

We Salute and Celebrate
the Life of
MR. JOSEPH H. HERNDON
Benefactor



The late **Joseph H. Herndon**, a Negro man, was born on March 19, 1840 in Gilliam, Louisiana. Before his death, on November 25, 1924, he gave a monetary donation of \$12,000 to the Caddo Parish School Board. The amount was given in order that a school would be built for Negroes in the northern area of the parish. Mr. C.E. Byrd was Superintendent at that time.

Mr. Herndon's contribution and his strong belief in the educational process benefitted the lives of many children both black and white. Also, sharing this belief was his nephew, David Tyson. It was the visionary Mr. Tyson who was later instrumental in carrying forth the wishes of Joseph H. Herndon's Estate of which Mr. E. B. Herndon was the Executor in 1926.

On July 2, 1953, the site of 80 acres was purchased for the school from C.W. Lane Corporation for the amount of \$28,000.00. The property is located on the Gamm Road in Belcher, Louisiana. Construction began on February 2, 1955 and was completed before the projected date of September 1956. Mr. Roscoe H. White was Superintendent of the Caddo Parish Schools when **Herndon High School** opened in 1956.

Note: The amount of **Mr. Herndon's** donation in 1926 of \$12,000 grew to \$125,000 in 1955 due to inflation, accumulated and compound interest.

Mr. Herndon's wealth can be attributed to an inheritance from his parents, John Frederick Herndon and Lue Patsy Herndon. They became wealthy from various investments in real estate, farming cotton, buying gold and having oil wells on their properties. **Joseph H. Herndon** was able to continue his parent's legacies of wealth. In addition, he made other wise investments when he purchased U. S. Savings Bonds. The first was purchased in 1919 in the amount of \$100,000 after World War I. The first bank in Vivian, Louisiana was the recipient of his financial support and deposits.

Even though he was a man of great wealth, for most of this life he lived humbly in a small community between Vivian and Gilliam, Pine Island. His home was a simple frame house, he wore patches on his pants and his kitchen floor was clay dirt. Before his death, he built a brick home in Texarkana and resided there until his death in 1924. He is buried in Rodessa, Louisiana at the Tyson Family Cemetery, Sugar Hill.

Our school, Herndon High, which is now Herndon Middle Magnet was named after this legend. He will always be remembered by all of us. We appreciate great men like Mr. Herndon and others who gave a worthy contribution to society.



Pioneer

MR. DAVID TYSON

SUNRISE

November 30, 1890



SUNSET

January 20, 1980

The late **David Tyson**, better known as **Dave Tyson**, of Mira, Louisiana was the nephew of **Joseph H. Herndon**. They both were strong advocates of education. **David Tyson** was a **Pioneer**. Stepping out on faith, he began to make the necessary moves to build a Negro High School in the northern area of the state. He made it quite clear that it was 'time out' for two room schools. His uncle, **Joseph H. Herndon**, had previously bequeathed funds to the Caddo Parish School Board to make the building of this school possible. In order to carry out this vision, he began to communicate with school board member, C.H. McEachern from Vivian, Louisiana. In order that school children would not have to travel long distances, he expressed the need to build a high school between the Shreveport, Arkansas and Texas lines. He specifically stipulated that he wanted the school to be named **Herndon High School**.

In 1948, **David Tyson** offered to give 10 acres of his personal property to the Caddo Parish Board on which to build this school. The land was located in Pine Island on Clyde Place Road between Gilliam and Vivian. He also gave them an option to lease twenty more acres in order to have an Agricultural Department. However, there was one stipulation: that, if for any reason the school would close, all buildings and properties be returned to the original and rightful owner, **The David Tyson Estate**. This property was offered in conjunction with the money donated by his uncle, Mr. Herndon. The Caddo Parish School Board voted against the offer.

After this offer was declined, he persevered and fought diligently for a total of 30 years to make his dream become a reality. When the school finally opened, he thought his work was completed. However, upon reading in *The Shreveport Times* that the school was named Gamm High School, he knew he had more work to do. He immediately went to Vivian and informed C.H. McEachern that the Caddo Parish School Board would face a lawsuit if the name of the school was not changed. After this meeting, the school was immediately renamed to David Herndon High School as it had been so designated in the original Act of Donation.

Special Note: The very first song for our Alma Mater was entitled "**Old David Herndon High School**". Later David was deleted because the lyrics were too long for the tune of **Auld Lang Syne**. This was personally told to the son of David Tyson, Tyrone Tyson, by Mr. Roosevelt Shields. Mr. Shields was a music teacher and band director at Herndon at this time.

The Ground On Which We Stand



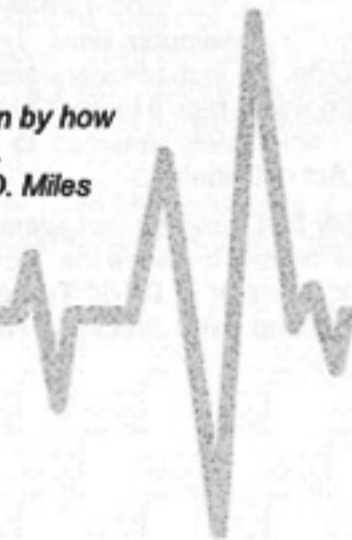
This monument should make us all keenly aware that the ground on which we stand has been made possible by the foresight, courage and generosity of our benefactor and others who caught his vision of having a school for Negro children in the northwest corridor of Louisiana. We stand here today 50 years later to pay tribute and honor to Mr. Joseph H. Herndon and others. We are humbled by the character and integrity of those persons upon whose shoulders we stand. They were courageous, resilient and remarkable in their perseverance. They were not discouraged when doors were shut in their faces. They demanded that they were included in the decision making process. They ignored the countless indignities that were hurled their way. Because of their actions, these great people give us today an immeasurable amount of pride and gratitude.

It is not enough for us to come here and salute the generosity of this man and others; we, too, must give out of the abundance of the gifts that we have been blessed to possess. All of us have something that we can give, a smile, an encouraging word, a hand up to our brothers and sisters. We have been entrusted with numerous God-given gifts and talents with which we can help others.

Therefore, we say posthumously to Mr. Herndon, we honor you, we thank you, we owe you!

You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.

~James D. Miles



"HERNDON ALMA MATER"

Oh Herndon High School we love

Throughout our high school days

We'll love our school forever more

And always cherish thee.

And when we have won our race

We still will think of thee

We'll think of Herndon High School

Our school of loyalty.

Oh Herndon High School

Oh Herndon High School

We'll love our school forever more

And always cherish thee.

(This is the old version)

HAIL HERNDON OUR ALMA MATER

*Hail Herndon! Our Alma Mater
We love and cherish thee truly
Long live your precepts, glory and
Honor in our hearts forever more.*

*Hail Herndon! Our Alma Mater
God help you to impart your dream
To teach us to live and work together
In this land of liberty.*

*When We have stood for years to come
Our hearts shall be the same
We'll think of those who have taught us
To treasure all that's true.*

*Hail Herndon, A Mighty Fortress
Although the years may come and go
Your deeds will live on eternally
Going forth as a rolling sea!
~ Arranged by Orlando Moss*

(This is the new version)



THE RATTLEDERS' HERALD

THE VOICE OF HERNDON

BELCHER, LA. February, 1956



CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTED FOR SCHOOL NEAR GILLIAM



The pouring of the foundation for the new million-dollar consolidated Negro school on the Gamm Road near Gilliam has begun, according to Roscoe H. White, superintendent of Caddo Parish Schools.

The contract for the 12th grade school was let to the Texarkana Construction Company, February 2, 1955, for the low bid of \$1,049,948 and is expected to be completed by September of 1956. Architect for the building is Van Os and Flaxman of Shreveport.

Designed to accommodate 1,180 pupils, the building is being erected on an 80-acre tract near the intersection of Red and Black Bayous. It is one of three proposed Negro Schools, the second of which is also currently under construction on the Woolworth Road.

The Gamm Road School will have its own sewerage system, deep well and electric

power and will include two elementary wings, a high school wing, a library, kitchen, cafeteria, auditorium and gymnasium within the large building. In the rear of the main building will be a canning center, agricultural building and shop.

A demonstration farming program will be instituted at the school. Kennedy said and every high school course will be offered with the emphasis on terminal education.

The experimentation farm program will give pupils ample opportunity to see what farm practices are recommended as compared to what is actually practiced on their farms, Kennedy said. The agricultural program will supplement a supervised farm program in homes, he said.

The school also will probably offer adult education at night, Kennedy said. This program will not only provide vocational training education for illiterates, but also will give adults a chance to work for a high school diploma, he said.



THE RATTLESLERS' HERALD



THE VOICE OF HERNDON

VOLUME 10

BELCHER, LA. November, 1965

No. 10

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



O. C. Rollins, Principal

Once again I am happy to report a very fine opening of school here at Herndon. According to the record, some 1379 youngsters have registered for the session 1965-66.

The Faculty is made up of 58 enthusiastic teachers working with all the zeal and energy they have to help our boys and girls become academically prepared, as well as better citizens and to raise the general level of living standards for all of our communities.

We, here at Herndon, are

cognizant of the fact that a very fine relationship has always existed between the school and community. It goes without saying that we expect that the same good relationship and cooperation from our parents and all friends of education in the general school area.

Herndon is fortunate this session in having some valuable additions to both the staff and curriculum: (1) Mr. Robert L. Walton, a very fine and capable young man and a former teacher at Herndon is our Assistant Principal; (2) Mr. Earnest L. Williams also an outstanding

young man and former teacher at Herndon has been added, giving us an additional counselor; (3) Driver Education, Physics and French have been added to our curriculum.

The P. T. A. and Band Parent Clubs have begun their monthly meeting and it is felt that we are going to have an outstanding school year. With the cooperation of teachers, students, students, parents, the Central Office and all other friends of education, this can be a banner year.



A TRIBUTE

Mr. Otto C. Rollins has been the motivating influence in the continuous growth and development of Herndon High School. As a result of his dynamic leadership, the school has moved steadily forward and gained the recognition that it has so justly earned.

Our principal has striven continuously to improve and enrich the Curriculum to adequately meet the needs of the youth of this and surrounding communities which our school serves.

The faculty, students, and citizens, commend, respect and love Mr. Rollins for his tireless efforts and interest in education and humanity.

PRINCIPAL



MRS. MAXINE CHAMBERS
Our Supervisor



HERNDON HIGH SCHOOL
Our Alma Mater



55 acres leased, 45 acres school site

NUMBER OF GRADUATES

1956—1957	_____	23
1957—1958	_____	30
1958—1959	_____	61
1959—1960	_____	55
1960—1961	_____	55
1961—1962	_____	67
1962—1963	_____	86
1963—1964	_____	71
1964—1965	_____	98
1965—1966	_____	107



THE RATTLER

THE VOICE OF HERNDON



VOL. V

Friday, May 15, 1964

No. 3

SEVENTY-ONE SENIORS TO GRADUATE

Approximately seventy-one seniors are scheduled to receive diplomas on Commencement Night, May 20, 1964, at 8:00 P.M. From this class, 13 will graduate with honors with Rebecca Strickland and Herise Jones sharing the highest honors.

Mr. Rollins has announced that Rev. B. L. Blade will deliver the Baccalaureate Sermon on May 20, at 3:00 P.M., and Dr. Arlyne Cheers will be the Commencement speaker.

Rev. Blade is a dynamic young minister from Shreveport, La. He is the minister at the Zion Baptist Church of that city.

Dr. Cheers comes to us from Grambling, La. She is well-known in Caddo Parish for her speaking ability. She is the Director of the Testing Bureau, Grambling College.

The Commencement activities will begin with Class Night on March 17. This is the time when the seniors will enjoy a night of fun amidst the sad farewells to the Junior Class and student body.

HERNDON OBSERVES CAREER MONTH

The month of April was observed by Herndon High Students as "Career Month." A series of three assemble programs were held for the sole purpose of helping students, especially the seniors, to make wise career choices. The career month theme was "Striving for Vocational Competence for Tomorrow by Making a Wise Vocational Choice Today."

Mrs. Selcy Collins and Mr. Albert Moody from Bethune High were the speakers for the first two assemblies.

The last assembly was held on April 20. On this day, the students broke down into clinics of their choices. There, they were given additional information from experts about job opportunities, salary, requirements, etc.

The day ended with a summary in the form of a press report by students. Our supervisor, Mrs. Chambers, gave a complete evaluation of the three assembly programs, and Mrs. Riser from the School Board made inspiring remarks.



SENIORS, Continued

The program is centered around the theme, "Command Performance." The seniors will try to prove to "Public Opinion", through a colorful array of talents, that they are worthy of receiving a high school diploma.

Some of the seniors who will appear on the program are John L. Jones who will imitate the teachers, the senior dance group, George Washington, and Clyde Harris along with many other talents.

A rare treat is in store for all.

Q. Why does an elephant have cracks between his toes?

A. To carry his library card.

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS ARE DUE!
NOW!

SENIOR GIRLS ATTEND LUNCHEON

On Saturday morning, April 18, four young senior ladies attended a luncheon sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at J. S. Clark Junior High School. These girls were: Herise Jones, Minnie D. Hawkins, Bobbie Bradford, and Ada Knox.

This served as a new and interesting experience in that they met young ladies from many other schools including Carver, Washington, Bethune, Union, and many others.

The girls enjoyed a tasty menu, songs and addresses from the sorority members, and a fashion show.

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL PAPER

The late Joseph H. Herndon, a negro man, born March 19, 1840 in Gilliam, Louisiana gave a contribution in the amount of \$12,000 to the Caddo Parish School Board to be used for more negro schools. This decree was given before his death, November 25, 1924. At the time the monetary donation was given, C. E. Byrd was Superintendent of Caddo Parish School.

His contribution and his strong belief in education has made a great difference in the lives of many children, black and white.

Our school, "Herndon High School", which is now Herndon Middle Magnet was named after this great legend. He will always be remembered by all of us. We can really appreciate great men like Joseph H. Herndon, who gave a worthy contribution to society.



Neverllyn (Tyson) Larry was the first great niece of Joseph H. Herndon to graduate from Herndon High School. She was in the first graduating class of 1957.



Neverllyn (Tyson) Larry
1957