

# Journal of LIFETIME LIVING



## THIS MONTH'S

# Retirement Spot

FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

(Population: 5,000)

Founded in 1894 to prove Henry George's single tax theory, Fairhope has grown into a neighborly small town with a rare, old-fashioned, homelike quality and an amazingly gifted, cosmopolitan population. Craftsmen's studios dot its rolling, pine-clad hills and scores of seniors paint, produce ceramics and pursue every major art. Living is an art, culture a way of life; creative ability and individualism count more than money. Background is Fairhope's lovely location on high, wooded bluffs above shimmering Mobile Bay. Shady walks meander down to the tree-lined beach.

**ACTIVITIES...** One of the South's most cultural small towns: imports 4 professional concerts and 4 plays each season (membership \$10). Also has art classes (10 lessons \$15) and classes in all the arts and crafts. Nominal yacht club membership provides wide social activities, tourist club also holds pot luck get-acquainted suppers. Four piers for fishing and crabbing, also sailing; all senior sports; 9-hole golf course. Gardens color-packed with camellias, azaleas and roses in spring; fruits and vegetables grow like wildfire.

**CLIMATE...** Semi-tropical: short, mild; dry, sunny winters with brief cold spells and long, very warm summers with afternoon thundershowers.

Humidity high but seldom excessive; cool sea breezes temper summer heat.

**OPPORTUNITIES...** Housekeeping cottages and tourist accommodations badly needed and pay well. Good opportunities in chicken farming. Occasional jobs open in offices.

**LIVING COSTS...** Furnished apartments and small homes rent from \$50; 2-bedroom homes from \$60. Older 2-bedroom homes sell at \$6,500, new ones from \$6,500 to \$7,500. Much local produce inexpensive: fryers 27¢ a pound, sirloin steak 47¢; eggs 55¢ and crabs 75¢ a dozen; oysters \$2.50 a bushel. Gardeners 85¢ an hour, maids \$17 a week. State retail sales tax: 3 per cent.

**FACILITIES...** Twenty-bed hospital, 6 doctors, 2 dentists. Excellent street lighting, police, fire, and garbage service.

**TAXES...** Unique Single Tax Corporation leases land for 99 years and pays your property and auto taxes regardless of value of house you build. Ordinary deeded land is also available. State homestead exemption of \$2,000 applies on state property tax of 65¢ per \$100 valuation (self-assessed).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION...** Write the Chamber of Commerce, Fairhope, Alabama.

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