THE NEWS JOURNAL PAGE 6. SECTION I RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1970 Students Learn To Read Better In New Program At Hoke

A high school boy wearing earphones sat before a small television - like screen watching a film strip of an auto race while he listened to a record connected to the projector describing the race.

describing the race. The apparatus, which resembles a child's show and tell toy, is part of the so phisticated equipment available in the new Hoke High

reading laboratory. This is the first year the reading improvement program has been in operation at the high school. There are seven other reading programs, however, in schools throughout

Mrs. Florence Cohen is director of the Hoke High program. A teacher for 13 years, she has taught in New York, Cleveland, South

Carolina, Massachusetts and in the dependent school in Germany. She received and MS from Brooklyn part of New College, now a part of New York City University and her reading certification from Boston College, and Mrs. Cohen, who lives at Ft. Bragg, is a native of New York City. There are 130 students in the program. They are referred by the English teachers, but are

not accepted into the program unless they wish to be. "The students themselves have to make a commitment," Mrs. Cohen said. "By the time

they are in high school, they have to do something because they feel it is necessary for them and not because someone tells them to do it. I feel very strongly about this. conducted individual She

interviews and gave diagnostic tests before the program began, Mrs. Cohen said, but the final decision to take the program was left to the student. Several students elected not to come. The improvement program individually tailored for each student. The reading students spend two hours in the lab each week instead of going to their English class. Mrs. Cohen confers with the English teachers on problems and progress of the students. students elected not to come.

progress of the students. The basic equipment in the

lab that allows each student to work on his own program is a Rheam Audio - Visual Program. A master console allows eight different tapes to be channeled through headsets to any of the twelve study carrels in the lab. There are two separate

programs used with the console. One is a developmental phonics program with 150 tapes available. The students begin by improving their ability to listen and understand and progress to letter - sound comic books.

progress to retter - sound relationships and phonic word analysis - or "sounding out." The comprehension program of graved tapes and books is designed to help students enjoy reading and to improve their comprehension, and ability to recall and interpret what they have read. There are 90 tapes in that series.

The Dukane projector, which looks like the show and tell toy, is used to help motivate students to read. The film strips and records describe subjects of interest to teen-agers, such as adventure. mystery, auto racing and social problems. Companion books of high interest and low vocabulary accompany the films.

George Wood, county audio visual co-ordinator, has also recorded parts of some of the books in the lab. The student can then read part of book along with the tape.

Other machines are used to help students train their eye movement and improve their concentration. A teaching machine that tested recall and comprehension was loaned to the lab during the fall. It was very popular with the students. Mrs Cohen said.

In addition to the machines, special printed material is was constructed for provided. A low - vocabulary approximately \$300.

newspaper for teenagers is popular, Mrs. Cohen said. The paper covers current events, career information, legal rights and other subjects of interest. Mrs. Cohen also uses classic

"Students who might have trouble reading the classics in the original form are able to have some exposure to the classical works through these comic books," she explained. "It really isn't the same as using one to write your English book report."

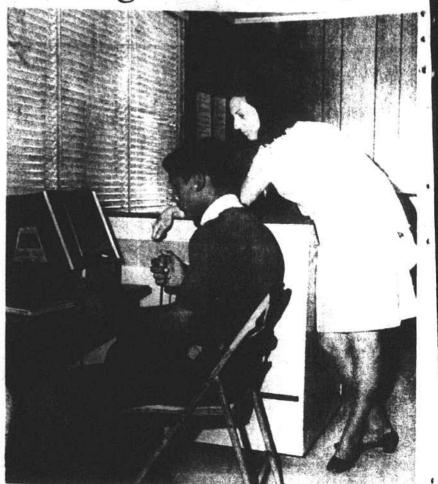
The students usually test themselves with exercise following in the material. Some of their papers are graded by Mrs. Cohen and discussed with the students. Magazines and other

specially prepared reading kits and material are also used by the students. About 85 per cent of the

students in the reading program are boys. The program is multi - racial.

is multi-racial. It is financed by federal funds from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), with the exception of

the building, which was provided with local tax money. The equipment and building costs about \$10,000, Ernest Sutton, assistant superintendent, said. The console, tapes, wiring and other equipment used with the console foot about \$5600 Thother equipment used with the console cost about \$5600. The study carrels, which are individual desk areas partially enclosed desk areas amounted to another \$700. The building for



READING AID - - Donald Henderson, ninth-grader at Hoke High, uses one of the projectors in the new high school reading laboratory while Mrs. Florence Cohen, director of the reading improvement program, looks on.







on his book as he listens to the reading aid tape through his headset.



