

# Chapel Hill Restaurants Steeped in Town History

The longevity of certain restaurants along Franklin St. allow alumni to revisit old memories.

By EMILY CRAMER  
Staff Writer

Basking in traditions as timeless as gatherings at the Old Well, UNC alumni often recapture the spirit of their college years by returning to the restaurants that line Franklin Street.

Several of these establishments have served UNC students for more than 20 years.

One such eatery is the Carolina Coffee Shop, which is located at 138 E. Franklin St.

The Carolina Coffee Shop offers an all-day breakfast selection, salads and sandwiches, desserts and an assortment of liquor and beer.

Originally a student post office, the shop opened its doors in 1922, and, according to the staff, the antiquity of the building is one of its most charming features.

"It's physically unique, with a unique atmosphere and a lot of history," floor manager Joe Mohar said.

"We always get a lot of the same people here every year."

One aspect of the Carolina Coffee

Shop is its seemingly endless tribute to the artists and composers of classical music.

Its late-night menu boasts, "... two generations of Carolinians have dined and worked here ... welcome to the third ... and Beethoven still prevails."

Directly across the street at 173 E. Franklin St. is Ye Olde Waffle Shop.

Owner Jim Chris said the waffle shop, which opened in 1972, traditionally offered a comfortable atmosphere to its customers and breakfast served at reasonable prices.

"We have an open kitchen up front so we can get to know customers on a name basis," he said.

"We try to serve a quality product and an ample amount of food, and we are a little less expensive."

A few doors down at 159 E. Franklin St. is Sutton's Drug Store, one of Chapel Hill's oldest traditions.

Established in 1923, Sutton's still offers a fast-food menu, milk shakes and sodas from an old-time fountain.

Owner and pharmacist John Woodard said the friendly atmosphere attracted customers and brought them

back time and time again.

"Today a lot of fast-food restaurants are the same as McDonald's or Hardee's," he said.

"A lot of our customers are looking for a place to relax and feel like they know someone."

Patrons can still sit on bar stools and gather around as cooks and locals tell stories.

While there, customers can even have their pictures made to join the hundreds of others that line the walls by the booths.

*"We have 50 years of friends and alumni that recognize the Rathskeller with Carolina."*

REED RAYNOR  
Rathskeller General Manager

Alumni of the University also return to the Rathskeller, located at 157-A E. Franklin St. in a small alley.

While enjoying their meals, patrons can try to find their initials carved in the

wooden tables and booths.

General Manager Reed Raynor said nearly everything had been the same for half a century.

He said, "We have 50 years of friends and alumni that recognize the Rathskeller with Carolina."

"Nothing has changed," Raynor said. "We have the same menu and the same faces."

# Spanky's Scheduled For Nov. 8 Reopening

By O'HENTRICE LOVE  
Staff Writer

After several delays and changes in plans, a popular Franklin Street restaurant is scheduled to reopen after undergoing major renovations.

Spanky's Restaurant, located at 101 E. Franklin St., will reopen Nov. 8 after what began as a small cleaning project soon turned into a major renovation process, said Kenny Carlson, co-owner of Spanky's.

"Originally we closed the beginning of July to clean up and replace the kitchen tile," Carlson said.

"Then we started looking around and what was supposed to be a minor remodeling project turned into something major."

Famous for its quaint atmosphere and fruit smoothies, Spanky's was originally slated to reopen before school started.

Carlson said there were no plans for a grand reopening or special event once all the construction was eventually completed.

"Eventually, we'll look around and say we're ready to open and just open the doors," said Carlson.

"We closed early July with the hopes that we would reopen before school started."

Along with cleaning up the interior of the restaurant and replacing the kitchen tile, Spanky's owners said they were looking to brighten up the decor of the restaurant.

"Originally Spanky's was going for the old, dark Georgetown look," Carlson said.

"Now we're looking to clean and brighten the whole place up."

Changes to the interior include a banquet room and a new bar made of cherry wood instead of the old mahogany wood, Carlson said.

"We wanted to change the wood, and we're going to make the bar bigger so people will feel more comfortable eating there," he said.

There will also be additions to the menu, but prices are scheduled to stay about the same, Carlson said.

"(The menu) will consist of American grill-type foods, a variety of sandwiches and we'll also have specials," Carlson said.

Several surrounding restaurant managers said they were not concerned the reopening of Spanky's would damage their business.

Dan Ruschell, kitchen manager of Pepper's Pizza, which is located at 127 E. Franklin St., said he was not concerned about a possible drop in business since the two restaurants did not generally compete for the same Chapel Hill patrons.

"When Spanky's closed down, there was no noticeable increase in business, so I don't think that when it reopens it will have a big impact," he said.

Ruschell said, "People come here because they like the atmosphere and the food."

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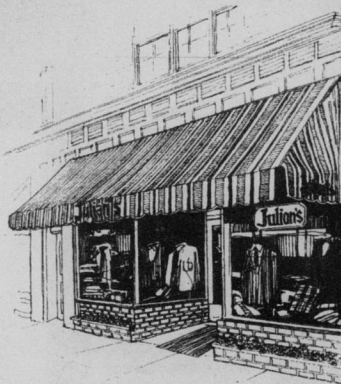
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