

Henry Brown buys CG auto dealerships

By KRIS WALKINSHAW, Staff Writer

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Henry Brown Automotive Group has taken over operations of the Cropper dealerships in Casa Grande, effective Wednesday. The new owners will be selling Chevrolet, Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge automobiles and are pursuing other manufacturers.

According to spokeswoman Mimi Brown, the approximately 60 employees of Cropper all have been retained.

Brown said the company is finalizing plans to move the dealership to an auto mall north of The Promenade at Casa Grande, south of Cottonwood Lane, with other dealerships.

"We're excited to expand to the Casa Grande area because of the explosive growth," she said. "We know there are lots of people handling their automotive needs in the Phoenix metro area. We're looking forward to making it easier to purchase and service a vehicle in Casa Grande."

According to sales manager Carl Krause, the dealership is re-evaluating its hours to make them more convenient to Casa Grande customers and plans to upgrade its inventory.

"We're looking to double, or even triple our inventory to give our customers a top-quality selection," Krause said.

Henry Brown's philosophy is to give the customer an easy car-buying experience, he said. He handles many customers' calls and says he always returns personal messages himself.

Brown & Brown Chevrolet, which he sold several years ago, set up business in Mesa 75 years ago. He since has acquired other dealerships.

The Cropper name went on the Casa Grande Chevrolet dealership more than 25 years ago, and the company later acquired the Chrysler franchise.

Henry Brown Automotive, located at 1990 N. Pinal Ave., can be reached at 836-2147.