

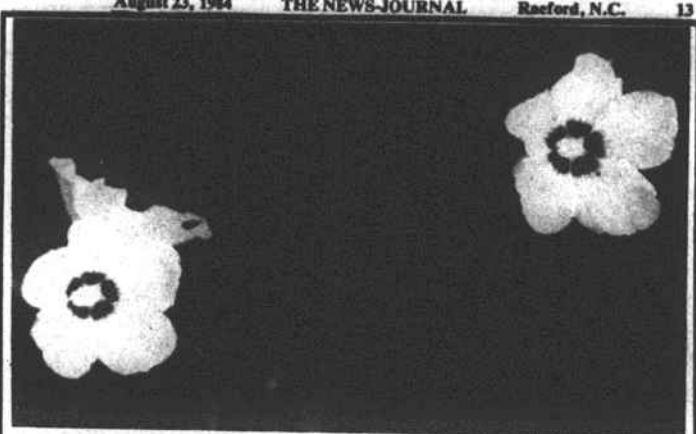
Hoke County crops comme ci comme ca

By Ed Miller
The crops of Hoke County are in "good shape but not great shape" this year, according to the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Director John Currin.
Some areas of the county will enjoy better harvests than other sections because of scattered showers that were heavy in some places and almost non-existent in others, members of an ASCS committee were told Friday morning.
"We've got an average, or

slightly above average tobacco crop," Currin said, adding that this year's crop is better than it was at this point last year.
With the rain the county had in July, there may be isolated places where tobacco crops are unusually good and other places where they are bad, Currin said.
There has been some tobacco drowned in Hoke County by the rain but the damage is not widespread.
The county's cotton crop is

above average, but it is not a "bumper crop."
All the rain from last month will not be as much of a factor with the cotton crop except that it may promote unusually fast weed growth which could result in problems at harvest time, Currin said.
However, some of the cool nights of July might hurt the cotton crop, he said.
Currin explained that cotton needs hot, moist weather to grow to best potential and that the cool

nights hit at a bad time in the plants' growing cycle.
Due to rain and other bad weather, much of the county's corn crop was planted later than normal thus missing the crippling rain of July, Currin said.
Although the county will not have an overabundance of corn this year, the crop was not wiped out by rain.
Soybeans, have been helped by the rains, according to Currin.



Springlike summer
These blossoms brighten a Hoke County summer and make it seem like spring.
Photo by Rebecca Jones

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... Around Town

(Continued from page 1)
This old school building has been on the property and not in use since the closing of Antioch School. Some of the other old school buildings have also been sold and put to use in other ways. They are Bethel or Blue Springs, Ashmont, Mildouson and the school at Rockfish.
Maybe it is hard for most folks to think of that many high schools in Hoke County. They were all high schools during my early school days here.
If anyone can furnish me true facts about the Antioch School, I would like to have them.

A telephone call last Friday morning gave me the sad news of the death of W.L. (Lester) Seals of Austin, Texas. He was a native of the Blue Springs section of this county and graduated from Hoke High School. Seals was a star in most sports.
He left for World War II with the local National Guard unit in Sept. 1940 and finished Officer Candidate School in the same class as my brother Spec and I. We served together in Texas after our graduation and he was married while in service there.
He always came to our National Guard reunions and just a couple of weeks ago, while visiting relatives here, we talked about the upcoming reunion. We will certainly miss him this year. I know his many friends who read this column will be sorry to hear of his death.
A memorial service will be held at Shiloh Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 26

at 3:00 p.m. for Lester Seals.
The dream of every golfer is to make a hole-in-one. On Saturday, August 11 at the par 3 18th hole at Arabia Golf Course Earl McDuffie had his dream come true. On the 173-yard hole Earl hit a 6-iron and the ball hit short of the flag and rolled to the hole against the flag stick. Of course it fell in when the stick was removed.
Playing in the foursome with McDuffie were Freddie Williams, Randell Ashburn and Vance McGougan. They are witnesses and maybe you will believe one of them. Earl should have come out in fine fashion with an ace on 18.

Many years ago I signed a note for a fellow at The Bank of Raeford. He left town after the first payment and you know what happened. I paid, but got experienced on signing notes.
Several years later I ran into the fellow and he told me he was returning to New York and would mail me the money. He did and it was like a gift from the blue.
According to an article in the paper this week some people are getting a gift from the blue. It is escheat account money that was in banks or insurance accounts. Two of the lucky people are good friends of mine. So have fun with the money, Mary Virginia McFadyen and Marguerite Thomas.
Don't forget that schools will be opening soon and the kids and school buses will be on the roads. Watch out for them!

Retail sales increase

Retail sales in Hoke County during May were over \$300,000 higher than during the same period the year before, a report issued last week by the state Department of Revenue says.
Sales during the month rose from \$4.4 million in 1983 to \$4.7 million this year for an increase of \$304,982, the report says.
The increase for May was 6.9%, which was well above the current inflation rate of 2.5%.
Retail sales for the first five months of the year were \$21,496,268 and were up almost \$1.4 million over the \$20,099,011 in sales during same period in 1983.
That hike in revenue was 6.95%.

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