

Here's what kind of town Ahoskie is 100 years later

Government

Ahoskie is governed by a mayor and a town council. The mayor is elected at-large every two years. The five council members are elected for four-year terms, on a staggered basis, every two years.

However, a voting rights case, Ahoskie Civic Association v. Town of Ahoskie, is being decided by a federal appeals court on the future makeup of the town council. The Ahoskie Civic Association wants a four-member council, with two members elected from each of two districts and the mayor elected at-large. The town countered with a plan to add a fifth councilman elected at-large.

Geography

Although Ahoskie is the youngest incorporated town in Hertford County, it is the largest and the center of the county's commercial and industrial life.

The town is located in northeastern North Carolina, between the Roanoke and Chowan rivers, on U.S. Highway 13, known as the Pleasure Route, and is 24 miles south of the Virginia line. Streets total 30.5 miles, including 20 miles paved.

Ahoskie occupies 2.5 square miles at an elevation of 60 feet above sea level.

The community enjoys a temperate climate with a mean annual temperature of 65.5 degrees Fahrenheit with an average annual rainfall of 45 inches.

Population

The population, according to the 1990 census figures, was 4,535, just large enough to attract big business, but small enough to be neighborly.

Churches

Most important in the life and progress of the community are the many religious opportunities available for its people.

With its very beginning established with the coming of a church, the people of Ahoskie have not forgotten the substance of such a heritage.

There are six Protestant denominations and one Roman Catholic church within or near the town limits and many smaller churches in the surrounding area.

The Protestant churches are Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Epis-

copal, Church of Christ, Holiness, Free Will Baptist and Church of God.

Education

Ahoskie has two private kindergartens, the Ahoskie Woman's Club kindergarten, one public primary school, one public elementary school and one public high school that serves all of Hertford County.

Ridgecroft School, a private school on Route 3, has grades K-12.

Roanoke-Chowan Community College, a state community college extension facility, is about four miles from town in Union.

Library

The Ahoskie Public Library is located at 210 E. Church St.

Culture

The Gallery Theatre, on West Main Street, is a cultural center which provides live entertainment with local and imported talent.

Presentations include musicals, plays, dances and children's theater.

The theatre also maintains an art gallery.

Recreation

Ahoskie has a recreation center supervised by a full-time director.

The recreational program includes summer baseball and softball, flag football in the fall, children's and adult basketball in the winter, and volleyball, horseshoes, weightlifting and aerobics year-around.

There are two lighted tennis courts, lighted athletic fields and picnic and play areas.

The facilities are also available for senior citizens, exercise groups and other civic and service organizations.

In addition, a private swimming pool offers more recreational activities.

Amusement

Ahoskie has four movie theaters under one roof — the Earl Theater on East Main at Catherine Street.

Water system

Ahoskie has four deep wells for water and uses elevated storage tanks. The capacity of the water plant is 2.5 million gallons daily. It also has a new sewage treatment plant designed for a capacity of 901,000 gallons per day.

Water and sewer services are provided throughout the town and in some areas outside of the town lim-

Police Department

Sixteen full-time and three part-time policemen serve on the Ahoskie police force.

The patrol cars are fully equipped with two-way radios, and police protection is extended to the rural areas as well as the immediate town.

A State Highway Patrol office is two miles south of town.

Fire Department

Ahoskie maintains a Volunteer Fire Department with five full-time, paid employees and 25 volunteer firemen, who operate four pieces of modern equipment.

Fire-fighting water pressure is 50-60 pounds per square inch.

Fire protection is extended into the rural area as well as the immediate town.

The present insurance rating is 7.

Energy

Electricity is furnished by North Carolina Power Co. at the intersection of N.C. 461 and N.C. 11.

Liquefied petroleum gas is available for domestic, space heating and industrial purposes.

N.C. Natural Gas service is available for industry and residents of Ahoskie.

Industry

The chief industries within the town and area include tobacco marketing, sawmills, lumber and lumber products, commercial printing, boxes and wooden pallets, caskets,

peanut processing, aluminum products, feeds, knitting, plant food and seed distribution, newspapers, decorative paneling, plastic products, clothing, fiberglass manufacturing and agricultural pesticides.

Trade area

Ahoskie is well-favored with wholesale establishments, being one of the largest wholesale distributing points per population in the world.

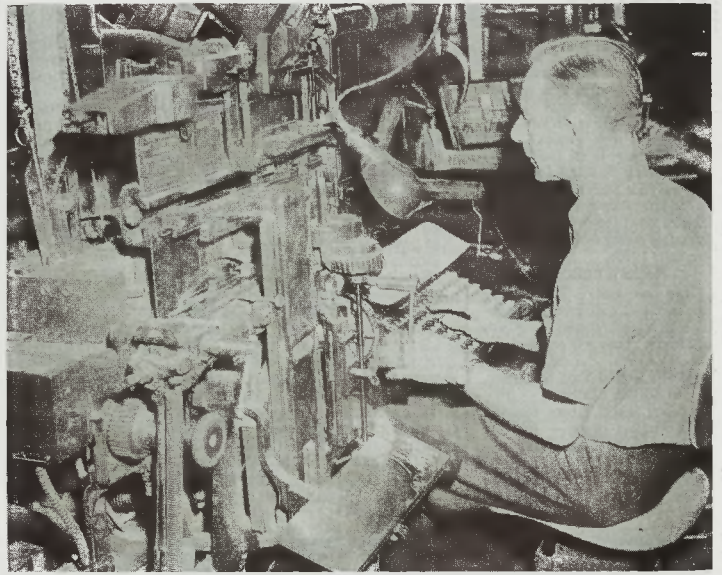
There are six wholesale houses serving an area of more than 75 miles.

The retail area has a radius of 50-75 miles with a population of 85,000 people.

Transportation

Ahoskie is served by the North Carolina and Virginia Railroad.

(See TODAY, Page 19A)



How it used to be done

Years ago newspaper type was produced on Linotype machines. The late John Hill, then foreman at 'The Herald,' sets type in this photograph. Eugene Ward, who began as a stereotypist and has now worked 47 years,

longer than any other employee, remembered his former boss fondly. Even now at 82, the oldest employee, Ward "is a vital part of the mailroom," his current boss, James R. Waller, editor and general manager, said.

'News-Herald' has printed news of Ahoskie for almost 100 years

By Dana Edwards
Staff Writer

AHOSKIE — When remembering the past, several milestones of each era shine as bright as the people who created them. The celebration of Ahoskie Centennial allows each participant in its growth a chance to look back at his particular milestone and delight in the achievements.

The *News-Herald* honors the town of Ahoskie and takes a glance at the importance it played in allowing a small local newspaper a chance to become a beacon of light to its residents.

First known as the *Ahoskie Patriot*, the newspaper was established in 1909 by two enterprising young

men, James White and D.E. Greene ventured out to issue a paper with the sole purpose to promote advertisement.

The paper carried little news and unlike its counterpart today, had no editorial views. It was printed in Raleigh and Norfolk and shipped back to Ahoskie for distribution.

Paper stops, restarted

Several months after its inception, when advertising subsidized and residents lost interest, the publication was suspended. To the surprise of area residents, a young man named W.G. Smith came to town.

Already with newspaper experience, Smith settled in the area as a buyer for the Imperial Tobacco Co. and began his second career in the

newspaper business.

In 1910 Smith set out to give the little town the newspaper he felt it needed. Renamed *The Hertford County Herald*, Smith gave it a direction which has remained embedded in the hearts of each reporter to cross its path.

He implanted in *The Herald's* system the need to cover issues concerning the local community — issues like school conditions, local churches and their contribution to each town, street improvements, living conditions in the town, political recognition and economic stability.

As Smith saw it, *The Herald* was

(See 'HERALD,' Page 19A)

Happy 100th Birthday, Ahoskie

American Refuse Systems, Inc. is proud to be of service to The Town of Ahoskie.

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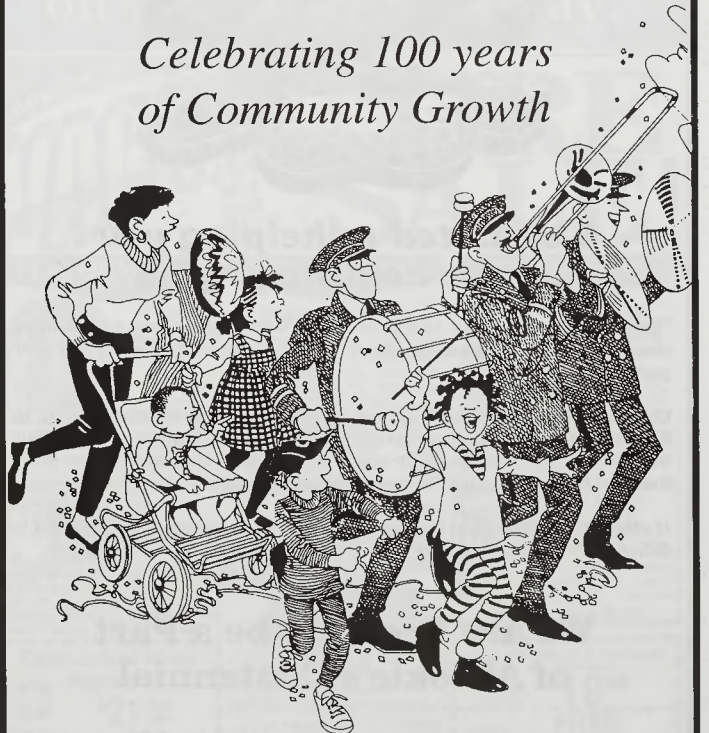



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