

## Old-time clothes make fashion news



You can buy, for a fraction of the cost, the clothes that New York fashion models are wearing.

Back Then, a separate store in the back of the Andromeda on 129 E. Franklin Street, carries clothing from different time periods. With the resurgence of fashion details from the '30s and '40s, Back Then is no longer a source of old clothes, but rather a source of fashionable, inexpensive clothes.

Owner Lorre Albin buys the old-time clothes from other persons on consignment and on buying trips to New York, Florida and other parts of North Carolina.

Not all the clothes in Back Then are from this country or this century. Currently Albin has some Victorian skirts and tops, a Japanese kimono and a dress from France in stock.

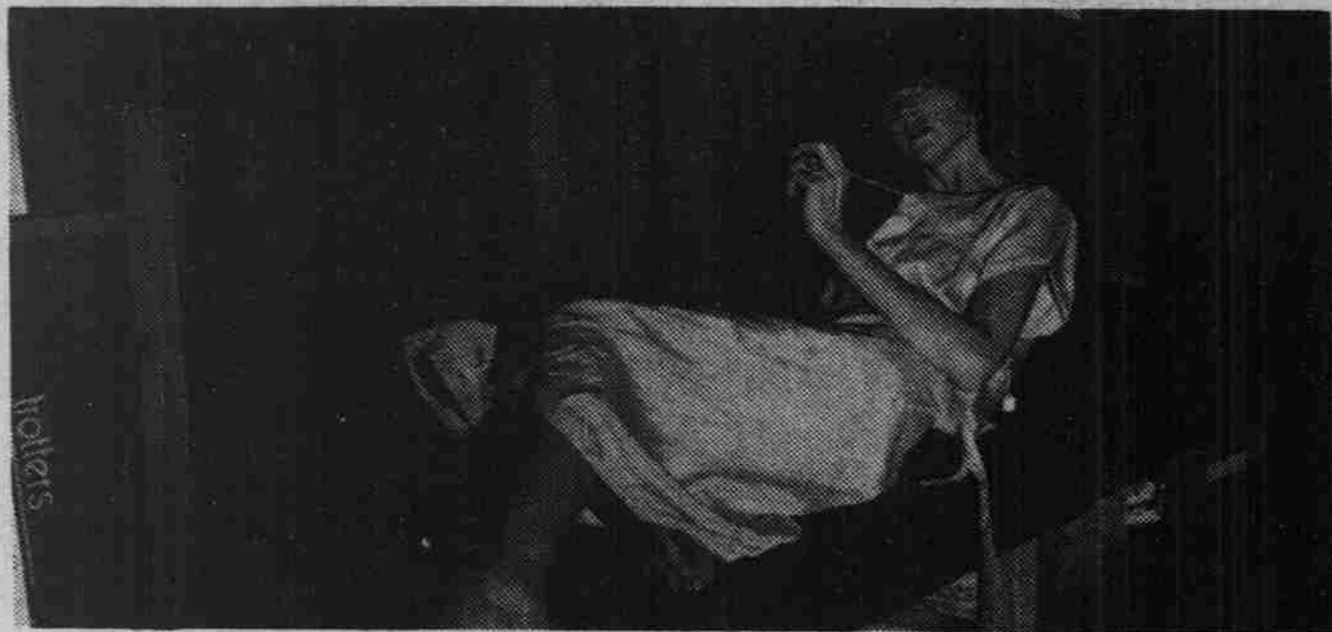
The classic items sell quickly, Albin said. The selection of clothes changes constantly.

Albin has lived in Chapel Hill for five years and opened Back Then in May 1977. Most of her customers are regulars, and many are men.

Albin estimated that more than half of her customers are college students. She says most are creative people because, "It takes something special to be able to complete one of these outfits."

And for many of those creative folks, collecting the old clothes is something of a hobby.

One customer said she not only enjoys finding the clothes, but also wearing them. "They're a lot of fun, and why shouldn't everything you do be fun?" she said.



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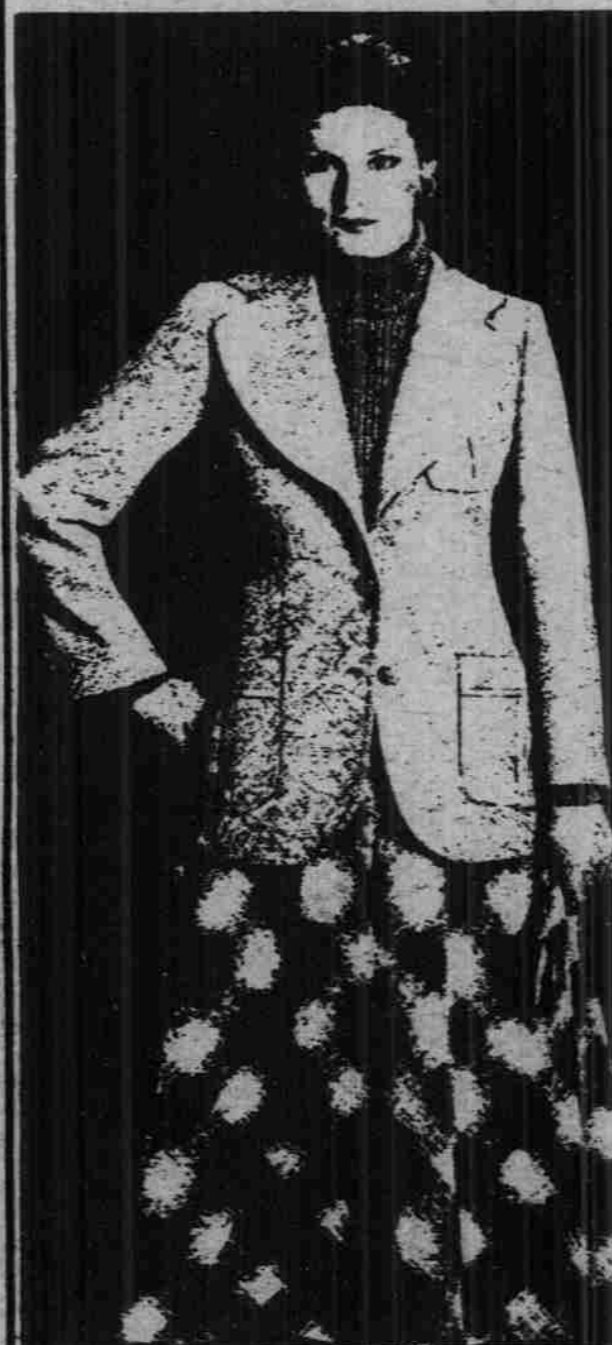


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