



## Yard sales

Sellers try to unload their worthless clutter; buyers hunt potential treasure in others' junk

By SHARON SHERIDAN  
Staff Writer

Would you like a 50-cent sweater or a \$10 shawl? Are you trying to find an antique doll or a bathroom rug? Do you want to sift through 25-cent paperbacks or old costume jewelry? Do you know where you can find a cheap pair of shoes, a used typewriter or a wooden picture frame?

Where else but at a yard sale, where one man's junk really is another man's treasure?

"People buy just things you wouldn't expect, sometimes," said Fredra Hatch, who recently held a yard sale in Durham County.

"Most of it's junk and junk does sell," said Arlene Spivey of Chapel Hill.

"(You can find) just about anything except food, except groceries," said Chapel Hill resident Mary Johnson.

"If you hold out long enough, you can find exactly what you want at a yard sale," said one man, who asked to remain anonymous. "I used to have yard sale mania. I might go to 12 yard sales a week about 10 years ago."

On Oct. 2, she had what she thought was her 14th yard sale. "Usually I have them with groups of people," she said. "It's not a lot of fun, it's a lot of work."

But not everyone would agree.

"It's exciting. You meet a lot of people," Hatch said. "I really enjoy it. I have had a good time today."

Sherry Noules held an indoor sale Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Because she held her sale inside, she said "it really wasn't that much work."

"We had a lot of fun just talking to people," said Suzanne Spruill of Carrboro, who held a yard sale Oct. 2. "This was our first yard sale, so this was a real unique experience for us. We made a lot of money."

Hatch pointed out, "You don't necessarily make money because you often are selling for below cost."

What sells best?

"Stuff you wouldn't believe," Spruill said. "Knickknacks, vases... some appliances if they're priced real cheap, albums."

"You can really sell the books," Spivey said. "Bicycles will go fairly well."

Several people said that clothes are not a good sale item. Spruill said at her yard sale, "the larger items didn't sell as well, the ones that were priced above \$20."

If people are going to hold a yard sale in Chapel Hill, according to Chapel Hill Town Clerk David Roberts "they are supposed to come in and (get) a permit. It's a \$1 peddler's permit for one day." Anyone who is doing business for profit in the town should have a license, he said.

According to Joyce Reiners of the Carrboro Finance Department, a permit is not a prerequisite to having a yard sale in Carrboro.

## Student gets back to nature in rural home

By RANDY WALKER  
Staff Writer

Come on in. The stereo's jammin', the bar is open and there's poker in the back. One thing, though. This place has no plumbing — visitors are encouraged to use the outhouse. And if it gets cold, throw some logs in the wood stove. It gets down to 5 degrees in here.

Welcome to the home of Phil Robinson, chemistry grad student.

Phil's estate lies on the fringe of Orange County, west of Wildcat Creek and 100 yards east of Chatham County. Rent is cheap out here. But since August 1981, when he moved in, Phil's rent has skyrocketed from \$35 to \$70. "Rent and power usually run \$80," he says. "I got a phone — luxury! It's the biggest bill I can't control."

Phil's water bill does not exist. He lives in the 19th century, water-wise.

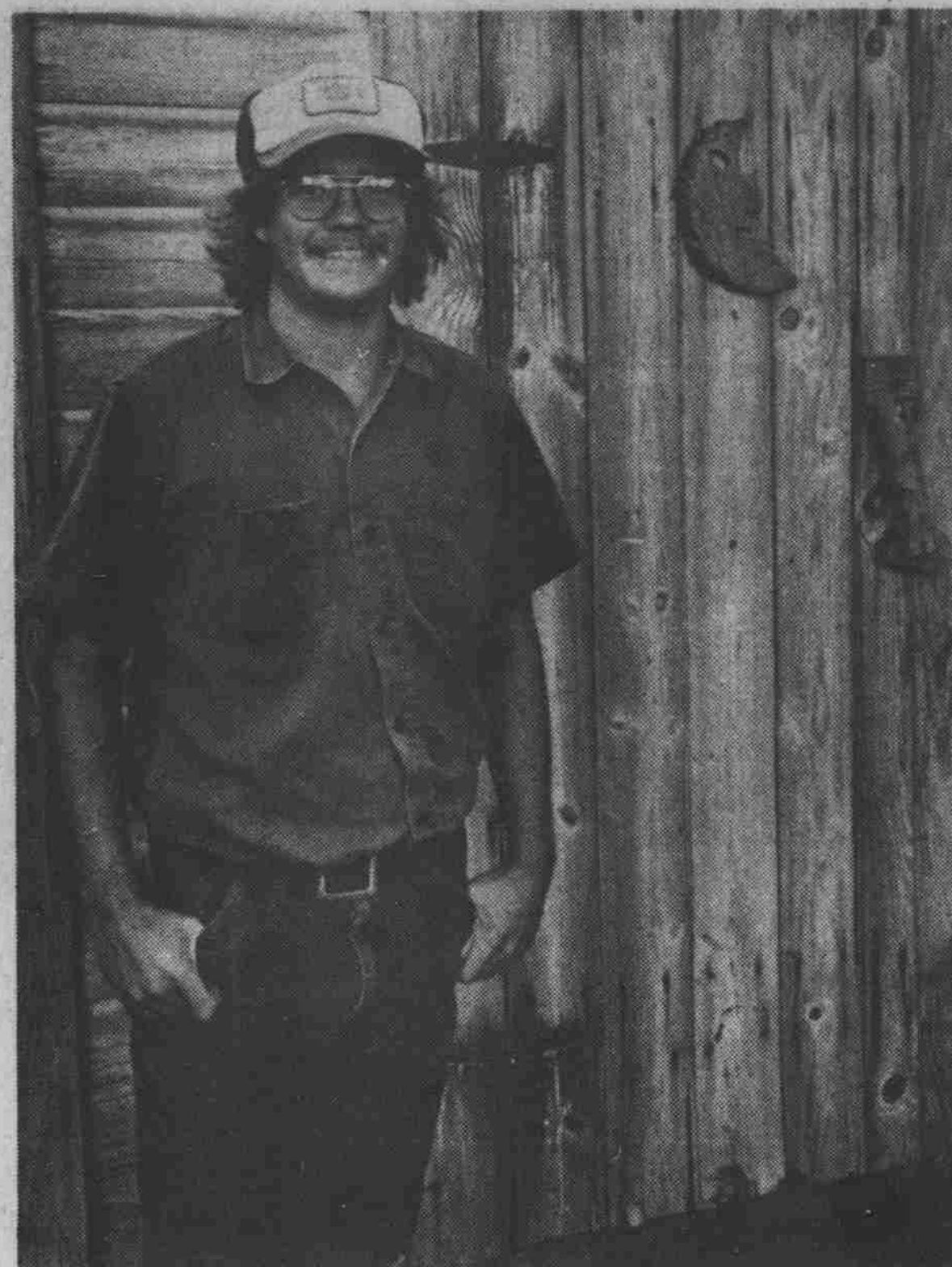
"I cart in tap water from town. I can hold about 12 gallons in plastic jugs. If I run out, there's a spring close by. I don't drink it that often, but it's good to wash dishes with."

The sanitary facility has a half-moon on the door. "It's a big hole in the ground. Lime keeps it aired out. It's got a roof, four walls and a door. And curtains — that's for females."

Phil's shower method is equally advanced. "When it's warm, I go outside and dump a bucket over my head. When it's cold, I usually go to the gym on campus."

"It's already started out cold this year. I got a couple of wood stoves, that's the only source of heat."

Last winter the temperature inside his house got as low as 5 degrees. The pipes would burst, if he had any. Every morning Phil melted his toothbrush water on the stove. At night he wrapped himself in an electric blanket inside a sleeping bag covered up with three or four blankets. "I think living in the cold builds up your stamina," he says.



Phil Robinson shows off his quaint bathroom facilities

Charlotte grad student has non-existent water bill

"Used to be, I didn't know why somebody would want to live this far from town. But I enjoy living out here. The country's beautiful. I like watching the sunset, watching the deer run around. I like the option of getting away from people."

("There was no winner this year," Phil says. "We ran out of beer.")

Phil, 24, grew up in a normal suburban home in Charlotte. And nobody ever bothers them.

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