



THE ENTERPRISE Ledger

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PARTLY CLOUDY 71 • 44

For more weather, see the Dothan Eagle

ENTERPRISE HISTORY



CITY OF ENTERPRISE

Local historian and columnist for the *Enterprise Ledger*, Ricky Adams, right, giving a walking tour.

Downtown walking tours return this month

FOR THE LEDGER

Walking tours of historic downtown Enterprise return this month as part of a continued partnership between Visit Enterprise, the city's Tourism Department, and the State of Alabama Department of Tourism.

The free, one-hour tour is led by local historians, and begin promptly at 10 a.m. inside the Pea River Historical

Society building located at 108 S. Main Street.

The tour will end in front of the Pea River Museum, located at 106 Railroad Street. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday.

Tours will be offered Saturday April 6, April 20, and April 27. No tours are scheduled for April 13 as that is the date of the annual Spring Festival at the

Monument.

Participants are reminded to wear comfortable shoes and dress according to the weather forecast. If bad weather is forecast, the tour may be cancelled. Updates will be posted to the 'Visit Enterprise' Facebook page.

To register, contact Tammy Doerer, Director of Tourism and Community Relations at (334) 389-1554.

Mr. McMillan's bands always sounded fine

The wheels of change began turning bigtime here when Enterprise High School opened on East Watts Avenue in September 1956.

The football Wildcats, coming off an 8-2 season, went 10-0, and outscored opponents, 279-41, under coach Hub Hawkins; the '57 outfit went 9-1, outscored opponents, 322-47, and lost at Charles Henderson, 14-6, in the season's ninth game.

1. Bob McMillan was hired as band director.
2. The '58 football team went 3-6-1.

3. Hawkins moved to Geneva to administrate.

4. Morris Higginbotham was hired as head football coach.

For the record, the first loss in R.L. Bates Memorial Stadium was the opening game of the '58 season, 14-6, to, ugh, Carroll, the only win the Eagles enjoyed in that arena.

Mr. McMillan quickly got the attention of the school's musicians and the Peanut Capital of the World community.

His bands always sounded fine! Coach Higginbotham led the Wildcats to a 27-2-1 record from 1959-61, including the 1960 *Birmingham News* state championship.

Mr. McMillan's bands, meanwhile, kept improving and early-on he took the

blue-clad musicians to Atlantic City and New York.

During that trip, almost everyone here kept up with the musicians by listening to "Local News While It's News," through the remote-control facilities of WIRB from the home of 'Miss' Jean Farris," who got a phone update from one of the Malloy brothers, Tommy or Jimmy, every weekday morning between 7:15-7:30 throughout the trip ...

Mr. McMillan's bands excited Enterprise to the point House of Adams' honchos knowingly signed your scribe up, between fifth and sixth grade, to learn to play a saxophone, Daddy's favorite instrument.

Two years later, Mr. McMillan was blindsided, not dazzled, by your scribe,

who was somehow inducted into the EHS Band, probationally, before eighth grade, for the 1963-64 school term.

Truthfully, no trickery was involved during the one-on-one, sight-reading portion of the rigorous, multi-pronged tryout process; tricks didn't work for the strict disciplinarian from Brewton.

We all knew the story about "Jimmy," whose sight-reading plan was to hum the untitled tryout song through his clarinet ...

"Jimmy" never wore the blue woolen uniform, with white overlay and military hat w/stark white feathered plume but remained a loyal Wildcat fan until his death years later.

Please see ADAMS, Page A2

Best bets, your guide to area events

PAGE A2



Check out the interactive weather maps at www.eprisenow.com

Spring Festival at the Monument returns April 13

PAGE A5