

Today

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The Carolina Trailways Bus Line provides daily passenger, express package and charter service.

In addition, United Parcel Service serves the area.

Tri-County Airport, which is paved and lighted, is 11 miles west on N.C. 561.

Ahoskie is served by N.C. Highways 11, 42, 561 and 350 in addition to U.S. 13.

Newspaper

The News-Herald newspaper is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Ahoskie and has a circulation of about 6,500.

Radio stations

Radio Station WRCS broadcasts on AM daily until midnight and WQDK broadcasts on FM daily covering a 35-mile radius from Ahoskie.

'Herald'

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now a newspaper with a purpose, and he began to improve the conditions of the paper and its style of printing. He invested his money in a printing plant so that the paper could be printed in Ahoskie and to bring jobs to the thriving little town. Bringing in James S. Vinson to run the print shop, Smith later sold Vinson one-half interest in the publishing company.

In October, 1915, a young, energetic man, J. Roy Parker, arrived with a vision and desire to make *The Herald* a part of Ahoskie's history which would last forever.

Smith, who was now ready to retire, sold Parker his half of the publishing company. Parker had been a part-time employee during his summer vacations and had learned the business and the print shop from Smith and Vinson.

So, a publishing and printing partnership called Vinson and Parker was formed. Parker was editor and bookkeeper and Vinson was printer and general manager. They were also the only two on staff.

All printing operations were completed by hand, without the use of mechanical power. But despite limited physical facilities, the function of *The Herald* as a newspaper was performed to much success.

It served as a way to spread information and encourage participation in civic affairs in the town and county.

Several months after they took complete ownership of the publication, the two updated its printing facilities from a hand printing press, to a mechanical one. Over the years the improvements of plant equipment have grown by leaps and bounds. It is now one of the most modern and efficient printing plants in Northeastern North Carolina.

In 1928, J. Mayon Parker, Roy's

Telephone

Ahoskie has a modern dial telephone service provided by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Also, a Western Union office is located here.

Medical facilities

The Roanoke-Chowan Hospital offers residents excellent care. It has well-equipped medical, surgical and obstetrical departments and a pediatric ward.

The hospital medical staff consists of 29 physicians, including two general surgeons, 14 general practitioners, one urologist, one psychiatrist, one ophthalmologist, one internal medicine specialist, three radiologists, three pediatricians, one otorhinolaryngologist, one orthopedic surgeon and two obstetrical-gynecological specialists.

The hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation.

The Roanoke-Chowan Mental Health Service is about four miles away in Union.

Closing statement

Ahoskie is known far and wide, not only for its unusual name, but for its friendliness to strangers and its benevolence to the less fortunate.

We extend a warm welcome to all, whether passing through, or seeking a place to live work, trade or play.

The people who have lived here know that its possibilities for future growth are unlimited.

We are proud of our heritage from the past; we are ever conscious of the present; and we are constantly planning for a brighter future.

brother, purchased the Vinson half of the company and made *The Herald* a family-owned business.

By 1931 the company had acquired four more local papers — *The Windsor Ledger*, which was later sold; the *Jackson News*, now known as the *Northampton News*; *The Aulander Advance*, now incorporated into the *Bertie Ledger-Advance* and later sold; and the *Gates County Index*. The firm was then incorporated in 1940 and history was in the making.

Roy Parker served as editor from 1915 until his death in 1957 when his brother, Mayon, took over.

In 1962 the *Daily Roanoke-Chowan Times*, a publication in Murfreesboro, was merged with *The Herald* to form a tri-weekly paper. *The Herald* was printed Mondays and Fridays while the *Roanoke-Chowan Times* was printed Wednesdays. Not until 1977 were all three issues of the tri-weekly paper known as the *Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald*.

Earlier in 1970, after another member of the family came aboard, Joseph M. Parker, the publishing company purchased the *Scotland Neck Commonwealth* and the *Enfield Progress*. The entire publishing company now consisted of five paid, non-daily newspapers and three controlled distribution weeklies.

Park buys Parker Bros.

After years of keeping the community informed and growing to meet the needs of the area, the owners sought a buyer. *The Herald* and the entire publishing company, known as Parker Bros. Newspapers, were sold Feb. 15, 1988, to Park Communications Inc. of Ithaca, N.Y.

The announcement was made jointly by Joe Parker, principal stockholder in Parker Bros. News-

papers, and Roy H. Park, chairman of Park Communications Inc.

Park, who spent a considerable time in North Carolina after graduation from what is now known as N.C. State University, was delighted with the acquisition, promising to keep local news a priority.

James R. Waller was named by Robert J. Rossi, Park Communication's vice president of newspaper operations, as editor and general manager of Park Newspapers of Northeastern North Carolina Inc. This group includes *The News-Herald*, *Gates County Index*, *Northampton News*, *Scotland Neck Commonwealth*, *Enfield Progress* and the *Herald Printing House*.

Waller held the same position at the *Courier-News* in Blytheville, Ark. He began his career in 1975 in the industry and joined the Park staff in 1984 as editor and general manager of the *Journal Register* in Medina, N.Y.

At the time of the acquisition in 1988, Park Communications owned nine daily newspapers, nine paid non-daily newspapers and 13 controlled distribution weeklies in North Carolina alone.

Today, five years later, *The News-Herald* has remained strong in its commitment to local news and continues to venture out into state issues which concern all. While the company started with two employees, it now has 83, plus more than 150 independent contractors, such as newspaper carriers and correspondents.

Park Communications has also grown. Today the holdings in North Carolina are 12 daily newspapers, 10 non-dailies and 21 controlled weekly publications. Overall, Park owns 41 daily newspapers, 38 non-dailies, 65 controlled publications, eight television stations and 22 radio stations covering 23 states.

Fair

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school and class reunions, track and field events, automobile racing, circuses, a gypsy campground, traveling vaudeville shows and harness horse racing.

Annual highlight

The annual Fairweek event has been one of the major highlights in the lives of thousands of people for 73 years.

Huge crowds used to attend the festivities of the annual fair, which was immense during its early years. It included an array of exhibits representing all facets of living in Hertford and surrounding counties. Pleasurable midway attractions were provided by popular amusement carnivals.

The association maintains membership in the United States Trotting Association that is based in Columbus, Ohio. As a result, a traditional and exciting feature of the annual fair is a standardbred horse racing program that occurs several days during the week.

The horse racing has been complemented by thrilling "free act" entertainment shows and a fireworks show at night. Years ago airplane rides and parachute jumping were also a part of the week.

For 73 years, the fair association has been an integral part of the Ahoskie community and contributes to its growth and development as it has endeavored to pursue the objectives and aims defined earlier. It has persevered in maintaining the fairgrounds for the annual

fair and making it available for many other activities throughout the year/

Currently, the fairgrounds is enclosed with a seven-foot chain-link fence. The buildings include a 500-seat grandstand, under which is an exhibit facility with an extension, a multi-unit concession stand, a livestock barn, a 30-stall horse barn, a judges' stand, a ticket office and restrooms. The half-mile race track is available for training and racing horses.

Presidents of the fair, in chronological order, were Wright J. Jenkins, J.C. Hubbard, Clarence Chavis, Sherman P. Hall, Samuel H. James, James L. Faulcon, James Dupont L. Davis, Wilbur G. Pierce and Clarence S. Newsome.

Community involvement

Because of the competition for the entertainment dollar, leadership of the Atlantic District Fair Association have sought new ways to attract more people to attend the fair. In early January, association officers attended workshops at the annual convention of the N.C. Association of Agricultural Fairs in Greensboro and then went to Edenton to consult with officials of the successful Chowan County Fair.

Because of the unique demographics of the Ahoskie fair, association officials asked William Perry, a past president of the Chowan County Fair, what was needed to make their fair more suc-

cessful. His response was more community involvement.

So Ahoskie officials are now striving to reach a broader spectrum of the community and also joined the Ahoskie Chamber of Commerce.

Already, the Atlantic District Fair Association is making plans for this year's event — which will be held Monday to Saturday, Sept. 20-25.

This year's plans

- Among them are:
 1. Proclaiming Thursday, Sept. 23, as Centennial Celebration Day at the Fair with a parade with floats from a" segments of the community and possibly a horse race of pacers and trotters.
 2. Displays of products for sale by local merchants.
 3. A variety of entertainment on the stage featuring mixed groups.
 4. An appearance by local and federal political leaders, including U.S. Rep. Eva Clayton, State Reps. Howard Hunter and Gene Rogers and State Sen. Frank Balance.
 5. Fair posters in windows of area businesses.
 6. Sponsorships of fair events by area businesses, including trophy blankets at the horse races.
- Officers of the association are Newsome; Wilbur G. Pierce, vice president; Godwin B. White, recording secretary; F. Gary Lewter, financial secretary; and James L. Peele, treasurer. There are 17 members of the board of directors.

Home

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City, and two children, Wayland and Mamie Hayes, who died in infancy.

Thomas C. Hayes was the father of Mrs. A.E. Garrett and Mrs. Stella Hayes Brett, who was the mother of Hayes Brett, Mrs. H.W. Upchurch and Mrs. M.J. Upchurch of Raleigh.

Stella Hayes and her husband, J. Paul Brett, were Don Upchurch's grandparents. Upchurch didn't know his grandmother, who died at 39. Brett later remarried Mary Deanes of Murfreesboro.

J. Hayes Brett was Upchurch's uncle. His aunts — his mother's sisters — were Agnes Brett, who is almost 90, Kate Brett Upchurch and

Madeline, who died as a teen-ager. Upchurch, who has two grown children by a former wife, has lived in the house since 1981. He and his wife Eleanor have three children — Paul, 16; Angela, 12; and Jon, 10.

The two-story home has 11 rooms and at one time had six fireplaces.

"It started out as basically as a rectangular two-story farmhouse," Upchurch said, "with fireplaces upstairs and downstairs at both ends."

Upchurch then described how the wood was cut in early spring, allowed to dry for a season and then used the next spring to build the home. Much of the wood was joined by pegs, not nails.

It's safe to say that they don't make them like they used to.

Gallery

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group became the highly visible and skilled arms of the parent organization, and their contributions through the years have added greatly to the overall success of The Gallery.

Grant awarded

The Gallery has been awarded a rural initiative grant which provides funds for stage improvements and implemented funds raised for a sound system honoring Ennis Tayloe. Additions to the stage lighting have been installed. This grant also

provides funds to expand the executive director position to full-time status.

The purpose of The Gallery Theatre Inc. has remained the same as it was 27 years ago: to promote and advance cultural interest in living theatre, art, music and crafts.

While the building has undergone structural changes to enhance its original beauty, the original idea of the organization is an even stronger endeavor.

All of the activities at The Gallery in the past 27 years — lo-

cal theatrical productions, art exhibits, art education, musical concerts and presentations of touring groups — have left the doors open and given those involved the opportunity, courage and determination to continue building a more culturally oriented community.

The Gallery Theatre Inc., the dream of a few, is now a project of the many, who must preserve it for future generations. Let us never cease to be proud of the organization's founders and their foresight.

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- Hamburgers
- AND MORE!



DUCK THRU FOOD STORES



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- Cofield
- Murfreesboro
- Windsor
- Rich Square
- Franklin, Va.

We Know We Can...

North Carolina & Virginia Railroad is proud to be a part of Ahoskie and served as the focus of its rapid growth in the early years. We hope to continue to grow with the town by providing professional short line railroad service to Ahoskie, Cofield, Aulander, Rich Square, Conway and Severn. We can also deliver shipments throughout the United States by connecting to other railroads.

Locally or Nationally...
We Have the Connections!

North Carolina & Virginia Railroad

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