

# Retirees, others choose Enterprise as their hometown

BY KAY KIRKLAND  
MANAGING EDITOR

Ron and Mary Louise Snider "had anywhere to choose from." But they chose Enterprise. So did Harvey and Anna Mathis, James and Lou Kitterman and hosts of other people who have made the Enterprise area their homes in the past several years.

"We looked all over the place," Snider said recently as he and his wife prepared for an afternoon working in the yard at their new home in the Cotton Creek subdivision.

"Florida got too crowded and there were too many hurricanes," he said. "There is less traffic here, good medical facilities and it's close enough to Montgomery and Dothan if there's anything else you need that you can't find here."

Mrs. Snider said she likes the weather here and "it's close

enough to the beach."

The Sniders came to Enterprise by way of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Orange Park, Fla., where Snider worked as a government accounts manager in the pharmaceutical business.

Snider, originally from North Carolina, is a former U.S. Army aviator who trained at Fort Rucker in 1968 and later served as an aviation instructor from 1970 to 1974.

"We liked the people here," he said. "We just didn't forget."

When it came time for him to retire from his second career, Snider said he and his wife decided to settle in Enterprise. "We had anywhere to choose from," he said, pointing out that the availability of golf courses in Enterprise played a part in his decision.

Like Snider, Kitterman loves golf as well.

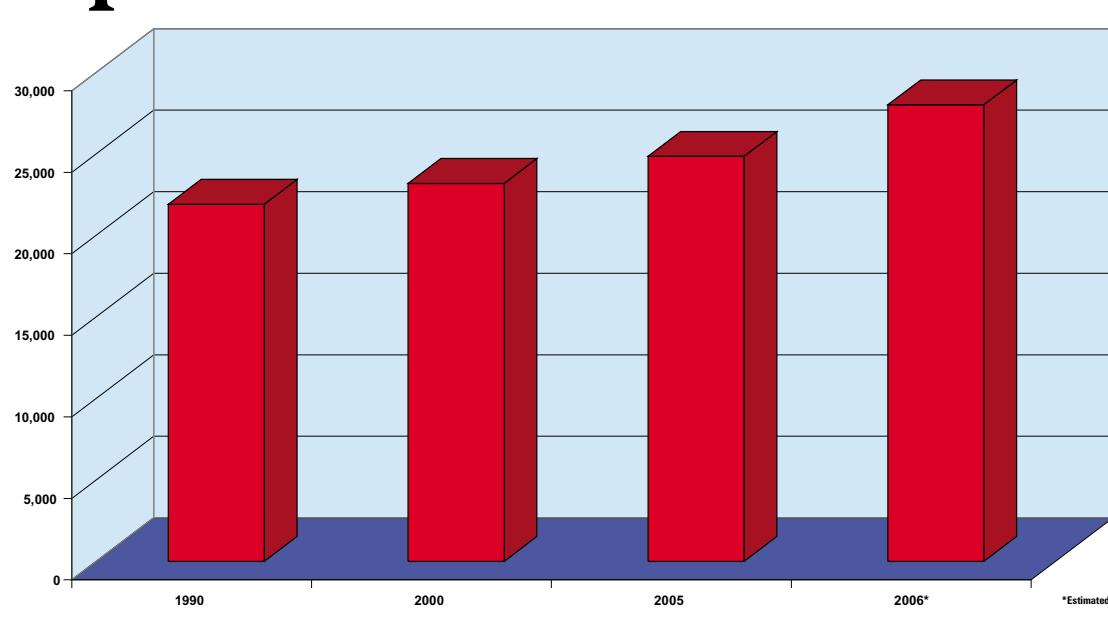
"I play golf – only every day,"

he said with a chuckle.

Enterprise, he said, has "a great Country Club" and golf course, and the relatively new Tartan Pines course also attracts the avid and occasional golfer in the area.

The Kittermans are from Oklahoma, but they also discovered Enterprise through the military. Kitterman, a former chief of staff of the Army Aviation Center, retired from the military at Fort Rucker 20 years ago. Though they moved to Tennessee and then to Palmer, Alaska, north of Anchorage, the Kittermans kept a home they had bought here during his assignment at Fort Rucker.

During recent years, they would "go back and forth" between Enterprise and Alaska, where Kitterman has relatives. Recently, however, they decided to settle here permanently and discontinue the cross-country trips.



area, which fit in with my political views."

When they came for a visit, Mathis said, "it felt like this was right."

Mathis hasn't regretted the decision. They said the people here are accepting and friendly and are willing to help each other.

Another advantage was the diversity of the population, he said. Because of the Fort Rucker influence, the area has many German residents and people from all over Europe and the rest of the world.

"The multi-cultural aspect is good," he said. "Anna enjoys meeting with other German wives and sharing their traditions and heritage."

J.C. Gantt, chairman of the Enterprise Planning Commission, said he isn't surprised to find that Mathis and others consider the Enterprise area because of recommendations from former military personnel stationed at Fort Rucker.

"We send a lot of ambassadors from here because of Fort Rucker," said Gantt, who came to Enterprise in 1969 with Alabama Power Company and retired here several years ago. "This is a place where anybody can come and feel open."

"Anna wanted to be near the ocean and I wanted to be in a place where I could go hunting," said Mathis, an avid deer hunter. "One of my criteria was that we locate near a military post."

As he neared retirement, Mathis said he researched locations through the internet and felt that the Enterprise area had the right mix.

"It had a low crime rate and low housing costs," he said. "This was also a strongly Republican

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