

In Hoke, \$22.5 Million Estimated

Gross Farm Income Rose Last Year

Hoke County's gross income from agriculture last year has been estimated at \$22,516,751.21, about \$1 million more than the previous year's, Willie Featherstone, county Agricultural Extension Service chairman, reported last week. Production expenses, however, reduce the figure substantially, he indicated.

He said the 1981 total estimate includes the following estimated income from these specific commodities.

Tobacco, which he said "remains our Number One income producing crop," \$6.5 million. This was part of a total \$14 million estimated from all field crops. The others are soybeans, cotton, corn and other feed grains.

Livestock and poultry contributed \$5 million, forestry \$2 million, and vegetables, nursery and ornamental plants, fruits and nuts, and other products, \$1.5 million.

Featherstone said of the esti-

mated gross that farmers point out much of the total gross into equipment, fuel, feed, medication, tools, fertilizer, pesticides, land, rent, interest on loans, and labor, among other expenses.

"In order for our community to maximize the use of this agri-

cultural income," he said. "the community must be able to provide those goods and services that will be utilized in production agriculture in Hoke County."

"I believe that the number of times a dollar changes hand in a

given community is an indication of the prosperity of that community.

"Therefore, we should seek out opportunities to locate individuals or firms that will provide as many different goods and services as economically feasible for our community."

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Raz Autry

"Miss Rena" Smith

I lost a friend. I don't mean one who would only stick with you when everything was rosy but one who would stay with you when everyone else walked off. I would suspect that a great many others in our country lost a friend also.

Sometimes when I was at my lowest, after some controversy, the telephone would ring and a raspy voice would say "Honey, everything is going to be all right. You come by to see me." After spending an hour or two with her, the controversy always took on a different perspective with me. She didn't always agree with me and was quick to tell me so in language that I could very easily understand. I can't ever remember getting irritated with her because when I had evaluated her advice it was always sound and just.

"Miss Rena" was completely in charge of herself and all that surrounded her. She knew the people of Hoke County and dearly loved them. I talked to her several times about the schools and the history behind them. She was acutely aware of the needs to educate a citizenry.

Billy Beaver apparently knew her well because as he said, her life was dedicated to helping people. Many times she called me about

helping a total stranger, simply because she knew he needed help. She was committed to the idea that everyone had some good in them and if their fellowman would give them a helping hand, the good would come forth.

Every life is lived for a purpose and some of us are close enough to an individual to see that purpose

come forth in it's greatest hour. I was lucky and fortunate enough to see the purpose of a friend and advisor, a comforter, and one who truly loved those who were less fortunate. I thank God that He let me pass "Miss Rena's" way because my life is richer for having known her. The county's people have been blessed to have seen her in action.

Hoke Senior Citizens' Coordinator Appointed

The appointment of Sheffie McLaughlin as senior citizens coordinator for Hoke County was announced today.

Her office is located in the T.B. Lester, Jr., Office Building where she can be reached by calling 875-8588.

Her responsibilities will be to provide services to individuals over the age of 60 in Hoke County. Mrs. McLaughlin will issue senior citizen discount cards, give information about agencies and services available to Older Americans, and provide transportation services.

Funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act, she stressed

the fact that all people who are over 60 and who live in Hoke County should feel free to call. Services rendered are not limited to individuals who live outside the city limits. You are encouraged to call anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Mrs. McLaughlin will work 30 hours a week, but the senior citizens' telephone will be answered full time. Mrs. McLaughlin will maintain a limited number of hours in the office since a majority of her time will be spent out of the office delivering services. The hours in the office will be answered in the near future.

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'Hotline' For Hoke High Students Started

Beginning February 1, a telephone "Hotline" service was initiated for the Hoke High School students.

This service enables high school students to pick up a telephone and ask a variety of questions of an anonymous telephone counselor. The Hotline has been in place for a month, and the early indication is that the service is working. Over 50 calls have been answered by the telephone counselors.

A local group of volunteers comprised of ministers, mental health staff, social workers, and law enforcement officers assist the telephone counselors in the answering of questions.

Several referrals from the Hotline have been made to area and school counselors, ministers, and various human service agencies.

Questions have been raised by the high school students concerning drugs, alcohol, family situations, abortions, medical services, stolen property, and a variety of other subjects.

This project which has now

attracted much attention from state health service officials is the result of much combined planning and cooperation between the various county agencies and the school system.

However, none of this would have been possible without the enthusiasm and financial support of the Raeford Woman's Club and its high school organization of Juniors.

The Junior Woman's Club financed the installation of the telephones. The high school art classes constructed a variety of informative posters advertising the Hotline.

The local health director states, "The Raeford Junior Woman's Club through its capable leaders has once again demonstrated its community leadership and awareness of problems facing many teenagers today. We hope that through these combined efforts high school students will have confidential access and answers to some of their more difficult questions."

Hoke Full Gospel Group Planned

The Hoke County Chapter of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is being organized. Burleigh Thompson of Raeford, said Friday.

He said the Moore County Chapter, which is helping, will meet with the Hoke people March 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Raeford. Dinner will be Dutch treat. Persons interested in the Fellowship have the option of attending both the dinner and the meeting, or the meeting only.

The Fellowship is nondenominational in religion and is nonracial. Thompson said. The objectives are to create a fellowship not directly associated with a specific church; to bring about a greater measure of unity and spirit of harmony in the body of Christ; and reach men everywhere for Jesus Christ.

The meeting of a chapter should not be a duplication of a church service or an "auditorium" type meeting.



Earl Oxendine, Jr.

Oxendine Accepted

Earl Oxendine, Jr., of Raeford has been accepted for admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

He was notified of this by the academy's superintendent, Lt. Gen. Willard W. Scott, Jr., in a letter written February 22.

Oxendine was nominated for the appointment by Seventh District Congressman Charles Rose of Fayetteville.

Oxendine, 17, is a senior at Hoke County High School. He is the son of Mrs. Betty Hammond Oxendine and Earl Hughes Oxendine of Raeford.

The younger Oxendine has been named to "Who's Who Among Students in American High Schools" and the Society of Distinguished American Students. He also was named Most Popular, Most Likely to Succeed and Most Intellectual in the senior class. Oxendine lettered in football and wrestling and was named to the All Southeastern Conference wrestling team. He also played on the Hoke High baseball team and when he was a freshman played in the Ninth Grade Band.

Hoke County ASC News

Marshall Grant, chairman, North Carolina Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, encourages all cotton farmers in the southern zone to vote in the Cotton Boll Weevil Eradication Referendum being held this week through March 5.

Cotton producers within the Boll Weevil Eradication Trial Area in the southern zone will vote on whether or not to approve a three-year program designed to eradicate the boll weevil in such area. The southern zone consists of all cotton countries in the southern part of North Carolina and all cotton counties in South Carolina.

The referendum is by mail and ballots have been mailed to all cotton farmers in the southern zone. For this referendum to pass, a two-thirds majority of those voting must vote "For."

All cotton producers are urged to vote in this most important referendum and return the ballots to the Hoke County ASCS Office by March 5.



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