



Old Ahoskie High School

This building on Academy Street housed until these students were transferred to Ahoskie High School students from 1930 to Murfreesboro as part of a countywide reorganization of schools.

Ahoskie High School began in 1909 but not first school

Ahoskie High School, established in 1909, was by no means the first school in the town.

Records show that the first school was a one-room log cabin built in the late 1700's on the site of the present First Presbyterian Church at Church Street and Catherine Creek Road.

Before 1825, the state of North Carolina took very little interest in the field of education, which was limited mostly to the children of the well-to-do. Most of the schools were operated in private homes.

Raised standards

After the Civil War, many small schools sprang up in the Ahoskie vicinity. Because of poor roads, large schools were impossible, and a great number of one-teacher schools developed.

During the late 1800's, in an effort to raise the standard of education, the Farmers' Alliance in Ahoskie built a larger school, which took care of most of the area children, behind the present Presby-

terian church. The Rev. Thomas Wright Hayes was the schoolmaster.

In opposition to the larger school, Dr. Jesse H. Mitchell built a school in his yard, which several students attended.

In 1905 the General Assembly incorporated School District No. 5 in Ahoskie, to be known as the Ahoskie Graded School District.

Built \$7,000 structure

In 1907 the people of the Ahoskie district voted in favor of a special school tax at the rate of 50 cents on \$100 valuation of personal property to finance a new school building.

After much debate the \$7,000 building was placed on the Dr. Jesse Mitchell property on the site of what is now the old Ahoskie High School.

The new brick structure, completed in February, 1910, was the scene of commencement exercises in the spring of that year.

The principal for the first term

was B.O. Shannon, who was followed by A.L. Thorn and then John C. Scarborough.

The first term was 28 weeks with a high school enrollment of 23 — 10 boys and 13 girls. The high school offered a three-year course of study under two teachers, Miss Josie White and Miss Virginia White.

Completed auditorium

Many improvements were made in Ahoskie High School between 1915 and 1925. In February, 1917, an auditorium was completed. For the 1918-19 school year, the course of study was lengthened to four years, and the number of teachers rose to seven.

At commencement in 1919, James Sessoms became the first boy to graduate from the senior class. In 1921, the school was accredited. By this time enrollment had increased greatly, and the need for a larger school was a main topic

(See AHS, Page 20A)

First 4-H club in U.S. started in Ahoskie

When Ahoskie was only a teenager, in 1909, farmers in Hertford County organized a "corn club," which later became the largest youth organization in the world — the 4-H club.

Four white H's, representing head, heart, hands and health, on a green four-leaf clover became the symbol of 4-H.

Hertford County was named the "birthplace of 4-H," and the county 4-H'ers have worked hard to uphold the meaning of their clover.

Club replaced

In keeping with their motto, "To Make the Best Better," the school clubs, to which most AHS students belonged at one time, were replaced by community clubs several years ago.

These smaller clubs, the newest landmark in 4-H, have a greater advantage over the former clubs in that each person receives more individual attention.

Each of the 13 clubs in Hertford County is directed by two adult leaders and supervised by E.W. "Bill" Register, assistant agricultural agent, and Miss Effie Lee Aman, assistant home economics agent. Under their direction, the local clubs have made much progress.

Because of its many varied projects, 4-H is suited to all youths between the ages of 9 and 19. It involves a host of other activities, in-

cluding demonstration contests. Each club member is able to excel in his or her favorite activity.

Teens win recognition

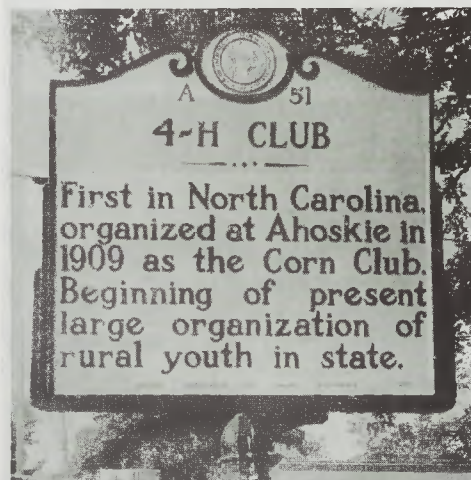
Among the Ahoskie High School students who have won state or national recognition for their work in 4-H are H.C. Francis and Britt Ward in 1966, Libby Jones and Dianne Jones in 1967, David Brown in 1968 and Rae Brown in 1969.

Hertford County farmers organized a 'corn club' in 1909 as a forerunner of the first 4-H club.

Too numerous to mention individually are the 4-H'ers who have won awards on the county and district levels. These club members have just begun to climb the ladder of success.

In summarizing the purposes of 4-H, one member remarked, "Four-H work is entirely voluntary; it's very foundation is democracy."

Editor's note: Dianne Jones, a student at Ahoskie High School, wrote this article that appeared in the May, 1969, issue of The Pow Wow, the student newspaper.



Historic marker

A historic marker stands on Academy Street, just north of Main Street in front of the former Ahoskie High School, to recognize the first 4-H club in the nation.

Congratulations,
Ahoskie
 on your 100th Birthday.
Fashion Shoe Center
"Where fine shoes are sold in Ahoskie since 1935"
 Main St. AHOSKIE 332-2282
WATCH for NEW brands of Sneakers coming in August and September!

In Honor of Ahoskie's 100th Birthday
We're Having A
Centennial Sale-A-Bration
YES WE ARE OPEN
Friday, Saturday & Monday!!!
 We Got The Autos You're Looking For...
 Largest Selection of New & Used
 Cars & Trucks In The Roanoke-Chowan
Rebates
 Up To **\$2,000.00**
A.P.R. As Low As 3.25%
Open Monday!!! July 4th!!!
CENTRAL FORD MERCURY LINCOLN
 Ford-Lincoln-Mercury
 Memorial Drive 332-2133 Ahoskie
 NCDL#12050