



Charter members

Charter members of the Rose of Sharon chapter #611 of the Order of the Eastern Star in 1957 were (front row, from left) Mrs. Mary P. Grant, treasurer; Mrs. Josephine Tyree, associate conductress; Mrs. C.Y. Motley, worthy matron; and Mrs. Irene N. Yeates, conductress; (second row) Mrs. Helen Slade, Electa; Mrs. Hattie Manley, warder; Mrs. Eunice Williams, marshal;

Mrs. Henrietta K. Yeates, secretary; Mrs. E.M. Davis, Martha; and C.S. Yeates Jr., worthy patron; and (third row) Mrs. M.B. Lewis, Ruth; Mrs. Florida Bazemore, Ada; Mrs. Eliza Y. Jenkins, Esther; Mrs. Riddle Lewis, chaplain; and Mrs. Katie Sessoms, sentinel. Not pictured was Mrs. Amaza Davis, associate worthy matron. (Photo courtesy of Clarence S. Newsome)

Rose of Sharon chapter serves Ahoskie community since 1957

By Quay Winslow
Worthy Matron

Rose of Sharon chapter #611 of the Order of the Eastern Star was originated from the Jerusalem Lodge #96.

Its meeting place was erected before the 1900's at the corner of Hayes and Rhue streets by the Love and Charity Lodge, the Masons and the Odd Fellows.

The building was known as the Love and Charity Hall and it is now known as Jerusalem Lodge #96.

The lodge was renovated in the mid-1970's during the administration of George A. Everett Sr. as worshipful master.

At that time, Hawley J. Newsome, a past worshipful master, and member Clayton Saunders provided hands-on workmanship in brick-veneer the entire exterior of the building.

Clarence Askew Jr. and John Bailey assisted in the renovation project, and there were other people in the community that gave a helping hand.

Chapter organized

Katie Hart, a member of the Dorcas chapter, inspired Ahoskie citizens to organize an Eastern Star chapter. Rose of Sharon #611 of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized Feb. 1, 1957 by Vera Slade from another chapter and Deputy Willia G. Williams of District 6.

Slade was deputized to set up the chapter and she helped them in every way. She even contributed \$11 to Clara Motley, the charter worthy

matron, to get the treasury started.

Charter members were Motley; Charles S. Yeates Jr., worthy patron; Amaza Davis, associated matron; Irene Yeates, conductress; Josephine Tyree, associated conductress; Mary P. Grant, treasurer; Henrietta K. Yeates, secretary; Florida Bazemore, Adah; Mary B. Lewis, Ruth; Eliza Y. Jenkins, Esther; Elsie Davis, Martha; Helen Slade, Electa; Hattie Manley, warden; Katie Sessoms, Riddell Lewis, chaplain; and Eunice Williams, marshal.

Mobley led group

Motley served as worthy matron for 11 years, to 1968. During her tenure, she gave outstanding leadership. She always had words of encouragement and believed in giving credit where it was due. The organization continues to grow because of her genuine interest in the Eastern Star. She continues to serve loyally and puts her best foot forward in performing whatever tasks she undertakes.

When the chapter was organized, members Davis and Yeates made curtains and draperies for the windows, donated a sweeper and were always looking for bargains.

Lews gave a white Bible. Later Manley contributed a piano.

Davis and Yeates were very instrumental in getting the organization off to a good start. They were sincere and dedicated. Their contributions were numerous. Their long years of service and dedication always will remain a beautiful memory and a great source of inspiration for those of us who are left to carry

of the work of the organization.

These worthy matrons followed in order: Amaza Davis, Eliza Y. Jenkins, Lela Joyner and Quay Winslow.

During the capable leadership of Joyner and Jenkins, the chapter continued to progress.

First patron

The first patron was Charles S. Yeates Jr. He remained patron until 1986, when he became sick. The second patron was Charles McCullough. The current worthy patron is Bobby Wright.

Wright and Winslow, as worthy matron, took office in 1992 and were re-elected in 1993.

Rose of Sharon #611 has these grand officers: Charles McCullough, instructor, North Carolina Gleaner Youth Department; Lela Joyner, Eastern Regional co-chairwoman for Districts 5, 6 and 21; Winslow, District 21 youth advisor; and Wright, conservation representative.

(A history of the chapter's meeting place and its renovation has been included in an article on the history of black fraternal organizations in Ahoskie.)

Rose of Sharon #611 and Dorcas #97 established a Gleaner branch on Feb. 29, 1992, which is named Stars of Hope #75.

Geraldine Mizzell is chair supervisor. The supervisors at the time the branch was established were Eulala Wilson, Marion Faison, Annie Newsome, Rosia Ruffin, Ida Lee, Viretta Vann, Quay Winslow, Lela Joyner and Sherri Weaver. There are 31 Gleaners and 10 supervisors.

Sessoms

(From Page 11A)

Mr. Mitchell, old Sheriff Parker and others came to see me and encourage me. I was going to quit. I told them that the folks were as mean as they were. I wasn't out there with them before but when I got into this work, people would walk around up there Saturday night with shotguns looking for someone to shoot. All that cutting going on! I told them I couldn't do that. One fellow had sent me word that he was going to kill me. Mr. Mitchell told me not to worry about him because he had been killing him for the last 20 years.

After I became a policeman, I took some police training. We had to attend schools three nights a month to learn different things. I was hired without any special training. People were hired on reputations then.

I kept hanging on to the job about 10 years and things began to get better. Folks began to know me and I began to know them. They began to respect me and from then on, we got along fine.

'Folks were crazy'

It take a lot of courage, I suppose, because folks were crazy then. For example, kids like you Junior Historians wouldn't even be going to school. You might be around stealing and in garbage cans, in people's stores behind the counters, crawling and stealing what you could.

The ones I had to deal with didn't have enough sense to come in somebody's house and sit down. Now I don't mean all of the kids, just the ones I had to deal with. The parents didn't ever teach them; the home training was lacking. Since the law was passed that kids had to go to school, things have been a whole lot better.

When I began work, the police station was in the bank building, where Mr. Carlton Cherry had his office, on Main Street. The jail was in the back. We had two cells — one for men and one for women.

I carried the key to the jail right on my keyring. It had one of those padlocks. When we would look a fellow up, we hang the key on our side. At the time I started, there were only two policemen. He had a key and I had one.

We worked 12 hours a day. Sometimes it was 16 hours, depending on how long it was necessary to be out there.

I had a regular uniform. I didn't

have it all to start, but we got it straightened out.

At first I used my own car. They gave me 10 gallons of gas a week. Then I got a police car, a Chevrolet. We had a siren, but it was under the hood, and we had a red light that could be put in front of the car or on the roof.

Built own office

I built a little building for my office on Hayes Street at the corner. This was the area where all the trouble usually was. There was a dance hall, the poolroom and a cafe. I wanted to be down there. It worked to prevent crime, and when the fights started, I was there, and all I had to do was step out.

Where there is a nice brick house today, there was a big dance hall. When Friday evening came and Saturday night, I'll bet there were 500 folks there. All would come to town. They would play the music so loud that they could dance right in the street if they wanted to. People would bring bootleg whiskey and sell it right in the street by the cup like lemonade. I had to go work to break that up.

Whenever somebody would break into any place, such as a house or a store, I would get them. There wasn't any getting away. They might be gone, but there were never out of my sight.

I don't know of any one case that I would say was the toughest. All

of them were tough. Back then the lawyers would fight these cases. You had better get yourself right when you went to court. I had no court experience when I started, but I learned if I got beat one time to be ready the next time.

There were a lot of cases that were distressing to me such as when children were trapped in a burning house and I had to work to help them get out. Or when a woman badly abused her baby and I had to work hard to get her to admit that she had thrown the baby against the floor.

First black cop in state

I was the first black policeman in Ahoskie. Mr. Roberts Jernigan (state representative) talked with people in Raleigh and found out I was the first black policeman in North Carolina. In fact, Mr. Thad Eure (secretary of state) wrote me a letter about it.

Working relations with the other counties was fine, too. I got just as much respect from white folk that I would ever want. The most trouble I had I got from my folk — criticizing. But most were on my side — the law-abiding, the best class of folk.

Editor's note: This interview was done by Darren Askew, Kirkland Mitchell, Ellery Lee, Lester Holley and David Freeman, all members of the R.L.Vann School Junior Historians in 1982.

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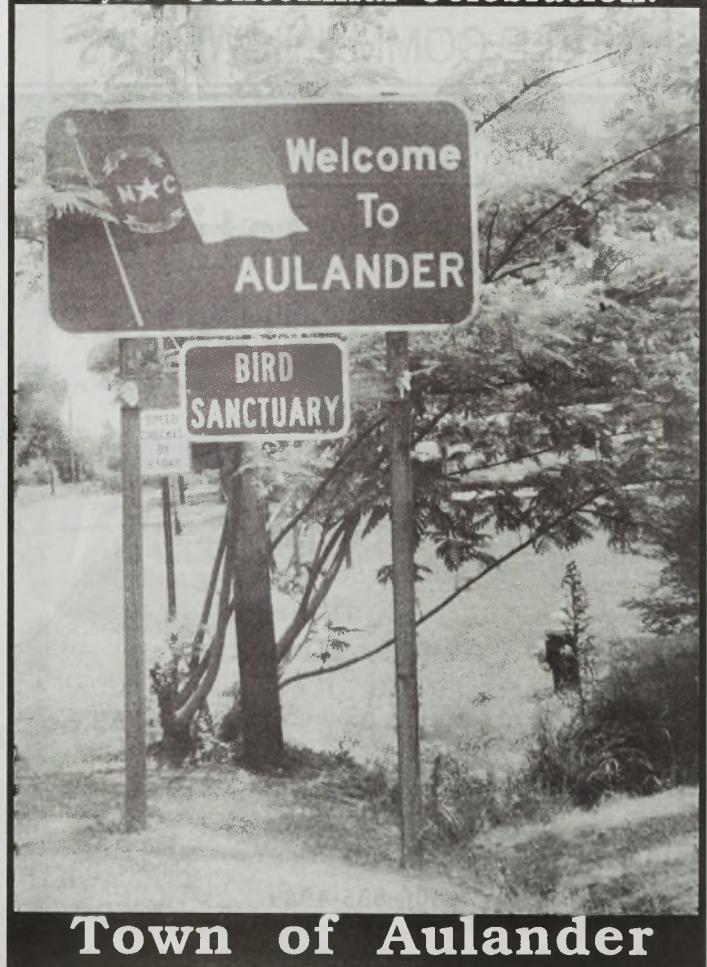
So much more than room to mention here. It's worth a quick drive to Aulander!

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The township of AULANDER graciously pays tribute to our neighbor in honor of celebrating their first 100th Birthday.

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Name

(From Page 12A)

creek beds to indicate Indian tribes did live in the area.

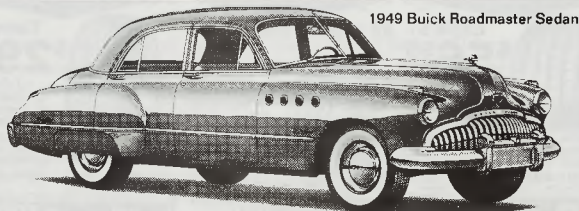
An Ahoskie native, George Greene of Rowland, talked about a number of Indians living in the

area, and they told him that those Indians were half-breeds — half-Cherokee and half-Tuscarora — and were called Ahoskans.

Not until 1893, nearly a century after the Baptist church was opened, was the town incorporated on the

eastern end of Ahoskie ridge.

Having been spelled so many ways by the English who tried to articulate the Indian sound, "Ahoskey" finally became Ahoskie with the coming of the railroad and the post office in 1894.



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