

Baldwin Heritage

The cucumber industry in Robertsdale

Historically, Robertsdale has been the shipping point for the many farming communities in the central part of the county.

The town was founded in 1905 by the Southern Plantation Development Corp. of Chicago and was officially incorporated in 1921. Robertsdale and Silverhill, a neighboring town located three miles west, were known as the Twin Cities of Baldwin County. Their business and farming interests were interwoven and almost one and the same.

Both farming communities specialized in growing cucumbers and were nationally known as one of the few sections where cucumbers could be grown successfully in the early market.

It took hard work and scientific knowledge to successfully grow cucumbers, which was why farmers were rewarded an average of over \$300 per acre in the early 1920s for their cucumber crops. A farmer could manage to get at least three crops a year from their cucumber gardens. In 1921, more than \$200,000 was paid for cucumbers alone.

Robertsdale is called the Hub City of Baldwin County. Farmers from surrounding areas brought their produce to sheds in Robertsdale for processing and shipping. With the profit from their sales, they headed to the town merchants for supplies for the farm.



HOW YOU CAN PAY YOUR GROCERY BILL.

The following is a true statement of my cucumber crop for 1921: 3-4 of an acre planted:

Hampers Delivered.....	778
Total Gross Money Received.....	\$1,605.00
Cost of Production, Hampers and Delivery.....	210.50
Net Profit.....	\$1,394.50

GUST CORELL, Silverhill, Ala.

