



JENKINS PLANTATION HOUSE—Although much of the land on which the town of Ahoskie was formed was originally owned by the Jenkins family, the old Jenkins plantation house has never been included in the town's city limits. It is located on the Jernigan Springs Road just across the town line.



CURTIS HOME—Built in the first years of the 20th century, the Curtis home on the corner of Church and Lloyd Streets in Ahoskie is one of the oldest standing dwellings in the town. Descendants of the Rev. L. M. Curtis, who came to Ahoskie as Baptist pastor in 1901, still live in the big frame house, typical of the dwellings of the turn of the century.



HISTORIC BLOCK—This block of Ahoskie's Church Street, between Railroad and Catherine Streets, is the historic center of the town's beginning. First families to move to the village beside the railroad crossing built homes in this block. Still standing today are two frame houses built in the early part of the 20th century. In foreground, the Gerock home; background, the Savage home.



AHOSKIE STREET SCENES—Top, looking eastward from middle of Catherine and Powell store front at left. Bottom, looking westward from same spot toward Maple block toward "warehouse district." The year: World War I time. Old Cockey railroad crossing (at star-shaped gasoline sign in background).

Ahoskie town councilmen, in point of service, with 32 years on the board. He has also served as secretary-treasurer of the Hertford County Building and Loan Association for many years, and is president of the Ahoskie Industrial Development Corporation. J. C. Sessoms, Jr., following in his father's civic footsteps, is president of the Ahoskie Chamber of Commerce, and was selected as "Man of the Year" in 1957 by the Ahoskie Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Or Almost, That Is Abe, Ahoskie Came in Together

AHOSKIE—Abe Feldman and Ahoskie started out almost even when the town was first beginning its growth in 1900, Abe was born. By the time he was 12, the Feldman family moved here from Baltimore.

Up until that time, the little Feldmans had not seen much of their father, Ephraim, for he was one of the early Jewish "pack peddlers."

With his wares strapped on the pack on his back, Russian-born Ephraim traveled the Roanoke-Chowan area on foot.

Returning to Baltimore to re-

all the pack, he would take passage by boat to Winton, where the Albemarle Steam Navigation Company's passenger line docked.

Ahoskie's central location appealed to the senior Feldman, and in 1912 he moved his family here, where he opened Feldman's Bargain Store. This firm was located in the building now occupied by Baker and Beale, on Main Street.

Young Abe started his career by traveling as his father did, selling shoes on the road for about five years. In 1934, he opened the Fashion Shop, which handled men's and women's clothing. This he expanded with the Men's

Store, which opened in 1948.

In September, 1957, Feldman opened Feld's, a quality women's specialty shop. Managing this store are his sister, Mrs. Betty Levy, and Mrs. J. J. Hyatt. Another family-related business is the Fashion Shoe Store, which is managed by a second sister, Mrs. Lillian Josselson.

Abe also continues operation of a farm at St. John's, purchased by his father in 1917. The elder Feldman died in 1936. Tobacco, peanuts and cotton are the principal products there. Abe is a member of Beth El synagogue in Norfolk, and the Masonic order.

Sessoms Brothers Began in 1919

AHOSKIE—Proprietors of the first garage in Ahoskie were Claude and J. N. Vann, who most folks thought were foolish to be fixing "gas buggies" back in 1908.

But by the end of World War I, it had become obvious that the horseless carriage was here to stay.

In 1919, twins John and Jim Sessoms returned from the army, where they had added to their training in mechanics. The Stony Creek natives bought J. N. Vann and Brother's garage at the corner

of McGlohon and Main Streets and set up business as Sessoms Brothers Garage.

A year later, the Sessoms brothers built a good brick building to house their expanding garage. In 1934, the garage took on a line of new automobiles to sell—Dodge and Plymouth. To house the new car part of the business, the brothers built an addition in 1935, a two-story brick building connecting with the earlier garage.

That same year, the component parts of Sessoms Brothers changed when John Sessoms moved to

Casper, Wyoming, where he is now an automobile dealer. He was replaced by a third brother, C. C. Sessoms, and the firm name remained Sessoms Brothers.

The year 1959 marks Sessoms Brothers' 25th year as a Dodge-Plymouth dealer. Jim and C. C. Sessoms, who is service manager, have been joined by J. C. Sessoms, Jr., who acts as general manager. The younger Sessoms entered his father's business in 1950, after graduation from N. C. State College.

Jim Sessoms is dean of the

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