooded bluffs. Fairhope is their commercial center, but it too remains predominantly residential in nature. Its residents are culturally oriented, and indeed Fairhope probably has more artists per capita than any other community for quite a distance—its art club boasts 550 members, pretty good for a town of 5,720 population. The average education level is 12.4 years of school,

and the average income of \$5,500 a year compares well with the state average of \$2,500 (1960 figures, the latest available). Yet the cost of living is exceptionally low, so much so that a lead article in a consumer newsletter, *Moneysworth*, was written by a Fairhope resident telling how she and her mother and her cat live on \$75 a month. We doubt you'd want to live quite as sparingly as she described, but you *can* get a nice three-bedroom home with 100 feet of beachfront for \$30,000 here, and landlocked homes for considerably less—and if you have checked waterfront property anywhere else lately, you will know how reasonable that is. Racial friction is minimal for a Southern community, especially in comparison with a city such as Mobile, where a third of the population is black and where there have been demonstrations and incidents. Welfare is minimal, too, and taxes are about as low as you can find today unless you live in a tent.

Part of Fairhope, in fact, is a single-tax colony administered by adherents of Henry George and of the principles he enunciated in his book, *Progress and Poverty*. If you live on land owned by the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, you pay even less taxes than in the rest of the town but you can only lease the land, for 99 years—the corporation owns it. About 15 percent of the land in the city limits and a quarter of the surrounding area are owned by the Single Tax Corporation.

This is a region with a fascinating history, having had the flags of Spain, France, Great Britain, the Confederacy and the United States fly over it. The Spanish explorer De Navaez was here just 36 years after Columbus, and in 1519 Pineda explored the bay and had his cartographer make an almost perfect map of it—so that Mobile Bay was the first body of water in the Western Hemisphere to be accurately charted. In 1702 Jean Baptiste Lemoyne, Sieur de Bienville, founded the French colony that became known as Fort Louis de la Mobile, thus jointly honoring Louis XIV of France and the friendly Indians of the area, the Mabila. The area changed hands several times, depending on the fortunes of the European empires in the New World, and in 1813 the United States seized the city

from the Spanish. Legend often is indistinguishable from history, as when it is claimed that the pirate Jean Lafitte hid his buccaneers and ships in Weeks Bay, on the Eastern Shore, calling it "my hidden river." But the area's role in the War Between the States is documented, and the most famous incident to go down in the textbooks was the command by Union Admiral Farragut in Mobile Bay: "Damn the torpedoes—full speed ahead!" Today there is considerable interest over the raising of the U.S.S. *Tecumseh*, the ironclad of his fleet that was sunk by the Confederates. To this day the French influence remains strong in the Mobile Bay area, as does the atmosphere of the Old South, while other small communities in Baldwin County retain the traditions of their Scandinavian, Greek, German, Hungarian, Yugoslavian and Italian founders. History is still being written, of course, this time by migrants from all parts of the nation, including—who knows?—perhaps yourself.

Business & Industry Fairhope itself is mostly residential, but Baldwin County, in which it is situated, has a diverse economy based on agriculture, forestry and manufacturing. Within easy commuting distance are plants and businesses in Foley, 23 miles southeast; in Robertsedale, 14 miles east; in Loxley, 16 miles northeast; and in Bay Minette, 33 miles northeast. The great bulk of the commuters, however, work in metropolitan Mobile, just 20 miles away. Traffic gets jammed at the toll tunnel under Mobile Bay, but completion of Interstate 10 should solve that problem.

Southern Alabama is attractive to industry because of the low taxes, good labor market, mild climate, and abundance of natural resources such as water, natural gas, timber and raw materials. Some of the products manufactured in the Fairhope area include brick and tile from the deposits of native clay, athletic training equipment, boats, fish nets, and lures. One plant processes Baldwin-grown pecans, and a plastics factory has recently opened.

Along the coastal areas south of Fairhope, fishing is a

multimillion-dollar business, with dozens of Gulf shrimp trawlers operating out of the area. Among the catches are jumbo shrimp, snapper, and other deep-sea fish. This is also the home of Bon Secour oysters, and Bon Secour Fisheries employs 37 workers.

In Foley, Hale Manufacturing Company employs over 300 men and women in its manufacture of textile fibers used in rugs and carpets. Baldwin Oil Mills employs 18 men and one woman, processing soybeans into the oil used by the Hunt-Wesson and Swift companies, and into bean meal used in making high-protein feed for livestock. An aluminum fabrication plant is operated by Vulcan Signs and Stampings, Inc.; among the street signs it has manufactured were several thousand for New York City. Other employers include Gulf Coast Foundry (iron furniture), employing 28 men; Peoples Fertilizer Company, with 19 employees; Riviera Utilities, with 47 men and 13 women on its payroll; and Gulf Telephone Company, employing 28 men and 36 women. Another local company makes fishing poles and fishing accessories.

Monsanto Chemical manufactures fertilizer products at its plant in Summerdale, between Foley and Robertsedale. At Robertsedale, Vanity Fair Mills employs over 850 women. (Vanity Fair is the largest manufacturer of women's lingerie in the country.) And another producer of soybean products, Alabama Baldwin Corporation, is located at Loxley.

Bay Minette is considered the industrial capital of Baldwin County. There you will find Kaiser Aluminum's \$2,500,000 plant manufacturing bare electric cables for utility lines, and employing over 100; the Newport Division of Tenneco Chemicals, Inc., employing over 125 men in the production of chemicals for industrial and consumer use; the Eastwood-Nealley Company of New Jersey, producing Fourdrinier and paper mill wire cloth at its \$3 million plant; and International Paper Company's plant producing corrugated shipping containers. Other Bay Minette employers are Baldwin Pole and Piling Company (creosote poles used for fences and construction); Standard Furniture Company, manufacturing 2,500 bedroom

sets a week, and with 460 employees; and Bay Slacks, Inc., producers of 4,000 pairs of slacks per day.

In addition to the creosote mill and furniture and paper manufacturers, Baldwin County has eight lumber mills and a veneer mill. With some 800,000 acres planted in timber, primarily pine and hardwood, and with the northern part of the county alone producing a growing stock of over 600 million board feet, timber is the county's largest income product, and Baldwin leads the state in its production. There is a continuous program of conservation and replanting, with pines growing to paper stock size in 12 to 15 years.

Mobile has a population of 190,000, Mobile County a population of over 300,000. Job opportunities there are considerably more varied, of course, with the principal industries being paper processing, chemical processing, aluminum processing, the manufacturing of internal combustion engines, and ship repair and boat building. Mobile is the 15th busiest port in the United States, handling over 22 million tons of cargo each year. Nonagricultural employment in the metropolitan area in 1969 broke down as follows:

Total Nonagricultural Employment	104,900
Total Manufacturing	24,900
Food & Kindred	2,600
Lumber & Wood	2,000
Paper & Allied	7,800
Chemicals & Allied	2,600
Shipbuilding & Repair	3,500
All Other Manufacturing	6,400
Total Nonmanufacturing	80,000
Construction	6,600
Transportation, Communication, Utilities	10,300
Trade (Retail-Wholesale)	25,300
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4,900
Service & Miscellaneous	16,000
Government	16,900

Note: Self-employed, domestics and unpaid family work-

ers are excluded from these estimates. Government classification includes public schools, colleges, public medical service and hospitals, and also publicly owned docks and utilities.

Occupational Earnings, Mobile Area Mean Hourly

Occupation	Earnings	Middle Range
Keypunch operators	\$2.56-\$2.78	\$2.25-\$3.25
Secretaries	3.15	2.57- 3.68
Stenographers, general	2.52	2.16- 2.81
Stenographers, senior	3.05	2.71- 3.18
Typists	2.07	1.83- 2.22
Carpenters, maintenance	4.29	4.21- 4.49
Electricians, maintenance	4.26	4.23- 4.50
Engineers, stationary	3.70	3.38- 4.13
Firemen, stationary boiler	2.83	1.97- 4.00
Machinists, maintenance	4.21	3.72- 4.55
Mechanics, automotive (maintenance)	3.76	2.98- 4.55
Mechanics, maintenance	4.25	4.30- 4.47
Painters, maintenance	3.99	3.86- 4.33
Pipefitters, maintenance	4.24	3.72- 4.46
Electronic technicians	4.33	3.95- 4.74
Laborers, material handling	2.30	1.79- 2.71
Truckdrivers	2.79	2.00- 3.63
Truckers, power (forklift)	3.01	2.29- 3.46

Agriculture Baldwin County, with an annual agricultural income of over \$25,000,000, leads the state in production of potatoes and sweet corn, and is second in cabbage and poultry production. With a growing season of approximately 274 days, the mechanized farmer has two harvests each year, and the county's average farm family income is above the national and state average. In all, there are 130,000 acres under cultivation in the county.

The leading commercial crop is Irish potatoes, with 12,000 to 15,000 acres planted each year, and a gross of over \$7,000,000 income some years. Between 4,000 and 5,000 Mexican migrant laborers join in the harvest. Soy-

beans are the second leading crop, with 100,000 acres grossing over \$6,000,000 annually. Corn harvests yield up to 75 bushels per acre, with corn silage yields of up to 15 tons per acre. The raising of gladioli and nursery stock brings in \$1,500,000 a year, and truck crops include watermelon, turnip greens, sweet potatoes, snap beans, lima beans, cabbage, cucumbers, cantaloupe, squash, okra, tomatoes, radishes, and collard greens.

There are nearly 100,000 pecan trees in Baldwin County, with large warehouses and two processors located here. Brazil nuts are imported by the processors.

Dairying has grown in importance, with Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey cows producing milk for some 63 Grade A dairies. Woodhaven Dairy in Robertsedale employs over 100 people. Purebred beef cattle herds have grown from two or three in 1947 to 15 today; raised here are Polled and White-faced Herefords, Black Angus, Shorthorns, and Brangus. All told, there are 1,000 ranches in the county raising some 40,000 head of cattle and calves, with 20,000 acres of permanent pasturage. Cattle sales bring in about \$3,000,000 annually, with most of that grossed at the Robertsedale Livestock Auction—the third largest operation of its kind in the state.

Quarter horses, Appaloosas, walking horses, ponies, American saddlebred horses, palominos, Arabians, and thoroughbreds are being raised in the county. Nearly 600 farms raise Landrace, Poland China, and Duroc hogs, and there are over 400 egg producers in the county.

At the Fairhope Experimental Station, a division of Auburn University, experimental research planting tests new strains for products.

Housing Edwin Warley, a real-estate broker in Fairhope, told us that he had available "a full range in apartments from \$60 to \$135 per month, acreage from \$300 to \$1,000 per acre, and waterfront, generally between \$150 to \$300 per front foot, depending on its location." At the time of our visit, he had these properties available:

"3-bedroom, 2-bath brick home, near high school, deeded lot, \$24,900."

"Johnson Avenue, nice 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, centrally located. Equity sale, \$14,500."

"4-unit apartment house overlooking Mobile Bay plus garage apartment in rear. All units completely furnished. Many extras furnished. This is a very good buy at \$35,000."

"2 lovely wooded lots, deeded, on Orange Street one block from bay, \$5,800."

Duncan Turnbull, of Turnbull Realty Company in nearby Point Clear, assured us that "there is some acreage to be had—from 2-acre tracts to 239 acres. We have a few building lots in Fairhope which run from \$1,500 for a 100' × 120' lot, to \$3,500 for a 66' × 143' lot. Land is from \$600 per acre to \$1,500 per acre."

As an example of a lower-priced home, he told us of "an old, three-bedroom, one working bath and one in the house but not working, with gas heat, not air conditioned, with a large fenced backyard for \$6,500."

"This house is in the process of being remodeled," he noted, "and some of the rooms have new paneling, new ceiling and new fixtures, but no one room is completely finished except the kitchen. The lot is 64' × 134'. This is on Colony property and the taxes are \$116.18 per year."

"In the medium-price range for houses," he said, "we have several in the \$15,000 class—two- and three-bedroom homes, some with living-dining combinations, one with separate dining room, and one or two with dens. These are on lots from 66' × 180' to 75' × 150'. Some of these have 1½ baths, some two, and one with only one bath. Most are centrally heated, and most of them have air-conditioning units."

A more expensive listing was "a moderately new 3-bedroom, 2-full-bath home, with living, dining, large kitchen, patio, garage on a nice lot for \$25,000. The house is in excellent condition, is one block from the high school and within walking distance of town. Taxes are \$92 per year."

We noted that Turnbull had a number of listings for waterfront property in the *Fairhope Courier*, most of them

in the \$30,000-\$35,000 range. An example was one with "3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, 100' on bay, bulkhead, boat storage, workshop, central heat, air conditioned, fireplace in living room, Mary Ann Beach. \$32,500."

For \$50,000 Turnbull had a home at "Point Clear, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, large glassed-in porch, floor furnace, fireplace, air conditioned, 90' on bay, guesthouse and bath."

And, in the *Courier's* classifieds, we noticed this nice-sounding listing by Hudson Realty: "Point Clear, brick masonry, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, central heat and air. 235-foot cypress pier with two boat houses with lifts with all the goodies. Lot 100' x 280'. \$75,000."

Taxes Charles L. Gay, manager of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Fairhope, told us, "The total tax rate for real property (state, county, and local) is 15 mills. This total rate is applied to 60 percent of the assessed valuation." Taxes on our sample \$30,000 SAFE PLACES home, therefore, would be a delightfully low \$270.

City Government & Community Services Fairhope is governed by a mayor-councilman form of government, with a city manager hired by the council. The water supply is from deep wells, soft and pure, and water rates are among the lowest in the Southeast. Natural-gas costs are also low, piped in from Louisiana and Texas fields, and electricity is provided by Riviera Utilities Company. The police department has a force of seven men.

Crime Rate Fairhope citizens "can walk freely on the streets any hour of the day or night," we were told by Charles Gay. "Door locks are considered optional, but discreet." He added, with tongue in cheek, we suspect: "Happily our crime rate has been cut in half by getting the drug-abusing family involved to move to Pascagoula, Mississippi. This place is so small, we have to take turns being the town drunk."

It is true that crimes of violence are rather rare here. There have been no murders during the last five years,

with just one rape case and six armed robberies during that period. And while aggravated assaults and burglaries are higher than national averages, it must be remembered that such crime is especially prevalent throughout the South. Compare Fairhope with Mobile across the Bay, even in these categories, and you will understand why Fairhope's residents don't seem to be unduly perturbed about crime in their community. Mobile's crime rates are higher than national levels in all categories of felonies, often considerably higher. Mobile's rate of robberies is almost nine times that of Fairhope's; it has twice as many burglaries per 100,000 population, almost twice as many grand larcenies and nearly four times as much auto theft.

In 1969, according to Police Records Clerk Walter M. Yohn, Fairhope had no murders or forcible rapes. There was 1 robbery, and other crimes included 10 aggravated assaults, 67 burglaries, 25 larcenies \$50 and over, and 8 auto thefts. Here is how Fairhope compares with crime levels nationally and with those in Mobile per 100,000 population:

	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny \$50 and Over	Auto Theft
United States	7.2	18.1	147.4	151.8	965.6	749.3	431.8
Metropolitan Areas	8.2	22.2	206.5	179.6	1,188.2	910.2	580.9
Mobile	17.4	27.9	157.9	290.0	2,423.7	811.1	537.4
FAIRHOPE	0	0	17.5	174.8	1,171.3	437.1	139.9

Education Fairhope has modern elementary, junior high, and high school facilities, with over 1,750 students enrolled. Fairhope Senior High School serves the entire Eastern Shore area of Mobile Bay. Charles Gay told us that the "local schools are modern, well ordered, and rated good academically," but that "in the public sector, considerable confusion exists in attempts to comply with the

HEW departmental directives. A result has been the emergence of a series of excellent private and parochial schools, plus the rapid growth of older existing private and parochial schools. If the current federal interference with local education continues, the public schools will ultimately become babysitting establishments which keep the child off the street until he is old enough to start a welfare-supported family."

Among the nonpublic schools are two parochial schools in the nearby town of Daphne. Bayside Academy, also located in Daphne, is one of the private schools in the area. Children from preschool age through 8th grade are accepted, and it is planned to expand to all 12 grades. Classes are limited to 25 students, and annual tuition charges range from \$180 for four-year-olds to \$525 for 7th and 8th graders. The academy declares that it "is dedicated to the goal of excellence in education, . . . with special emphasis on such traits as honesty, self-discipline, patriotism, and service." Fairhope is the home of the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education, formed in 1907 and long known as a leader in "progressive education." The school's leaflet explains that the methods employed are called "organic" "because they follow the natural growth of the pupil." Handicrafts, arts and folk dancing occupy a prominent place in the curriculum, and "to minimize self-consciousness and to encourage the child to work for the joy of learning rather than the superficial reward of grades, no examinations or report cards are given to the young children in the elementary grades." Kindergarten through high school instruction is given, and the school asserts that "while a certain informality exists in the classroom situations, the school is not a 'do as you please' school. Obedience to established rules is insisted upon. The aim of the school is to avoid regimentation and to help the child develop self-discipline."

Located in Mobile are the University of South Alabama, with 4,500 students; Spring Hill College, with an enrollment of 1,000; Mobile College, with 406 students; and Mobile State Junior College, with 875 students. Also in Mobile are the Southwest State Technical Institute and

the Carver State Technical Trade School. Bay Minette is the home of Faulkner State Junior College, with 1,189 students.

Medical Facilities Fairhope's Thomas Hospital is a new 59-bed facility serving the town and surrounding area. Also in Fairhope are six pharmacies, a medical center, and three nursing and convalescent homes accommodating over 200 patients. Six doctors, including specialists in several fields, and four dentists practice here.

At Foley, South Baldwin Hospital has 59 beds and 10 bassinets. Also located in that town's medical center are an 83-bed nursing home, three medical clinics, and an animal clinic. Twelve doctors and four dentists practice there.

Mobile, of course, has much more extensive facilities. The Mobile area has six general hospitals and a tuberculosis hospital, with a total of 1,520 beds; nursing schools are affiliated with three of the hospitals. Also in Mobile you will find a Mental Health Center and a Rehabilitation Center.

Climate Located on high ground over 100 feet above sea level, and cooled by Gulf breezes, Fairhope has a moderate climate the year round. Its greenery is assured by a high annual rainfall of over 60 inches. The mean annual temperature is 68.6 degrees; average January low is 47.2 degrees; and average July high is 88.5 degrees. There is an average of 360 days with sunshine each year.

In 1969, Fairhope was brushed by hurricane Camille and her winds of 90 miles an hour. But being on high bluffs and screened by a dense covering of trees, no major damage was sustained.

Average Temperatures

Month	Daily Maximum	Daily Minimum	Monthly Average
January	60.7	47.2	53.9
February	62.6	48.9	55.7

March	66.2	53.2	59.7
April	73.6	59.9	66.7
May	79.9	67.1	73.5
June	86.6	73.4	80.0
July	88.5	76.0	82.2
August	87.8	76.4	82.1
September	87.0	73.8	80.4
October	78.3	64.8	71.5
November	69.4	55.4	62.4
December	62.3	48.5	55.4
Year	75.2	62.0	68.6

Shopping Facilities In Fairhope you will find a good range of businesses and services to meet most of your day-to-day needs, including two banks and a savings and loan association. For more extensive shopping facilities, all the department stores and specialty shops of metropolitan Mobile are just 20 miles away. And every now and then you may want to combine a shopping spree with some French Quarter fun in New Orleans—only 167 miles west of Fairhope!

Passenger Transportation Fairhope is located on U.S. 98, across Mobile Bay and 20 miles from the city of Mobile. Two miles above Fairhope is the junction of Alabama Highway 104 and U.S. 98. About 11 miles north of Fairhope, construction is proceeding on Interstate 10, which will head east to Jacksonville, Florida, and west to New Orleans and points beyond. Fairhope is 51 miles from Pensacola, Florida, via U.S. 98; 177 miles from Montgomery, Alabama, via U.S. 98, U.S. 31 and Interstate 65; and 167 miles from New Orleans via U.S. 98, Interstate 10 and U.S. 90.

Bus transportation to Mobile is not the best in the world—there are just three runs daily: in early morning, at noon, and in late afternoon. From Mobile, four carriers will give you a choice of 57 daily departures for all points.

Fairhope has no railroad passenger service, and under the new National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("Amtrak") system, no passenger service is scheduled for

Mobile either. The nearest railroad passenger stops are at New Orleans and Montgomery.

Fairhope Municipal Airport, with a paved and lighted 4,600-foot runway, capable of handling small executive jets, is located just three miles from the center of town. Air taxi service is available to Mobile and Pensacola. Mobile is served by four air passenger carriers, with 25 scheduled flights daily.

Communications The *Fairhope Courier* is a weekly, published every Thursday. Mobile and Bay Minette dailies are also circulated in town.

Radio station WABF broadcasts from Fairhope. Other Baldwin County stations include one in Foley and one in Bay Minette. There are ten radio stations broadcasting from Mobile County, including one FM and one stereo station.

Mobile's three television stations include affiliates of CBS, NBC, and NET—Alabama Educational Television.

Community Life Fairhope's churches represent 11 denominations, with most of the major groupings among them. Women's associations centered around church activities include Church Women United, Baptist Women's Mission Union, the St. Lawrence Altar Society, Women's Christian Fellowship (Christian), Women of the Church (Episcopal), Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service, and Women of the Church (Presbyterian).

More than 50 organizations are available if you're a joiner. The Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees and Jeyceetes, Civitan, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, and Fairhope Booster Club are some of the civic groups. Various fraternal groups are represented, among them the Masons, Elks, and Woodmen of the World. For veterans and their wives there are posts of the American Legion and VFW and their auxiliaries, the Disabled American Veterans, a World War I Barracks, and a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. With Fairhope's climate and beautiful foliage it's no surprise that you'll find a Fairhope Garden Club, the Eastern

Shore African Violet Club, a Dogwood Garden Club, the Lake Forest Garden Club, the nearby Montrose Garden Club, a Wisteria Garden Club, and others. A chapter of the National Association of Retired Civic Employees meets in town, and there is a Baldwin County Retired Teachers Association. The women have a multitude of organizations: the Tuesday Study Club (and the Daphne Women's Study Club nearby), a DAR chapter, Business and Professional Women, Republican Women, and the Eastern Shore Junior Women's Club, to name a few. A Young Homemakers Club, the East Fairhope Extension Homemakers, a Home Demonstration Council, and PTAs for both the public elementary and high schools and the School of Organic Education are active. Charitable work is carried on through such organizations as the Thomas Hospital Auxiliary, the American Red Cross chapter, and the church groups.

The Fairhope Yacht Club has won three national trophies in class boat racing, and extends guest privileges to members of other yacht clubs. A Power Squadron meets at the club. Many recreational activities are coordinated by the Adult and Tourist Recreation Club—contact this club the first thing when you arrive in town. Dances and fun times are sponsored by a number of fellowships, including the Belles & Beaux (square dancers), the Cotillion, Fahera, Knights and Knighties, Mari Masquers, Revellers, and Stags.

Friends of the Library supports the town library, which boasts over 30,000 volumes—a nice collection for a town this size. Other nearby libraries include the Mobile Public Library, with 230,290 volumes; the University of South Alabama Library, with 165,000 volumes; and the 116,000 volumes in the library at Spring Hill College.

Fairhope is perhaps best known for its extensive cultural life, with the Eastern Shore Art Association (ESAA) having over 550 members, and other groups such as the Baldwin County Writers Club active in town. The art association now has its own gallery and art center—the Percy H. Whiting Art Center, with 4,000 square feet of floor space that includes an exhibition gallery, a studio, a

conference area and office, a sales gallery, and storage space. This art center is a veritable beehive of activity. In the 1969–70 season, for example, there were regular monthly art shows, and, in addition, three shows by member-artists and nine by invited nonresident artists. A men's Coffee Club met there for discussions on varied topics every Thursday afternoon, and ESAA club members held monthly dinner meetings, followed by entertainment and educational programs on conservation, history, art, ballet and such. There were Sunday afternoon programs and lectures on such subjects as Colonial furniture, interior decoration, Indian arts and crafts, and glass designs; showings of classical films, travel films, and slides; and special demonstrations of watercolors, acrylic painting, and the making of a jeweled Christmas tree collage. Area youngsters put on a Nativity play with choral singing of carols, and there were classes in oils, a two-week workshop in acrylics, and three regular weekly painting workshops.

The greatest concentration of activity at any one time is during the annual Arts & Crafts Tour, a week-long project with activities throughout the Eastern Shore but centered in Fairhope. Artists and craftsmen from a three-state area display, demonstrate and sell their wares, with numerous window exhibits and fence shows. There is fine art in all media, and crafts ranging from glassblowing to corn shuck dolls, from gem cutting to net knitting. You'll find displays of ceramics, puppetry, chair caning, flower-making, textile painting, pottery, quilts, stoneware, brass rubbings, antebellum dolls, and all manner of antique, artifact, and hobby collections. (A Daphne tavern has one of the most complete collections of Jim Beam bottles in the Deep South!) In 1970, one artist displayed her pine needle art, which had been featured in *National Geographic*, and Biblical illustrator and marine artist Cleveland Woodward, one of the many artists residing in Fairhope, usually puts on a display. Some of the week's events on the Eastern Shore are a parade, an antique car display, barbecues, spaghetti and ham dinners, bake sales, ethnic events, open houses of historic buildings, book re-

views and movies, folk dancing by Organic School students, band and choir concerts (including one by a barbershop quartet and choir), an "Old Caledonia" market and a "Spanish Market" featuring Spanish food, vendors, dancers, and street musicians.

Parks & Recreation Fairhope's City Park and Recreation Board has activities planned for all age groups, including retirees, and the summer recreation program includes instruction in swimming, tennis, archery, softball and baseball. The Adult and Tourist Recreation Club, already referred to above, also has year-round programs for older people.

Swimming is the most popular activity in the summer, with hunting, baseball, football, basketball, and bowling popular in the winter. There are many sailing regattas, and town facilities include two miles of shady public beaches on Mobile Bay and a new \$600,000 public pier that extends almost 1,400 feet into the bay. The pier serves as a center for fishing, sailing, picnicking, and sunbathing activities. Fairhope also has over 100 acres of parks with lighted and developed playing fields.

BALDWIN COUNTY ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Fascinating tours await you right in your own backyard of Baldwin County. As you drive north along Mobile Bay, you will see **Ecor Rouge**—a red cliff 268 feet high that is said to be the highest point on the U.S. coastline between Maine and Mexico (some say between New Jersey and Mexico). A mariner's landmark on Spanish maps of the 1500s, the cliff was first called Ecor Rouge in the 1700s by French settlers. The town of **Daphne** is considered to be one of the most charming communities in Alabama, with antebellum homes and several historic buildings, including a Methodist church that is 175 years old. At **Spanish Fort**, Confederate forces, outnumbered 8 to 1, made their last defense of Mobile; Federal earthworks and Confederate fortifications remain. And at **Malbis** is the home of a Greek Colony founded by Greek Orthodox

priest Jason Malbis in 1906. Visit the magnificent Orthodox church, and resume your northward trek, now along the Tensaw River bottom. **Blakeley Cemetery** is a few miles above Spanish Fort; buried there are many pioneers of old Blakeley, once a thriving port city located on the other side of the river. This area also was the site of a Confederate-Federal encounter. And at **Hurricane** you will find anchored a mothball fleet of some 200 tankers, cargo ships, and tugs.

Head south from Fairhope, and in five miles you will come to **Point Clear**, once the location of a Confederate hospital. The Gunnison home here has a brass plate inscribed, "Compliments of Admiral Farragut—1865"—covering a cannonball hole. The main attraction at Point Clear today is the Grand Hotel, one of the South's luxury hotels and resorts. Surrounded by 500 acres with moss-draped oaks and white sand beaches on the bay, the hotel offers for enjoyment the Lakewood Golf Club and its 27-hole championship course, the yacht basin, the bridge trails, and any number of other activities and facilities. Continuing south you pass by excellent fishing spots around **Magnolia Springs**, known as the "Azalea Village" (the mailman delivers mail along the Magnolia River by boat!), and the picturesque fishing village of **Bon Secour**, where you'll find pioneer homes and a well-known restaurant specializing in colonial French seafood dishes. East of Foley you'll find the villages of **Elberta** and **Josephine**, founded by German and Hungarian settlers. They retain their singing society and wine and sausage festivals. And **Fort Morgan**, on Mobile Point, was built in the 1820s on the site of two previous forts. During the War Between the States this was the site of the famed Battle of Mobile Bay, in which torpedoes and smoke screens were used for the first time in naval history.

A favorite tour each spring is the Eastern Shore's **Dogwood Trail**, 21 miles of winding roads through pine and hardwood forests with an abundant growth of native dogwoods, some as much as 30 feet in height. Blooming camellias and azaleas add to the beauty of the scene.

If you feel that you want some surf for a change, rather

than the protected waters of Mobile Bay, it is just 35 miles south to the miles of sparkling white sand beaches along the **Gulf of Mexico**. If you get tired of swimming, surfing, or sunning yourself, you can try your hand at surf casting or fishing from one of the piers; or go out on a charter boat or try one of the sheltered lagoons or fresh water lakes nearby. Gulf State Park is located here, with excellent beaches and facilities for every member of the family, and Gulf Shores Golf Club has an 18-hole course. All told, the area from Fort Morgan to Gulf Shores and then to Gulf Beach and beyond has over 40 miles of Gulf beaches for you to explore and enjoy.

Baldwin County **fishing** gives you your choice of surf casting, deep-sea fishing, river fishing, or trying your luck with still-water fishing in the lagoons, bays, inlets, and lakes. You can try your luck with anything from catfish to marlin, and "billfishing" brings catches that range in weight from 50 to over 1,000 pounds. (See our box on "Fishing Seasons" for some idea of the types of fish that abound here.) Several times a year a peculiar phenomenon occurs known as a "Jubilee." Thousands of crabs, flounder and other fish will crowd into the shallow waters of the shore, to be gathered without a fight in any container the natives can grab hold of. The Eastern Shore is one of the two known places in the world where this occurs, the other being in Thailand.

Hunting is also popular, with plenty of spots for duck hunting in the marshes along Mobile Bay. Squirrel, rabbit, dove, and quail are also sought after, and deer and wild turkey are abundant in the area north of Spanish Fort.

MOBILE COUNTY ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

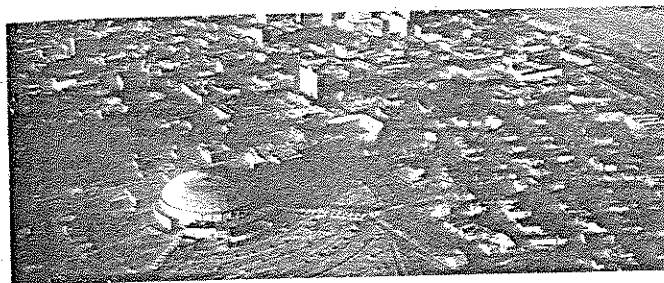
The Mobile area, just 20 miles away, offers plenty in the way of cultural, recreational and gourmet delights throughout the year. A new \$10,000,000 auditorium and theater serves as the center for many activities, and you will find a full schedule of symphony, opera, ballet, choral, and arts and crafts programs. Talks and conferences and

FISHING SEASONS

Tarpon	July 1–December 1
Bluefish	April 1–October 1
Pompano	March 15–November 1
King Mackerel	May 1–November 1
Spanish Mackerel	May 1–November 1
Redfish (or Channel Bass)	August 1–March 1
Red Snapper and Grouper	All Year
Sheepshead	All Year
Bonito	April 1–December 1
Creville (spring run, 10–15 lbs.)	May 1–November 1
Creville (summer run, 30–35 lbs.)	July 1–November 1
Speckled Trout	All Year
Sail Fish	July 1–October 1
Cobia (Ling)	March 1–July 1
Dolphin	May 1–November 1
White Trout	All Year
Black Bass	All Year
Striped Bass	All Year
Bream	All Year
Shark	All Year
Catfish	All Year
Crappie	All Year
White Perch	All Year
Mullet	All Year
Flounder	All Year
Shellfish: Oysters, Shrimp, Crabs.	All Year

SOME SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE AREA

All Star Football Game—January
 Camellia Club of Mobile Show—January
 Azalea Trail—February
 Historic Open Homes Tour—February–March
 Appaloosa and Quarter Horse Show—March
 Metropolitan Mobile Allied Arts Festival—March
 Deep South Folk Festival—March
 Mobile Jazz Festival—March
 Monsanto Open Golf—March
 Eastern Shore Arts and Crafts Week—March
 Boat, Sport and Vacation Show—March
 Mardi Gras—Precedes Easter
 Eastern Shore Dogwood Trail—March–April
 Fiesta of Five Flags—April
 America's Junior Miss Pageant—May
 Potato Shipping—May
 Garden Vegetable Harvest—May
 Festival of the Five Flags—June
 Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet—July
 Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo—July, August
 Corn Harvest—August
 Water Carnival—August
 Soybean Harvest—October
 Fall Crop Harvest—October
 Rodeo—October
 Baldwin County Fair—October
 Greater Gulf States Fair—October
 Fairhope Rock and Gem Show—October
 WPGA Tourney—October
 Pecan Harvest—November
 Speckled Trout Rodeo—November
 Senior Bowl Basketball Tournament—December
 Toy Bowl—December



Mobile, Alabama—just 20 miles away from Fairhope. The \$10,000,000 new coliseum is seen in the foreground.



Mobile introduced the Mardi Gras to the New World, and the festive tradition is carried on each year with 15 afternoon and night parades.



Mobile has several districts of historic old homes and buildings, with ornamental iron balconies, arches, and fences. A number of antebellum mansions also remain, such as "Oakleigh" (see photograph at beginning of chapter).

displays range in subject matter from literature and religion to education, modern architecture, and historic architectural preservation. For listings of all forthcoming civic and cultural events, write the Allied Arts Council at 401 Auditorium Drive.

If you enjoy beautiful old homes and architecture from previous eras, you will find yourself spending many hours touring Mobile's many historic attractions. In downtown Mobile you will find two areas of historic concentration—the Church Street East area, and De Tonti Square Historic District. In the latter area are more gaslights, imported from London and Paris, than were in use in Mobile during the gaslight era. Architectural styles include Federal and Greek Revival, with many examples of "Egyptian" doorways and iron balconies, arches and fences. One building has gates from the English estate of Lewis Carroll.

And to these the Mobile area's attractive gardens and mansions, such as Oakleigh, Mobile's official antebellum mansion and headquarters of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Furniture and accessories there are of the Early Victorian, Empire, and Regency periods, and there is a large collection of Mardi Gras masks and costumes. The Fort Conde-Charlotte House is another restoration, parts of which are remains of the Fort Conde built by Sieur de Bienville in the early 1700s. Bellingrath Gardens and Home are located a few miles south of Mobile, an estate of great beauty with flowers blooming in every season. Indica azaleas are brilliant in the late winter and early spring, roses and other flowers come into full bloom in the springtime, many native and exotic plants and foliage enrich the summer scene, the chrysanthemums are the star of late autumn and early winter, and the holiday season is ushered in with poinsettias, azaleas, and camelias. The 65-acre gardens are also a bird sanctuary, with over 200 species as permanent residents or visitors.

Among the Mobile events each year is the springtime Azalea Trail, when you can tour the 35-mile route through the city and visit private gardens open to the public only for the season. In May a high school senior girl is selected

as America's Junior Miss in a nationally televised pageant. There are sports events and tournaments of all kinds and variety. But certainly the most spirited event each year must be the Mardi Gras celebration beginning ten days before Shrove Tuesday. The 15 afternoon and night parades work their magic on participants and viewers alike in this, the first Mardi Gras celebration in the New World.

Sound nice? It is, in this region combining Southern charm with French élan. When the snow piles up, and the drive to work or to the grocery becomes an intolerable chore during the long, hard winter, think of the shirt-sleeves-and-fishing-pole fun going on in Fairhope. Then pay the folks there a visit, and we'll see if you care to make a return trip.

Where to get further information: "Fairhope on Mobile Bay" (brochure). "Visitors Guide to Fairhope" (brochure). "Fairhope" (information sheet). "Single Tax Principles That Inspired Fairhope's Founders" (leaflet). "Arts and Crafts Week" (leaflet). Map of Fairhope. "The Eastern Shore Arts and Crafts Tour" and "The Eastern Shore Dogwood Trail" (information sheet). "The Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education" (information sheet). "Bayside Academy" (brochure). From: Mrs. Sue Boone, Secretary, The Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 507, Fairhope, Alabama 36532.

A brochure, "The Town of Daphne, Alabama," is available from the above or from the Office of the Mayor, City Hall, Daphne, Alabama 36526. Another brochure, on nearby Grand Hotel, is available from the above or from Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama 36564.

"Baldwin County Visitor" (64-page booklet on historic facts, recreation, commerce and industry, 50 cents). "Guide and Directory to Fishing and Vacation Accommodations, Services and Supplies" (in two parts, 25 cents). "Gulf Shores, Alabama" (color brochure). "Have Fun in Gulf State Park" (brochure). "Welcome to South Baldwin County . . . Alabama" (color brochure). "Fort Morgan . . . American History Under Seven Flags" (brochure). "Enjoy Alabama's Golden Gulf Coast" (map-brochure). "Gulf Intracoastal Waterway" (brochure). "Foley, Alabama, Gateway to the Gulf" (8-page industrial development booklet). From:

Mr. Howard E. Welch, Manager, South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, 117 North McKenzie Street, Foley, Alabama 36535.

"Discover Mobile" (historic guide with maps). "Map of Mobile" (city street map). "Moving to Mobile?" (20-page information booklet). "Mobile, Alabama—An Economic Abstract" (16-page brochure). "Mobile Visitors Lodging Guide" (brochure). "Mobile—Alabama's City in Motion," by William Graves (a *National Geographic* reprint). "Welcome to the Alabama State Docks at the Port of Mobile" (brochure). "Mobile's Fabulous Azalea Trail Festival" (color brochure). "Bellingrath Gardens and Home" (color brochure). "Oakleigh, Old Mobile" (leaflet). "Battleship USS *Alabama*" (brochure). "Phoenix Fire Museum" (brochure). From: Tourist Department, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 2187, Mobile, Alabama 36601.

Another source of information on Mobile: Mobile Tourist Information Center, 751 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama. For listings of coming civic and cultural events and activities in Mobile: Allied Arts Council, 401 Auditorium Drive, Mobile, Alabama.

Various brochures, guides, and booklets on recreational and scenic attractions in Alabama, and regional materials, are available from: Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 76, Montgomery, Alabama.

"Alabama Guide to Family Funland" (36-page color booklet). Official Alabama State Map. "The Alabama Story" (16-page information booklet). "Fingertip Information on Alabama" (38-page information booklet by Alabama Development Office). "Alabama Calendar of Events" (brochure). "Outdoors in Alabama, Sportsman's Guide—Camping Directory" (brochure). From: State of Alabama Bureau of Publicity and Information, State Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

"Alabama Sportsmen's Guide" (brochure). Specific information on game and fish laws and regulations. From: Alabama Department of Conservation, Game and Fish Division, Montgomery, Alabama.

"Recreation Guide to Southern National Forests" (112-plus viii-page booklet). "Welcome to the National Forests in Alabama" (map and guide). "Fact Sheet—National Forests in Alabama." "Endangered, Rare and Uncommon Wildflowers Found in the Southern National Forests" (20-page color booklet). "Birds of

the Southern Appalachians—Check List" (36-plus viii-page booklet). "Payne Lake Nature Trail" (leaflet). "William B. Bankhead National Forest in Alabama" (leaflet). From: U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 40, Montgomery, Alabama 36101.

"Living History in Alabama" (58-plus vi-page paperback book). "Historical Highway Markers in Alabama" (40-page booklet). "Alabama State Emblems" (26-page booklet). "State of Alabama, Alabama Historical Commission" (information leaflet). "Alabama's Covered Bridges" (24-page booklet). "The Governor's Mansion" (8-page color brochure). "The Governor's Mansion of Alabama" (mimeographed information sheets). "The Capitol" (16-page color brochure). "How to Conduct a Survey of Historic Buildings and Sites" (8-page pamphlet). "Historical Preservation in Alabama," by Milo B. Howard (2-page reprint from the *Alabama Architect*). "Greek Revival Architecture in Alabama," by Clay Lancaster (a 16-page reprint from the *Alabama Architect*). Individual brochures and leaflets on local points of historical interest (name your specific interests, and the geographical area that interests you). From: Alabama Historical Commission, 305 South Lawrence Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.