

Holiday Shoppers Turnout For Local Merchants

By Bill Lindau
Despite the depressed economy and unseasonably warm weather, most Raeford area merchants did well during the 1982 Christmas shopping season, a survey shows. Lee Pittman, manager of Sky City, said of the business, "Considering it's a new store, I think we did real good."

Sky City, a discount department store, opened November 10 in the new Raeford-Hoke Village shopping center. The Raeford store is one of the 71 in the Sky City chain. Pittman said, "A lot of people don't know about us yet," and that many people continued putting their pre-Christmas layaways in stores they had been doing business with before Sky City opened.

He also credited the neighboring Food Town supermarket, which opened a few weeks after Sky City started business, with helping the department store's business. Sky City helps Food Town, he added. Specifically, he said, toys and appliances were popular this season as usual and that ladies' and men's clothing did real well, too.

In downtown Raeford, merchants were also happy about the season. "We were well pleased with the turnout of shoppers and appreciate their support," said Gene Chalaire of Calico Corner's business. He and his wife, Mary Lee, own the store, which sells real and artificial flowers and flower arrangements and articles for decorations, candlewicking and cross stitching.

Chalaire said the 1982 Christmas business showed a slight increase over the 1981 seasons. Cut flowers as gifts sold well toward the latter

part of the season but the store sold a lot of decorative items before then, he added. Manager Debbie Perry reported Pope's business was good this year but a little off last year's. "Considering that Sky City's open," she added, "we did pretty good."

At Western Auto, manager Jimmy Wood reported the shopping season for his store generally was better than the 1981 season. The most popular single item, he said, was the "E.T." doll. "It was the most popular and the most asked for," he said. "We didn't get any in till December 1, and we sold out almost instantly." They were gone two weeks before Christmas. The store got 36 and after the sellout couldn't get any more, he said.

But many other things were big sellers at Western Auto, he said. The big sales this year were the video games. Arcade Pac Man and Donkey Kong were the best sellers, and Pac Man was the best of the two by far, Wood said.

Another big video game seller, he said, was the television hookup. And still another were made up of the large stereo sets. "The bigger they are, the better they sold," Wood said.

Western Auto also sold a lot of appliances and television sets and microwave ovens, he reported.

Among the toys, besides E.T., "Strawberry Short Cake," the girl doll, in the 12-inch and 6-inch sizes, was very popular, along with her miniature furniture and other accessories.

GI Joe also was popular, Wood said, and so were race cars "again."

"We sold more toys than last year," he added.

Valu-Mart's season was "pretty good on the whole," though not quite as good as last year's, reported manager Myrl Ray. She added, however, that the discount chain's dropping steers from its line of offerings had a depressing effect on sales generally this past Christmas season.

John Howard, owner of Howard Clothiers, reported that the first part of December started off slow but Christmas season sales "ended on a good note."

"It's still clear to us," he added, that these are not good times for most people, but we hope 1983 will bring brighter hope to all.

He said Howard's business was not as good as last year "but we were real pleased to see the marked change in shopping habits by people of Raeford and Hoke County." He said the change was in "shopping Raeford" first before looking outside the community. "Merchants want to meet the needs of the public," Howard said, "but have to know what the needs are, before they can get the goods."

Howard said the unseasonably warm weather during the shopping season affected practically all types of shopping.

The Christmas spirit, he said, was found lacking because of it. But the spring-like temperatures resulted in a cutting down of sales of outerwear at Howard's compared with last year's, but he also blamed the economic atmosphere of the times for the slump.

He said the best sellers were socks, ties, and sweaters, rather than suits, jackets, shoes and other of the more expensive goods, which he said, reflected the economic atmosphere.

Speaking of the weather, Howard added, "Certainly we did no boom business in thermal underwear."

"So-so" was assistant manager Arlie Keefer's first words of description of Macks variety and fashion store in Edinborough Shopping Center.

It was slow getting started, he added, and didn't move greatly until the last two weeks before Christmas.

"Otherwise," he said, "it was not too bad." The 1982 Christmas business was "a little off" of 1981's, Keefer said, "but not as much as I thought it would be."

He said the economy had something to do with it.

"But I expect it will come back in early spring."

Speaking of the Christmas sales, he said, "clothing sold like crazy,"

though outerwear didn't move, as Howard's didn't because of the mild weather.

At B.C. Moore & Sons department store in the shopping center, manager Greg Wilkerson characterized the Christmas business as "real good. Better than last year." As to what goods were most popular, he said sales were good all over. "I can't pinpoint a specific area," he added. "The way people spent money," he continued, "it was real good. They were ready to buy and to spend money."

He said the store's prices were cut "a little early," indicating this helped sales.

Wilkerson said, "That's a good thing about competition, to."

He closed his comments with: "I wish everybody who did shop with us a happy new year."

Retail sales in November brought \$42,673.34 from Hoke County's 1% sales tax and \$33,856.19 from the state's 3% tax, the State Department of Revenue reported last month. The state's gross collections were on gross sales of \$1,867,375.

The Hoke County tax in October was \$29,801.02 and in November 1981 collections totaled \$28,300.34.

The state tax brought \$72,234.30 in November 1981 on retail sales of \$3,155,536. The state tax collections in October 1982 grossed \$70,218.30 on retail sales of \$3,531,616.

In the quarter which ended September 30, the Hoke County 1% tax yielded \$81,994.83 for the county government and \$14,428.95 to the City of Raeford.

Area Incidents

Tires Targets Of Thieves

Tires were the targets of thieves and vandals in rural Hoke County between Christmas and the end of the year, Hoke County Sheriff's Department reports show.

Someone stole two wheels and tires December 28 or 29 from a vehicle at Beasley's Body Shop. The tires were worth \$100 each and the rims \$75 each, the report says.

Three tires worth \$125 each and the valve stems on two of them on Wade Stroble's 1982 Jeep were cut December 29, Stroble reported. He said the Jeep was at his mobile home on Rt. 4, Raeford, when the damage was done.

The following were contained in other reports.

Someone stole the four hubcaps from Glenda Collins's car's wheels while she was in the Main Event Club from 11 p.m. Saturday and midnight. The hubcaps are valued at a total \$200. Collins lives on Rt. 1, Shannon.

A total of \$55 in quarters was stolen from a pool table and slot machines in the Brickhouse Club on Jones Hill December 28 by someone who broke into the building, then broke into the machines. The thief caused \$35 damage in breaking into the coin boxes.

Simon Conely, Rt. 1, Red Springs, reported December 29 someone broke into his home and stole a \$480 AM/FM eight-track

and cassette recorder/player. Someone stole a \$500 box of tools from Frank and Linda Hancock of Rt. 4, Raeford, in a break-in at their home between December 26 and 28.

Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said he had nothing to report this week for Area Incidents.

He said all was quiet during the holidays, and only one arrest for driving under the influence was made.

In this, he said, the defendant blew no more than .10 percent on the Breathalyzer, the minimum considered evidence of drunk driving.

Rockfish News

by Polly Bernard

Friday evening, December 31, the adults of Tabernacle Baptist Church had dinner at the Western Steer in Fayetteville.

After dinner they returned to the Fellowship Hall at the Church and played games and enjoyed refreshments to welcome in the New Year.

Pittman Grove Baptist Church also had a New Year's eve program at the church to welcome in the New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Turner, Sr. visited their son, Bruce, Jr. and family in Fayetteville for Christmas.

Mrs. Bruce Turner, Sr. was taken ill while visiting her son in Fayetteville Christmas and was taken to Womack Army Hospital in Fort Bragg for treatment.

I am happy to report that she is much better at this time after a bout with flu and bronchitis.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bernard visited Mrs. Luther M. Huggins and Mr. and Mrs. James Huggins of Red Springs Friday afternoon. "Luke" Huggins of Meredith College, Raleigh was home for the holidays.

Julie Frazier, music therapist major and Joan Frazier music education major, students at U.N.C. Greenville, made the deans list for the fall semester.

They will return to school this week after spending the holiday season with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frazier.

Mrs. Daisy Bennett of Fayetteville visited Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Gillis of the Galatia Community and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bernard Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight English and children, Samantha, Heather

and Kelly of Connelly Springs spent several days with Mr. English's mother, Mrs. Grady English during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Lawrence visited Mrs. Grady English while Dwight English and family were here for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Windstrom and son, David of Greensboro visited Mrs. Windstrom's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Pittman during the holiday season.

David Odom of Richmond, Virginia visited his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Pittman Christmas Eve. Mr. and Mrs. Amos Grant, Jr. and son, Bobby visited Mr. Grant's father in Chester, South Carolina Christmas Eve.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Davis of Selma visited Mrs. Davis's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Grant, Jr. and family Christmas Day. In turn Mr. and Mrs. Grant and Bobby visited the Davis's in Selma to celebrate the New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. McPhaul were house guests in the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Ridout in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wood and son Timothy of Greenville, North Carolina visited Mr. Wood's mother, Mrs. Martin Wood during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Kathleen Garner and children of Carthage spent Monday after Christmas visiting relatives in the area.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gibson and daughter Joan of Shelby spent several days with relatives in the area during the holiday season.

Allen Gibson of Richmond, Virginia spent several days with

relatives in the area during the holiday season. After leaving here he visited his son, Allen Gibson, Jr. and family in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Durham of Hillsboro spent Christmas with Mrs. Durham's mother, Mrs. Henry Fowler and sister, Cathy.

Mrs. Alice Allen and daughter, Teresa spent the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Keith Stika.

Mrs. Henrietta Tanner spent several days in Roxboro visiting Mrs. Minnie Outlaw and family during the holiday season.

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Gibson during the holiday season were Mr. and Mrs. Billy Clark and sons of Miami, Florida, Mr. and Mrs. James Clark and daughter of Columbia, South Carolina, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hill and family of Leonard, Michigan.

Those visiting in the home of Mrs. Louise Watson during the holiday season were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Watson of White Lake, Phillip Watson of Fayetteville, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Watson and Donavan of Efland, North Carolina, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Watson and family of Shelby, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight English and family of Connelly Springs, Mrs. Wright Parker of Selma, Mrs. L.D. Long and Demont Long of Fayetteville, Mrs. Charles Johnston of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Dianne Udeck and son, P.D. and Mrs. Grace English.

Happy New Year everyone. I certainly hope the New Year brings prosperity to the economy, a step nearer peace on earth, more hope and good health to everyone! God Bless!

JOIN US FOR OUR BIG Grand Opening

2 LITER GLASS RETURNABLE COCA-COLA **69¢**

GIANT TIDE **\$1.49**

5 Lb. Bag SUGAR **\$1.19**
Limit 1 w/ \$15 Grocery Order

COBLE MILK **\$1.99**
Gal.

GRADE A LARGE EGGS **69¢**
doz.

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

- Merico Butter-Me-Not Biscuits
- Success Rice
- Banquet Pot Pies
- Golden Grain Macaroni & Cheese Dinner
- Smuckers Jam
- Potato Chips

FREE BALLOONS To Children

JESSE JONES FRANKS & BOLOGNA **99¢**
12 oz.

ALL STAR FEED ALL KINDS AT REASONABLE PRICES

GAS	
Reg. \$1.079	Unleaded \$1.149

PABST BLUE RIBBON BEER **\$1.99**
6 Pack (12 oz.)

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS W.I.C. VOUCHERS

HARDIN'S FOOD STORE

ROCKFISH, N.C. HOKE COUNTY
NEXT TO ROCKFISH FIRE DEPARTMENT

GRADE A FRYERS 39¢
lb. Limit 2 Bags

FRESH LEAN GROUND BEEF 99¢
lb.

BARBECUE 12 oz. \$1.99

POTATOES 10 lbs. 69¢

COBLE ICE CREAM \$1.39
1/2 gal.

Free REGISTER FOR FREE BAG OF GROCERIES TO BE GIVEN AWAY, EACH DAY OF SALE!

HARDIN'S FOOD STORE

ROCKFISH, N.C. 875-2201

Magistrate's Court

The following Hoke County magistrates' judgments were issued last week.

Ruscello Adelmo, Greenville, S.C., speeding 69 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Garline Hunt Locklear, Fayetteville, speeding 67 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Brenda S. Brewer, Rt. 4, Raeford, worthless check, \$9.30 restitution to The Party Shoppe, and costs.

William Ryan Boyles, Rt. 1, Raeford, expired inspection certificate, costs.

Jenny Cooper Hill, Fayetteville, speeding 69 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Thomas Edward Cauthen, Jacksonville, Ark., speeding 70 in

a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Worth Hunt, Lumberton, speeding 66 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Davin Kendall Ware, Fayetteville, speeding 68 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

John Szawaja, Wagram, speeding 65 in a 55 zone, \$5 and costs.

Sherry Arthur Ellerbe, speeding 70 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Jerry Jerome Clark, Rt. 4, Fayetteville, exceeding a safe speed, costs.

Fredia Faye Cummings, Rt. 4, Red Springs, worthless check, \$20 restitution to Graham's Service Station, and costs.

William Clement Bowens, Fayetteville, speeding 69 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

The following were omitted from last week's edition of The News-Journal.

Lawrence Frank Reece, Raeford, registration number not displayed, and expired 20-day tag, costs.

Charles Glenn Williford, Greensboro, speeding 50 in a 35 zone, \$10 and costs.

John Allen White, Jr., Ft. Bragg, speeding 68 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Jerry Dennis Douglas, Cheraw, S.C., improper passing \$10 and costs.

Edward L. Williams, Rt. 1, Box 122, Lumber Bridge, worthless check, \$29.79 restitution to Jackson's FMA, and costs.