Need To Be Useful Met At Senior Citizen Clubs

"If you work hard, you live longer," Mrs. Mary Autry, who will be 89 next month said. She patted the two quilts which she had almost completed. "One winter, I remember I made 63 quilts", she said.

Preacher Elbert Bethea, retired cook since 1963, also believes in hard work. "I've worked hard all my life, he said. "Oh yes, I'd like

retirement . . . if I could just work a little more." These are two of the residents of the county who

residents of the county who take part in the senior citizen program here. There are three clubs in the county -- Dial, Raeford Friendship Club and Cameron Heights. Miss Josephine Hall is advisor for the three groups. The members plan projects and go on field trips. They have visited the Shaw House in

home in Kenansville.

Some of the projects include making quilts to give to families whose homes have burned, sewing clothing for needy school children and making bed pillows. They have also had craft programs on such things as braiding rugs and decoupage. May has been named Senior

Southern Pines, the John Citizen Month in North Charles McNeill restored home Carolina. A convention for the in Wagram and the Kenan eastern district of senior castern district of senior citizen's clubs will be held in Fayetteville May 21, 22. Activities will include a queen for the day contest with a parade featuring the parade featuring the queen through downtown Fayetteville, a fashion show,

club awards, projects and a banquet. Delegates from the three Hoke County clubs are planning to attend the two-day

gathering. Mrs Aurty doesn't get to attend many senior citizen's club events. She suffers from arthritis and is unable to go very far from her home. Instead, Miss Hall makes regular visits and brings her quilt scraps for her handiwork.

"I am ashamed of these quilts," Mrs. Autry said. "They are just blocked out and run up on the machine. I can't cut out

the patterns I once could." She gives many of her quilts to the children, now grown, with whom whe used to

baby-sit. "There isn't much in the way of outdoor work I haven't done," she reminisced. "My father was a cooper, made barrels. I've cut poles and stripped them ... plowed but plowing is easier than hoeing." Mrs. Autry was born in 1881

in Cumberland County and has lived in Raeford since 1934. She has nine children, 26 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. One of her granddaughters is now working for the government in South Vietnam.

Besides making quilts, Mrs. Autry loves poetry and writes poems. She has an excellent memory and can recite her own works and other poems that she has memorized.

Preacher Bethea, 77 is a

regular at the meetings of the Cameron Heights Club. He has lived in Raeford since 1937 when he came here to cook in a cafe. When Upchurch School was built be became School was built he became a cook there and worked there

until his retirement in 1963. He was also the pastor of Bridges Grove Church for 23 years until he retired from that

years until he retired from that five years ago. Bethea, who said he has worked hard all his life, sometimes seven days a week as a hotel cook without a vacation for a year or longer, still likes to keep busy.

He gardens, and enjoys cooking, which he described as his first hobby. He also likes crafts and enjoys learning new ones at the club meetings. He displayed a lap robe he had made from the cloth in an old

overcoat. "This was the first thina I tried to make," he laughed as he held it up. "I was going to decorate it with the alphabet but I got the letters on backwards". He showed how the line of capital letters becan the line of capital letters began on the right side and read backward.

backward. He has been more successful with his other projects. One of these was a bedspread made from old ties he had cut and sewed together. "I wish I had saved a few, though, since wide ties are back in style," he said. Bethes also showed a set of braided place mats he had Bethea also showed a set or braided place mats he had made and a planter made from the fork of a tree limb. He built his home, a large rambling white home, beginning with three rooms and a small kitchen addition.

One of his daughters lives there with him now. He had three daughters, three grandchildren and four great -

grandchildren. The senior citizen's program

was begun with a grant for each of the three counties in the Sandhills Community Action Program. This year, each county will have to share part of the expense to keep the program financed. The county commissioners have included \$1,500 in the new budget for Hoke's senior citizens clubs.

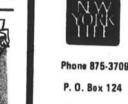
\$2.5 Million Telephone Project Nears Completion

Work is nearing completion on a \$2.5 million microwave radio relay facility which will connect Fayetteville with Charlotte and all other points throughout the sub-

Charlotte and all other points throughout the nation. Carolina Telephone Manager U. Glenn Daughtide said that the project is a joint undertaking between this company and the Southern Bell Telephone Company. This new system will supplement an existing telephone cable route which is becoming overtaxed. The rapid development of this area and

conversations simultaneously. Daughtridge said that Carolina Telephone is spending about \$1,250,000 for the development of this area and southeastern North Carolina has brought about an increased demand for both voice and construction and equipment involved in its portion of the data transmission circuits. Calls from the Clinton, Jacksonville, New Bern, and Morchead City areas, as well as other sections served by Southern Bell, will be routed over the new

microwave route Originating at Fayetteville,



Esso

new facility.

Raeford, N. C. 28376

the system will terminate at

Stanfield, 26 miles of Charlotte. There are intermediated relay towers and

amplifying equipment located at Montrose, Hamlet, and a point near the Pee Dee River. Service over this route will begin in September. There will

be 504 long distance circuits placed in service on the system

initially. The ultimate capacity is 12,000 telephone

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PREACHER BETHEA

Boundary Approved For Fire District

Thank You

I Appreciate Your Vote

And Support

In The Primary

NEILL L. McFADYEN

The boundary for the new Pine Hill rural fire department was approved last week in Raleigh by Kenneth Scott. State Fire Chief, T.C. Jones, chairman of the county commission commissions announced this

Approval was also given to

extend the boundary of Dundarrach Rural Fire District to the four mile limit. There are now four taxable

fire districts in Hoke County and four more are being organized. Jones said.

representative from the fire districts that are now being organized to please contact Ralph Barnhart, fire

He asked that a

commissioner, to see that the measurements are made and that the boundaries are written for approval in Raleigh.

Free introductory offer.

One scenic place mat free wit gasoline fill-up, 8-gallon minimum. Six different place mats in all. Each has a popular local scene in full-color on one side and a gold, woven desig on the other. Mats are 11" x 171/2" with round corners. They are washable, laminated plastic, and so good looking, they're suitable for framing. Start collecting yours today at participating Esso stations. You'll want to collect save of these sets. It's a beautiful way to Discover America.

