

Mule Trader To Airplanes: L. S. Jernigan

AHOSKIE — The firm of L. S. Jernigan and Son in Ahoskie has been in the business of furnishing power and implements for the farm all the way from the mule to the airplane.

Cap'n Lee Jernigan, the founder, got into the mule business in association with E. R. Evans in the 1890's while he was still operating his own family farm out on the Jernigan Swamp road and following the mule - powered plows of that era. When his son, Stanwood, grew up to manhood he naturally became a part of the firm.

But by then the transition from mule power to mechanical power had begun, and father and son began the development of their own company which today is one of the leading agricultural implement concerns of the Roanoke-Chowan area. Combined with the implement business is distribution of gasoline and oil to keep the tractors running, and an airport from which is furnished a spraying and dusting service to control insects.

The firm occupied its present building on Rhoe Street in 1945, expanding from its original location in the horse and mule barn across the street. It was in this new building that L. S. Jernigan and Son became the first Ahoskie concern to devote itself exclusively to the agricultural implement business. Complete sales and service in the Allis-Chalmers line was featured.

Since that time the father and son team has aggressively and progressively continued to expand their service to agriculture in this area in the implement and power field. In 1950 they entered the oil distribution business, establishing Jernigan Oil Co. to distribute all petroleum products and at the same time built their retail service station at the corner of Main and Rhoe.

It was in 1952 that they pioneered an airplane spraying and dusting service and 1954 improved that service by construction of their own private airstrip to accommodate.

See TRADER, Page 4

Vann Formed Hardware Firm in 1918

AHOSKIE—Farmers Hardware Company, located at the corner of Main and Maple streets, is the outgrowth of one of Ahoskie's earlier businesses founded in 1918.

J. N. Vann, Inc., was the 1918 firm, located in the site of the present Colonial Store, in the Parker building on Main Street. Mr. Vann was president and W. T. Forbes secretary.

In 1940, H. C. Babb was associated with Vann in the hardware operation. After the war, in 1945, the firm was sold to Levi Dilday and his brother, Horace. In 1947, the Dildays moved from the Parker building to the present location of Willoughby Furniture, on Main Street, and later to their present location.

In 1949, Levi Dilday became sole owner of Farmers Hardware, which today has four employees and handles a complete line of hardware, Westinghouse and Maytag appliances.

Hi-Fi Sound Latest Thing Godwin-Savin

AHOSKIE — Godwin and Savin Company has followed the progress of radio and electronics since 1936, when the firm was founded as a radio repair and sales shop by A. S. Godwin.

In 1945, the name was changed to Home Appliance Company, with Godwin, J. S. Vinson and J. N. Pierce as partners. Two years later, Godwin bought out his partner's interest and was sole owner again until 1951.

At that time, Charlie Savin purchased a half-interest in the firm, and the present name was first used. In 1956, Fred M. Hill, Jr. also purchased an interest.

Latest feature of the firm is high fidelity and stereophonic sound equipment by Zenith. They also handle Zenith television, radios and equipment, and RCA Whirlpool home appliances, and service all electrical items.



THE HERALD, AHOSKIE



BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE, WINDSOR



ROANOKE-CHOWAN TIMES-NEWS, RICH SQUARE

Parker Bros. Employs 34

On page two of the first section of this Milestone Edition there is a group of photographs of the present day newspaper workers and printers who make up the publishing and printing organization of Parker Brothers, Inc., publishers of The Herald at Ahoskie, The Bertie Ledger-Advance at Windsor, The Gates County Index at Gatesville, and the Roanoke-Chowan Times-News at Rich Square and Jackson in Northampton County; and also the operators of the commercial printing divisions known as The Herald Printing House at Ahoskie and the Windsor Press at Windsor.

Identification of those whose photos are shown, together with their positions with the company follows:

First row, left to right: John J. Hill, vice president and mechanical superintendent; John W. Mitchell, advertising manager; The Herald, Ahoskie; Joe M. Parker, sales and production manager; commercial printing division, The Herald Printing House, and treasurer; J. Roy Parker, Jr., managing editor "Your Home Newspaper" and secretary; J. Mayon Parker, president and general manager.

Second row: Robert S. Geary, assistant secretary and make-up foreman; Fred Hill, linotype operator; Stanley Pearce, display advertising compositor; Mary T. Bond, proofreader and Scan-A-Graver operator; Charles Bond, news editor of The Herald.

Third row: Vernon Riddick, commercial printing pressman, Herald Printing House, Meredith Smith, business manager Bertie Ledger-Advance and Windsor Press, Windsor; Frank Powell, newspaper pressman and mailer.

Carlton Morris, editor and manager Gates County Index, Gatesville; Gilbert Vaughan, linotype operator and floorman.

Fourth row: James McDaniel, compositor commercial printing Herald Printing House; Laura Harrell, editor and photographer Bertie Ledger-Advance, Windsor; John G. Powell, linotype operator; Carolyn Joyner, circulation clerk and assistant bookkeeper; Appie Jernigan, business office manager.

Fifth row: Betsy Darden, commercial printing bindery assistant and advertising dispatch; Everett Liveman, commercial printing pressman, The Herald Printing House; William Allgood, linotype operator and commercial printing pressman, The Windsor Press. See EMPLOYEES, Page 5



F. R. SYNDER, JR., Editor Roanoke-Chowan Times-News

Home of The Herald and Herald Printing House

This building located on the corner of North and McGlohon streets, was first occupied by The Herald in 1937. The additions to the building have been made since that time, the latest completed in 1958 to house the commercial printing equipment of the Herald Printing House.

There are approximately 9,000 square feet of floor space. In addition to business office equipment, the building houses the following printing equipment: four linotype machines, Models 31, Comet with teletype casting mechanism, 14 and 25; Duplex Model E webbed newspaper printing press; Ludlow; Elrod display type caster; Monotype material caster; teletypesetter; perforator; 3 metal saws; Elliott mailing system; photographic dark room and equipment and Fairchild Scan-A-Graver; 3 proof presses; Monomet plate leveler; Hammond stereotype caster; No-land re-melt furnace; Challenge power miterer; numerous type cabinets housing many tons of cast type and standing printing forms, and both fixed and mobile steel make-up and composing stones.

Kelly B automatic cylinder press; 1250 Multith offset printing press with plate making equipment; C & P 12 X 18 automatic platen press; 10 X 15 Heidelberg automatic platen press; 8 X 15 C & P handfed platen press; 17 X 22 Baum automatic folder; Challenge Power drill; Rosback perforator; Smyth power sticher; 24" C & P power paper cutter; miscellaneous tools and equipment; together with tons of flat printing papers of many grades and sizes.

The building provides warehouse space to accommodate more than a carload of roll newsprint. It is centrally heated by two automatic heating units.

Business and editorial offices are air-conditioned. A continuous file of all issues of The Herald and the other newspapers printed in the printing plant is maintained on microfilm.

Ahoskie Feed & Fuel Amoco Distributors

AHOSKIE—Ahoskie Feed and Fuel Company, headed by Clayton S. Godwin, Jr., has changed directions twice since it was opened. Originally distributors of Cities Service products, the firm now holds the franchise as American Oil Company distributor.

The change was made when the firm moved into its present location on Catherine Street in 1958. At that time, the Amoco distributor leased his former building to Roanoke-Chowan Chemical Corporation, moving to the other side of the lot which also fronted on Maple Street.

Earley Co. Grew By Work, Little Fanfare

AHOSKIE — The history of The Earley Co. in Ahoskie is one that includes several first and only labels.

It has been a pioneering and growing concern under the leadership of Claxton Earley, in association with his brother, Willard. The Earley brothers are from native stock of pioneer residents of Hertford County, their family reaching back to be numbered with the first settlers in this area.

The Earley Co. as nearly every farmer in the Ahoskie area knows, sells and mixes livestock feeds, buys grain, livestock and poultry. Its store, warehouse, mill and grain elevators, its livestock market pens, and its egg factory sheds and pig parlor all are located on Highway 13 just outside the town limits, south. The Earley Co. deals in the familiar checkerboard products with the Purina brand.

But back to the 'first and only' and the pioneering done by The Earley Co. It had its start in December, 1942 in Claxton Earley's garage, he says. In that year while he was employed as a traveling salesman he took over the franchise to sell Purina livestock feeds in Ahoskie and the first load was delivered to his garage. But on January 1 of 1943, The Earley Co. opened for business at the corner of Main and Maple Streets. See EARLEY, Page 4

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GOVERNORS OFFICE
RALEIGH
January 28, 1959

LUTHER H. HODGES
GOVERNOR

TO THE PUBLISHERS AND STAFF OF THE HERALD

Dear Friends:

I am happy to join other North Carolinians in sending best wishes and congratulations to the Herald as it observes its 50th year of publication as one of Eastern North Carolina's outstanding community newspapers.

I note that in connection with this observance and with the observance of the 200th anniversary of Hertford County, which is being celebrated this year, the Herald is publishing its "Milestone" edition. I understand this edition will contain articles reviewing the past history of Hertford County and telling the story of present day achievements.

Hertford County has a history in which all North Carolinians can take pride. The Herald is to be especially commended for bringing the story of this history to the attention of the State in this special anniversary edition.

My best wishes to the Herald as it enters its second 50 years as a vital member of North Carolina's community newspaper fraternity, striving to live up to its motto as "An Institution of Community Service Since 1909."

Sincerely yours,

LHH:sg

Alexander Bell's Invention: 'Public Nuisance' to Modern Necessity

AHOSKIE—In 1913, the Ahoskie town council granted a permit to J. W. (John) Godwin to operate a private telephone until "such time as it might become a public nuisance." By 1917, the telephone had caught on, like the automobile, and a franchise was granted to J. T. Willoughby, owner of the New Era Telephone Company of which Godwin was manager.

The New Era company strung lines to Cofield, Winton, Harrellsville, and St. John, and soon drew competition. The Chowan and Roanoke Telephone Company, with headquarters in Colerain, received a franchise for an Ahoskie office. However, they furnished service only during daytime hours until August, 1923, when 24-hour service began and rates were raised 50 cents per phone.

In March, 1926, the Chowan and Roanoke company was sold to the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company of Tarboro, and The Herald expressed the hope that Ahoskie would receive service as good as that furnished the Piedmont area by Bell Telephone Company.

Ahoskie was chosen for the central headquarters of Carolina Telephone's exchange in Winton, Murfreesboro, Windsor, Aulander, Plymouth and Williamston. A new brick building costing \$5,000, with a switchboard valued at \$9,000 was installed on Mitchell Street.

In 1928, there were 108 subscribers for phone service in Ahoskie, 102 in Murfreesboro, and 24 in Winton, for a total of 235 in the county. By 1958, this number had risen to 2,994, with 1,968 in Ahoskie, 830 in Murfreesboro, and 196 in Winton. E. L. Thorne, recently honored by the company for 30 years' serv-

ice, came as manager of Ahoskie in 1928.

A sign of the blossoming telephone service was the forest of telephone poles which went up in the next decade, as new routes went in between Ahoskie and Murfreesboro, Winton and Roduco, and other points in the surrounding area. In 1931, Winton was converted from manual to automatic operation. In 1938, more local automatic facilities were provided at

Murfreesboro, and in 1940 an extension was made to the building at Ahoskie.

As soon as World War II ended, land was purchased for a new building site in Ahoskie, in the middle of the block between Main and North on McGlohon Street. As soon as the building was erected, toll switchboard facilities were expanded. As telephone service grew, the Ahoskie building grew, with a ma-

ior addition completed in 1951. The following year, Ahoskie was converted to dial phones, and the "Hello Control" era was finished.

Land was purchased at Winton in 1952 for a new unattended dial office, which was completed and placed in operation in 1955. In 1958, further expansion in the R-C area was noted with the inauguration of DDD—direct distance dialing—from points in Northampton County.

Forerunner Corporation: Camp Saw Logwoods Possibilities

FRANKLIN, Va.—A wealth of natural resources have helped make Hertford County one of the state's leading agricultural counties, and have contributed largely to the success of many firms.

One of the greatest attractions—and a continuing one today—was the wealth of virgin timber. It was the rich timberland near Como in Maney's Neck township which attracted Paul D. Camp in the bleak reconstruction days of 1878.

The young Virginian built a small sawmill and logging opera-

tion there, merging it into the Camp Manufacturing Company with his brothers, James L. and Robert J. Camp, in 1887.

By harvesting and processing the timber crop, a shot in the arm was given to the waning market prices at that time, and regular employment was provided for many seeking a supplement to their war-depleted farm economy.

Another unique institution, the Camp PD Hunt Club, also began in 1887 as an informal gathering of Paul D. Camp's friends. One of the

charter members was the late Guy C. Picot, who died in 1955. Eventually, after Paul D. Camp's death in 1924, the clubhouse in the "Big Woods" east of Como was given to the group of hunters by the Camp Manufacturing Company.

Manufacturing under the new company formed by the Camp brothers in 1887 was set up primarily at Franklin, Va., but expansion of operations over the following years placed additional mills at Arringdale and Butterworth, Va.; Marion and Russellville, S. C.; and Wilmington and Wallace, N. C.

Passing years and changing conditions caused these operations to be included, however, and the last outlying sawmill operation was closed in Marion, S. C., in 1943.

Only the Franklin, Va., sawmill remains of the vast lumber-producing organization. The Franklin sawmill is still one of the largest in Virginia and the Atlantic states. Recognizing the potentials of

1759-1959

Hertford County ...

THE HERALD

1909-1959

See CAMP, Page 3