

Greene Starts Agency After Traveling Career

AHOSKIE — T. W. "Billy" Greene says he's a traveling salesman who married a school teacher and settled down in his own home town. His traveling days started in 1937, when he was graduated from the University of North Carolina and got a job with the W. T. Grant Company.

For several years, Greene traveled the country, setting up new Grant's stores. "Then the bugle blew," says Billy, "and I joined the navy." During his six-year hitch, he was in the V-7 Navy program at Notre Dame and Northwestern University, and by discharge time had risen to the rank of lieutenant.

Then Greene came back to the Roanoke-Chowan area, managing an apparel store at Roanoke Rapids for four years. There he met Miss Dorothy Delbridge, who taught school, and married her. They are now parents of a seven-year-old son, Thomas W. Greene, Jr.

From Roanoke Rapids, Greene went back on the road, traveling for four years as a salesman for the Richmond Dry Goods Company. It was 1952 before the Greens finally returned for good to Ahoskie, where Billy grew up as a son of one of the town's first doctors, the late Dr. A. W. Greene. Clerk of Superior Court Arthur W. Greene, Jr., is another son.

In 1952, Greene bought the Raleigh Baisey Insurance Agency from the Baisey estate. At that time, the office was located in the Earl Theater building. He retained the Baisey firm name until 1955, when he moved into a new location on West Main Street, as the Greene Insurance Agency.

The Greene Agency offers general insurance of all kinds. Greene is also associated with Ollie M. Brown in the mortgage loan business, Miss Sophia P. Sumner, a long-time employee, was originally with the Baisey agency. Mrs. E. T. Wise is also an office employee of the Greene Agency.

Moonlight Firm Began Outdoors

MURFREESBORO — Back in 1946, Hiram C. Hill's neighbors got used to the sound of hammering and sawing going on in his backyard after dark. As soon as he got through work at the Riverside Manufacturing Company, he went out to build lawn furniture and other items by the light of the moon.

When Hiram's son, Bob, came back from the service, he took over the building business, and it was the neighbors who named it Moonlight Enterprises. Until 1950, Bob ran the business by himself—doing plumbing, heating, air conditioning and building, like a one-man band.

Then the whole family joined in. Father Hiram handles the industrial end, brother Hiram, Jr., is in charge of plumbing, heating and air conditioning, and Bob is overall manager, in charge of general building. The Hills called the firm the Moonlight Enterprises, Inc., and set out to do what they liked best—to build things, anything.

If you need plumbing, heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, millwork, interior decoration, building supplies, small motor repairs, or general service—Moonlight can furnish it. The firm maintains a design department, builds and finances homes.

The main office is located on Third Street, with a machine shop on Main Street, where Evinrude outboard motors and Homelite chain saws are sold.

At 35, Bob Hill is a young businessman with his hands full. Last

year, Moonlight Enterprises built 28 houses in a radius of 40 miles of Murfreesboro, and did about half a million dollars business. From the original group of father and sons, Moonlight has now grown to employ 45 persons. "We built our business on service—anything the customer needs, we'll do," Bob Hill says proudly.

Vepco Serves Wide Area, Brightens 20th Century

The part that Virginia Electric and Power Company played in the growth and progress of Hertford County began in 1927 on November 15 when Vepco purchased a small distribution system located in the Town of Winton together with a distribution tie line connecting Ahoskie and Winton.

At that time, there were approximately 150 customers being served at Winton, with a population of 750 persons.

The company's next acquisition was made on November 21, 1927, when Vepco purchased a distribution system located in Ahoskie. At that time, Ahoskie had a population of approximately 2,700 and there were 400 electric customers in the town. The town also owned distribution lines which served the towns of Colerain, Powellsville and Harrellsville.

In the following year, Vepco purchased a distribution system from the Town of Murfreesboro from W. E. Worrell.

One of the interesting facts in this system was that the power plant only furnished power from sunset until midnight to about 150 customers at that time.

The fourth and last of the principal acquisitions in Hertford County was made on November 4, 1935, when Vepco purchased a distribution system from the town of Harrellsville.

This system served approximately 60 customers at the time of the purchase.

In addition to these acquisitions, the company served several scattered customers in the rural areas between these towns.

As Hertford County grew, so did Vepco. New and improved service was made possible in the area by the modernization of existing equipment, much of which had to be completely replaced.

Service Grows

From a total of 750 customers, which were served when the properties were acquired by Vepco, the service in the county has grown to the point that today Vepco serves over 5,000 customers in Hertford County.

Thus, the progress of Hertford County is directly linked with the progress and growth of Vepco. The company operates in 19 counties in northeast North Carolina and provides service to almost 43,000 Carolinians. Vepco recently dedicated its new division headquarters at Williamston, marking the 34th year in the state.

Also in the state, at Roanoke Rapids, is located Vepco's largest hydroelectric generating station, with a generating capacity of 100,000 kilowatts.

Plans for the project started many years ago when the Roanoke Rapids Power Company, a Vepco predecessor in the area, started buying land along the river for the dam and reservoir.

Vepco acquired the property in the early 20's, made numerous surveys, and was ready to begin construction when the 1929 financial crash made it necessary to await more favorable conditions. On the heels of the depression came World War II with its control on manpower and equipment.

After the war, Vepco filed an application with the Federal Power Commission and was granted a license to begin construction early in 1951.

Actual construction started on September 1, 1953. It took two years and nine months to complete the project. Some 1,200 men, three shifts of 400 each, worked around the clock for about 7,500,000 man-hours of labor during the construction.

Vepco used 300,000 tons of crushed stone, 800,000 bags of cement and 120,000 tons of sand. This much material would build a sidewalk six feet wide and 189 miles long. It is equal to a block of solid concrete the size of an office building a block square and eight stories high.

The power station had to be blasted out of solid rock. It was built in a 70 by 230-foot excavation carved 72 feet deep from granite. The lake behind the dam would fill a tank 9 miles long, one mile wide and 17½ feet deep.

Nuclear Project

Vepco recently joined with three neighboring utilities in North and South Carolina to form Carolinas Virginia Nuclear Power Associates, Inc., a nonprofit organization, organized to discover and study economic ways to utilize nuclear material and atomic energy for the generation of elec-

Myrtle's Shop Female Institution

AHOSKIE—Miss Myrtle Powell came back from New York City in the early 1930's with a diploma from beauty school and a lot of good ideas about making Ahoskie's womenfolk prettier. A lot of the ladies found that Myrtle's ideas helped—that's why Myrtle's Beauty Shop is one of the leading salons here today.

The shop—and its operators—is colorful, and the conversation is good, especially when the voluble Italian who married Miss Powell is around. Guy Raspa, who came to Hertford as a cook at the Italian

prisoner of war camp at Union during World War II, decided he liked the beauty business when he met Myrtle, and they were married in 1945.

Myrtle entered the beauty shop field as a partner with Mrs. Talma Baker, but by the end of the '30's, had her own shop. In the late 1940's, the old Baker building opposite the post office burned, along with all of Myrtle's equipment.

"But I never missed an appoint-

ment," Myrtle says proudly. Everyone pitched in to get the beauty shop relocated within three days in the old Farmers-Atlantic Bank building. Meanwhile, Myrtle went to her customers' homes to fill appointments.

Later, the shop was moved to the Garrett Hotel building, and still later to a location owned by Ralph Basnight on McGlohon St. In 1958, Myrtle's shop moved to a new building in the Roanoke-Chowan Shopping Center off Memorial Drive. The new shop is decorated in Myrtle's favorite color, an orchid which contrasts well with her own hair. And Guy's hair is red, to add a spark of difference.

1912-1959

Ahoskie's Oldest Retail Establishment...

WE HAVE PASSED QUITE A FEW MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STORE. . . WE ARE PROUD TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING THIS MILESTONE IN OUR COUNTY'S HISTORY. WE WANT TO THANK THE CITIZENS OF HERTFORD COUNTY FOR THEIR CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP AND PATRONAGE.

Featuring STAR BRAND SHOES for Over 40 Years

Hayes-Miller Co.

In and For Ahoskie Since 1912

—1952-1959—
Serving the Roanoke-Chowan with QUALITY . . .

GROCERIES — HARDWARE
FARM SUPPLIES

WE JOIN OUR FELLOW CITIZENS
IN CELEBRATING THE
200th Anniversary
of Hertford County

Ahoskie Wholesale Co., Inc.

614 N. RAILROAD ST.

PHONE 2076

Since January 1, 1926

For 33 years we have been meeting and serving the folks in the Roanoke-Chowan area

THANK YOU

for your friendship and patronage these past 33 years.

WE INVITE YOU

to visit our store for all your Hardware Needs.

FARMERS HARDWARE COMPANY

Ahoskie, N. C.

1944-1959



We Proudly Celebrate a Milestone...

OUR 15th ANNIVERSARY

TO MATCH THE PROGRESS OF OUR TOWN AND OUR COUNTY HAS BEEN OUR GOAL SINCE WE WENT INTO BUSINESS IN 1944. THAT HAS BEEN QUITE A CHALLENGE AT TIMES BECAUSE THIS AREA HAS DEVELOPED SO RAPIDLY. WE ARE PROUD TO SAY WE HAVE KEPT PACE AND LOOK FORWARD TO EVEN MORE PROGRESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WE JOIN IN CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HERTFORD COUNTY.

WHITE & WOODLEY

Electrical Appliances - - - Plumbing and Heating

123 E. MAIN ST.

AHOSKIE

PHONE 3083