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Retired Navy Commander Grows Big Sunflower Crop

A retired Navy commander turned a portion of his rich Franklin County farm into sunflower raising this year.

Claude Everton Pearce Jr. planted three acres of sunflowers which will soon be harvested on his farm in the "Nanny Orchard" just across the Franklin County line.

Pearce said sunflowers are a major crop in many nations and in some parts of the United States. Seed are used primarily for their oil and in bird feed. It is this latter use, bird feed, that provides the potential market in North Carolina.

Surveys have shown that with present market conditions North Carolina bird feed manufacturers could use seed from 2,000 to 3,000 acres annually.

Pearce, who steeped himself with all available information on sunflowers, said sunflowers are generally adapted for seed production where corn can be successfully grown.

Pearce said under average climatic conditions yields of 1,500 to 2,500 pounds of seed per acre can be harvested. Wholesale prices for seed over the past several years has ranged from about 10 to 14 cents per pound.

Two types of sunflowers are available, Dwarf Canadian hybrids, which grow to six feet and can be combined; and the higher yielding mammoth Russian variety which grow to 12 feet and must be hand harvested.

Pearce, who planted the Menonite variety which can be combined about the last of August, believes that this crop could very easily develop into a welcome additional income for the farmers of this area.

He feels that farmers should use diversification in crop growing. The raising of sunflowers could be worked in, he believes, successfully with the other farm crops.

Pearce said there are some diseases which do attack the plant. Diseases which attack the plant are bacterial stem rot, bacterial wilt and Southern stem rot. Dis-

ease in his fields this year have been very slight.

Pearce enlisted in the Navy in 1937 and rose through the ranks, retiring in 1960 with the rank of lieutenant commander. He received the rank of chief electrician's mate before entering flight training as a part of the Navy's flight training program.

He attended Colgate University, Moravian College, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Iowa, receiving his wings and commission as an ensign in 1946.

His service as an aviator included a fighter squadron, overhaul and repair test pilot, development squadron, guided missile unit, fleet service squadron and the Bureau of Aeronautics. He has logged 172 carrier landings, including 50 in jets.

The last six years of Pearce's active service included the development of air-to-air guided missiles. Approximately 24 months of his 23 years in service were spent in technical school relating to electronics, missiles and administration.

Pearce, 43, is married to the former Jane Baker. They are the parents of one daughter, Diana, 14. The family resides on Franklin Street.

Pearce's father is still living, but his mother is deceased. He has a younger sister, Jane, who resides in Raleigh.

Over 80% Telephone Subscribers In Zebulon, Wendell Cast Ballots

Over 80 per cent of the telephone subscribers in the Wendell-Zebulon exchanges voted in favor of toll-free service to Raleigh and Knightdale, R. U. Beck, manager of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co., announced this week.

Beck emphasized that the town governments, civic clubs, and many individuals worked diligently to inform their com-

Tar Heels Get Money's Worth Hugh Cannon Tells Club Men

North Carolina has a tradition of sound, good government, Hugh Cannon, Director of the North Carolina Department of Administration, told Zebulon Rotarians last Friday night. And Tar Heels are getting their money's worth in government services.

Mr. Cannon was introduced by Program Chairman Ferd Davis, who cited him as a brilliant man doing an outstanding job for the state.

Since his work is concerned with tax money and how it is spent, Mr. Cannon quoted figures to show how efficiently the state government is conducted. The state employs more people, has the largest payroll, and is "the biggest business in the state," the speaker said.

State revenue comes from many sources, but income taxes and sales taxes account for more than half the money received by North Carolina. Expenditures for education require over half the money spent by the state, he continued.

Everyone should be concerned with state government, he said, because "state government affects your everyday life more than any other institution except maybe the

church."

The true measure of state government is the services provided the people, he said. In comparison with other states, North Carolina rates well in every category of state service, except education.

"We do not rate high in education," he commented, "but in 1962 we ranked first in the nation in the rate of improvement (in education)."

For years North Carolina suffered because teachers left the state for higher salaries in other school systems. The trend has now reversed, "Last year," Mr. Cannon said, "saw a 71 percent increase in out-of-state teachers hired by North Carolina." An increase also was noted in the teachers remaining to teach in North Carolina.

"You yourself can judge the increase in quality of education," he said.

Moving to other fields of state services, Mr. Cannon said that North Carolina maintains 10% of all state-maintained roads in the nation. "We are twelfth in the percentage of roads that are paved," he said, "and fourth in the percentage of roads paved in the last 15 years."

"The prison program is an unsung hero," Mr. Cannon claimed. While the nation experienced a 3½% increase in the number of prisoners, North Carolina was

decreasing its prison population. Credit was given to Alcoholics Anonymous for its work with prisoners, the work release program, and probation commission.

"We have about 400 on work release now compared with 50 two years ago," Mr. Cannon said, "and the probation commission program has almost doubled."

The North Carolina mental hospital program is outstanding in the nation, he said. He complimented the highway patrol for always being in the top five in the nation.

Turning to the cost of services in North Carolina, Mr. Cannon asked, "What are the facts on taxation? Compared with all states in the amount of money spent on government services, we are 49th in expenditures per person. Ranked according to debt, North Carolina is 46th in the nation. In number of state employees, we are 46th in the nation per 10,000 population."

The high rating given North Carolina in services provided its people and the low standing in the cost to the taxpayers is the result of conservation and sound government, he said.

The Sanford administration did not start good government in North Carolina, he said, but it is continuing it. He said the recent N. C. advertising slogan is appropriate: "Good government is a habit in North Carolina."

Reactivation of CC is Planned

Plans are being formulated for reactivation of Zebulon Chamber of Commerce, Aaron Lowery, Chamber secretary, said this week.

The Raleigh Chamber of Commerce will assist in helping build the local Chamber, Lowery said. Lowery said a Chamber is needed for the progress of the town. Industry is secured through such as organization, and many other assets which aid in the progress of the town.

Cards have been mailed to prospective members, Lowery said, and the response has been "very slow." Only a few persons or firms indicated they would join or being willing to join the organization.

Lowery said there are 101 business establishments or professional men who should belong to the Chamber. Last year the organization had only 28 members.

The secretary urges that business establishments or professional men join the Chamber. Success of the unit depends on memberships.

The present organization has sort of died on its feet. Interests of the members and non-members has lagged.

Kornegay Will Head Boy Scout Finance Drive Here in Near Future

Bill Kornegay has been named to head the Boy Scout finance drive here, it was announced this week.

Plans for the finance campaign of the Oconeechee Council, Boy Scouts of America, were announced this week by Armistead Maupin of Raleigh, prominent attorney and president of the Council.

Maupin said the funds obtained will make possible the continuation of Scout activities and ex-

pansion of the Scouting programs to even more boys.

Enrolled in the 1,169 Cub, Boy and Explorer units are 23,000 boys. An increase of 10 per cent in Scout enrollment is expected during the coming year in the Council.

Working with Kornegay in directing the local campaign are James Debnam and Armstrong Cannady.

More than \$1,000 was given by residents of Zebulon and the community to the Council last year.

Man is Found Unconscious Sunday Morning on Highway

Thomas Bural Carlyle, 20, was found by Night Policeman Windell Perry Sunday morning after being slugged.

Carlyle told Policeman Perry that two men beat him and threw him out about half way between the Forks Drive In and Devil Dog Manufacturing plant.

Perry said an unidentified caller notified the police department that Carlyle was lying unconscious beside highway 264.

Carlyle suffered abrasions and contusions and was taken by Perry to Wendell-Zebulon Hospital where he received first aid and was released.

Perry said Carlyle was partially knocked-out when he found him. He said Carlyle told him he had drunk two beers with a couple of boys and the last thing he knew he was in Pilot.

Carlyle told police that he did not remember the men he was riding with. He said he would "think about it," and report to police later.

Carlyle resides on Route 2, Zebulon, Policeman Perry said. Deputy Graham Bunn assisted Perry in the investigation. Carlyle was not charged, pending further investigation.

Gets Doctorate

Miss Gayle Privette was awarded a doctor of education degree on August 5 from the University of Florida in Gainesville. She also has a master's degree from the same institution, and holds a bachelor of arts degree from Wake Forest College.