

Baldwin Body Shop

Born and raised in Sandersville, Georgia, Dale Epps began working on cars and machinery when he was very young. He later moved to Atlanta-where the jobs were at the time-to sharpen his skills repairing large industrial equipment. After living in the big city for a few years, he found himself back home and in need of a job.

Ray Hodges, a local businessman, handpicked Epps to run the body shop he owned on West Screven Street. Epps recalls that Hodges owned the entire block that included a Buick dealership and several other businesses.

“I realized very quickly that I would rather be in business for myself,” said Epps. “It was then that I approached Hodges about buying the shop and he sold it to me.” Upon purchasing the business 42 years ago, Epps renamed the company Baldwin Body Shop.

His business philosophy includes “running a good ship” that promotes an environment where employees want to stay long-term. “I have employees that have been with me for over 30 years. I think that speaks for itself.”

According to Epps, the industry of body repair has changed significantly over his four decades in the business. “Everything is computerized and very technical,” he observed. “It takes a lot of skill and training to work in this trade now.”

A family-centered man, Epps has been married to wife Kay for 48 years. Their son Dale Jr. came to work with his dad as a painter after graduating college.

In addition to work, Epps has a wide array of personal interests including raising animals, hunting, planting for wildlife, and being active in local government. He is a former county commissioner and is currently serving on the board of the Baldwin County Development Authority. He currently is focusing his efforts on bringing industry to the evolving Fall Line Freeway project.