



AHOSKIE PLANT OF AHOSKIE MANUFACTURING COMPANY—INDUSTRIAL LEADER IN 20th CENTURY HERTFORD

AMCO Began Modern Development Of Industry in Ahoskie Section

AHOSKIE — In October of 1953, the Ahoskie Industrial Development Company was chartered with J. C. Sessoms heading the group of 123 local citizens who

subscribed \$110,000 in stock and debentures. The corporation borrowed money to erect a \$285,000 brick building, air-conditioned, and in less than three years completed arrange-

ments for a long-term lease to the Ahoskie Manufacturing Company. Cornerstone for the community-sponsored building was laid on May 13, 1955, and in mid-October, 1955, the factory began operation.

Since that time, AMCO's production of children's coats, coat and legging sets, and car coats for Sears, Roebuck and Company has paid off in dividends both to stockholders and everyone in the Ahoskie area. A payroll of over half a million dollars annually is given to about 280 employees, mostly white women.

New residents came to Ahoskie as key personnel of the AMCO plant. New trades for this area—patternmakers, cutters and associated phases of the sewing operation—became part of general conversation. Best of all, women proficient at sewing found needed employment outside of their homes.

During the first two years, production included 75 styles of coats for fall and winter, and about 60 styles for spring and summer, ranging in size from infant to 6-X. Last year, however, the new demand for car coats caused installation of a new department with about 60 employees handling this item only.

Sewing in the 55,000-square foot plant is done on a piecework basis. But the huge volume of material and accessories must be received and stored before use—and pressed, finished, and stored again before final shipping to Sears distribution centers. There's a specially-designed Contin-U-Rail system which assures steady flow of units from one department to the next, and a 9,200-square foot warehouse to accommodate the finished products.

Lloyd Nolan is general manager of the AMCO plant. Continued successful operation of the company last spring enabled the Ahoskie Industrial Development Company to pay dividends of three per cent for the second year. This is one industry which truly bears the "Made in Ahoskie" label.

Basnight Has Become Byword

AHOSKIE — The name Basnight has become a byword through eastern North Carolina and southern Virginia, for W. H. Basnight and Company, Inc., has grown to be the largest independent wholesale distributor in the area.

Big, blue Basnight trucks are seen constantly, carrying the many lines of merchandise handled by the firm—ranging from fancy groceries to automotive supplies, and from candies to dog food.

W. Howard Basnight, who founded the firm on May 1, 1927, was a great promoter, both of his business and his town. He started his business career, after graduating from Duke University, as a salesman with Barnes-Sawyer Grocery Company, in which his father, the late H. S. Basnight, was a stockholder.

The elder Basnight had come to Hertford County from Washington County, and lived at Harrelsville before moving to young Ahoskie. In Ahoskie, farmer-lumberman Basnight became active

in other businesses, and his son followed in his footsteps. Howard Basnight believed in helping the town—as town councilman, county commissioner, chairman of the board of directors of Roanoke-Chowan Hospital, donor of the Ahoskie High School band room—more civic services than can be mentioned. The Ahoskie Methodist Church was also one of his chief interests.

On the 25th anniversary of the Basnight company in 1952, Ralph L. Basnight succeeded his father as president of the firm. W. H. Basnight became vice president and chairman of the board, the post he held at his death in 1955.

As president of the Basnight company, Ralph Basnight is concerned not only with the corporation, but the extensive farming interests left by his father.

W. Ivey Johnson, who has been with the company since its organization, is general manager of the wholesale enterprise, and has served as president of the N. C. Wholesale Association. Other employees who have served with the firm for many years include T. R.

Rogers, head of the bookkeeping operation, who also joined the company when it was organized; P. E. Dukes, secretary, office manager and credit manager; R. N. (Bob) Carter sales manager; George F. Burgess, J. Elverton Brett, Dan Miller, A. K. Bracy and O. R. Creech, senior salesmen.

From the original five employees, the Basnight force has now grown to over 50 persons, including salesmen, warehousemen, truck drivers, mechanics and repairmen, and helpers.

R. L. Basnight succeeded his father on the board of the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital and as director of WRCS radio station. Portions of the Basnight estate were divided between Mrs. W. H. Basnight, the widow, and Miss Martha Hope Basnight, a daughter; and sisters, Mrs. Louise B. Lyon and Miss Ethel Basnight, who were also original stockholders of the wholesale firm. Another son, W. H. Basnight, III, died in early manhood, and the foundation at Ahoskie High School was donated in his memory.



1944-1959

This Year Marks Our 15th ANNIVERSARY

We supply the folks who are building a better Hertford County. Since we opened in 1944 we have always offered QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS and EVER-DEPENDABLE SERVICE.

THANKS

To all the folks who have made our business grow through their friendship and continued patronage.

WE CELEBRATE

A MILESTONE in North Carolina History... the 200th Anniversary of Hertford County.

A. W. MYERS BUILDING SUPPLIES

209 N. Railroad St.

AHOSKIE

Phone 2896

1759 - 1959

Hertford County's Milestone Year



73 Years of Service...

Confidence, born of 73 years of faithful service in this area, prompts families to turn to us in time of sorrow. They know they can depend on us for careful attention to every detail, thoughtful comforts for the family. Where perfection of service is a tradition.

W. J. M. HOLLAND and SONS, Inc.

— Funeral Home —

MURFREESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

We've Passed Many Milestones Working Together...

The farmers of this area have done a wonderful job over the years. . . . They have been the backbone of progress in the Roanoke-Chowan. . . . They have been interested in the schools. . . . interested in their communities and their churches. These wonders have been accomplished by good, hard-working people working together. We are proud we have had the opportunity this past 32 years of working with and for these fine folks. We appreciate their friendship and their confidence. Let's all celebrate our 200th Anniversary with pride in the past and confidence in the future.

WELL OVER A QUARTER CENTURY OF PEANUT BUYING SERVICE IN THE R-C AREA

Your Neighbor

W. B. Everett - Peanut Buyer

Agent for POND BROS. Peanut Co.