

Shack destruction planned; friends fondly recall 'Wheaties'

By ARLENE AYCOCK

Incoming summer school students will find one change in the Chapel Hill scene that can cramp their style—the legendary Shack is no more.

The building, which has been a popular spot for beer drinkers since 1941, is being emptied of its contents, and plans are being made for its destruction. Tim Kirkpatrick, owner of the lot, has tentative plans for a parking lot or building of some type to be placed on the vacant land, but this is yet to be finalized.

Even vaguer than plans for the lot are plans of the former owner, a man known as "Wheaties" by his friends and associates. A consensus by all who know him seems to indicate he is an affable, soft-spoken fellow with a quiet, yet poignant sense of humor.

Owner of the Shack since 1971, John Lawrence Richardson graduated from UNC in 1962 with a degree in chemistry. Wheaties left Chapel Hill a few weeks ago when the Shack officially closed at 5 a.m. on April 23 after a final farewell blast. There are many speculations about where Wheaties will spend his future. Friends said Wheaties was formerly a co-owner of a bar at Wrightsville Beach called "Wits End" and that he also used to own a bar in Asheville. His friends also said he is the owner of another bar called "the Shack" at Atlantic Beach. They vaguely remember Wheaties mentioning he owned a motel in Pittsboro and a black bar on Rosemary Street.

"No one knows for sure what Wheaties' plans are. There are all kinds of rumors about what he might do next," said Linda Margeson, manager of the Cavern bar in Carrboro of which Wheaties is part-owner. "He was a real fraternity-type guy when he was in school. Still is—no, not really," she said with a giggle.

Margeson said Wheaties gives the Cavern's telephone number as his business number now and he frequently visits both socially and for business reasons when he is in Chapel Hill.

She said the Chapel Hill building inspectors tried to condemn the Shack five years ago but Wheaties took the case to court and won. This year when the Shack was again inspected and condemned, Wheaties didn't argue because "he didn't want to pay the lawyers."

Tim Kirkpatrick, owner of Kirkpatrick's bar said Wheaties mentioned Washington State as a place he might visit.

"He wanted to pick apples during the apple season with the migrant workers," Kirkpatrick said Wheaties planned to

return to Chapel Hill around the first of August for a dental appointment.

"He's just like a Teddy Bear. He's the type of person everyone likes to adopt," said Lenora Graybeal, a good friend of Wheaties.

Graybeal described Wheaties as an intelligent man, "in fact, brilliant as far as I'm concerned. You'll never know when he'll come up with something."

To illustrate her point, Graybeal recounted an incident involving a Schlitz clock that previously hung on a wall of the Shack.

"When the Shack closed, Wheaties promised that I had dibbs on the Schlitz clock. Sunday night was closing night and I was entering the hospital on Monday evening for an operation. When I came out of surgery on Tuesday morning, that Schlitz clock was hanging on my hospital wall."

Graybeal contended that wherever Wheaties was, he was taking a well-deserved vacation, having worked for the past eight years "from 11 in the morning until 2 the next morning."



This Chapel Hill institution soon to be only a memory

Another friend, Clarence Gray, said Wheaties had taken a bus to Atlanta to visit some friends.

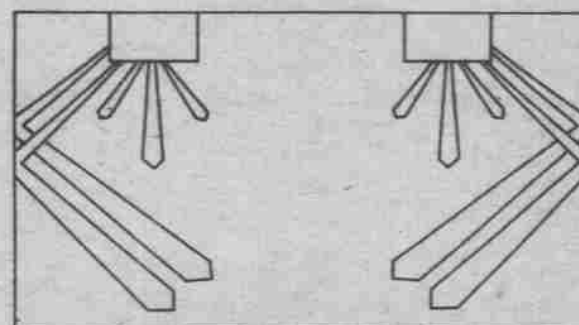
Dawn Yowell agreed that Wheaties was visiting friends in Atlanta, but guessed he had probably already left and was headed to San Francisco. She said Wheaties had

planned to travel west for some time, even before the Shack closed down. She added he had told her he would see her at the first UNC football game.

"I think whatever he does, he will do it in Chapel Hill. I'd be surprised if he settles anywhere else."

The New Bose® Model 301. Small Size. Small Price. Big Performance.

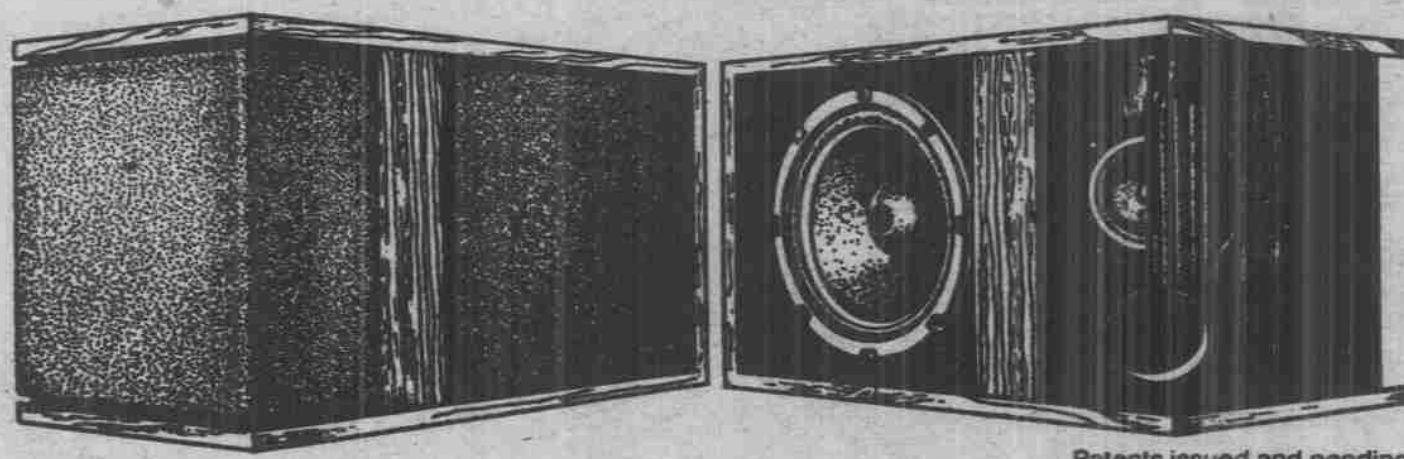
The Bose Model 301 Direct/Reflecting® speaker system utilizes a carefully produced balance of reflected and direct sound to give you the spatial realism of a live performance. The sound is open, spacious, rich and powerful. Yet unlike some so-called bookshelf speakers, the Model 301 is compact enough to fit



Balance of reflected and direct sound gives the Model 301 the spatial realism of live-performance sound.

on an ordinary-size bookshelf. And you don't have to be rich to own a pair. It's actually the least expensive Direct/Reflecting® speaker system you can buy. Compare the Model 301 against any bookshelf speaker, regardless of price. If you aren't surprised, we'd be surprised. Come in for a personal demonstration.

\$239⁰⁰
per pair



Patents issued and pending.

BOSE®

Woofers & Tweeters®

1603 Guess Rd.
(Across from Northgate Mall)
Durham, N.C.
286-1235

Hi-Fi Systems
The alternative to the
high-priced stereo salons.

West end of Franklin St.
(Beside the Tar Heel Car Wash)
Chapel Hill, N.C.
967-2462 or 967-6624

BOOKS

plus
the area's best selection of
**FOREIGN
PERIODICALS**

in English, French, Spanish,
Italian & German



**Little Professor
BOOK CENTER**

UNIVERSITY SQUARE
143 W. FRANKLIN
DOWNTOWN CHAPEL HILL
(Next to Granville Towers)
OPEN DAILY