



Mack Snipes trims the hair of Joe Eifort, a loyal customer who says he hasn't been to another barber since 1978.

# Barber continues 54-year clipping tradition

By TOM CAMACHO  
Staff Writer

When Mack Snipes began cutting hair at the small barber shop under Hector's Restaurant, about 2,300 students attended UNC, haircuts were 35 cents, and for just a nickel anybody could get an ice cold Coke from the soda fountain at Sutton's Drug Store.

Today, more than 20,000 students attend the University, haircuts can cost ten dollars or more, and you can't get a Coke at Sutton's for less than 50 cents.

But one thing hasn't changed. Mack Snipes, now 78 years old, still cuts hair in the Village Barber Shop under Hector's.

Snipes says things have changed a lot since he first opened the Village Barber Shop in 1930. "When there were 2,300 students, you could keep 'em straight," Snipes said. Back then, when a student came in for a haircut, Snipes says he could remember the student's name, hometown and major. "Now you don't know 'em," he said. "You may remember a face, but that's it.

"We had it rough then," Snipes said, recalling Depression years. "Wasn't no money." A picture of Franklin Roosevelt rests on a shelf in the shop. "He brought the country out of it," Snipes said. "He was a great man."

"Then, during the wars, business slowed down on everybody," Snipes said. He didn't give too many haircuts during those years. The '60s were also slow for haircuts. "When people went to long hair, it sorta slowed up. Now they're wearing it short again."

The Village Barber Shop shows its age. The cabinets beside the sinks are more than 50 years old, and the barber chairs more than 40. In the corners of the shop lie stacks and stacks of old newspapers and magazines. "Never throw one away," Snipes said. "I just stack 'em up like that."

Snipes, who has never married, says he has spent nearly all his life in and around Orange, Durham and Chatham counties. Yet on shelves in his shop are post cards from around the world. One loyal customer sent Snipes a card from Egypt that reads: "Dear Mack, Haircuts here are about 5 cents, but I think I will stick with

you." Other cards come from places such as Hawaii, California, London, Budapest, Africa and China.

Although he cuts hair for some well-known people such as UNC President William C. Friday and occasionally U.S. Rep. Ike Andrews, Snipes says he has no favorites. "To me, everybody's a big name," he said.

When business is slow, Snipes sits in his barber chair and reads his newspaper. But the moment a customer opens the door, the paper is put away and Snipes gets quickly to his feet. A friendly greeting and a couple of simple questions later, the customer is settled and Snipes goes to work.

With the ease of a craftsman, he pulls his glasses from his pocket, jacks up the barber chair and reaches for his tools. With a comb and scissors in one hand and an electric trimmer in the other, Snipes does what he has been doing for more than 50 years.

He says he does not know how long he will be cutting hair. He has made no plans to retire. As long as there is hair to cut and he is able, Mack Snipes says he will still be cutting hair.

# Betts gives lecture in C.S. Lewis education series Feb. 26

By IVY HILLIARD  
Staff Writer

With their intriguing mixture of religion and entertainment, the works of C.S. Lewis provide the topic for an adult education series now in progress at the University Presbyterian Church.

Doris Betts, with her intriguing combination of professional insight and homespun philosophy, will address this topic when she leads the discussion on Feb. 26 of the last and greatest of Lewis' novels, *Till We Have Faces*.

Lewis, a famous medieval and Renaissance scholar as well as an author and theologian, occupied the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University until his death in 1963.

Since his death, Lewis has been widely studied and appreciated for the extraor-

dinary scope of his work, which includes a series of seven children's books, a celebrated space trilogy and many theological works.

Betts, an Alumni Distinguished Professor of English who is dean of the faculty and a noted author, said she admires Lewis not only for his writing but for the fact that he unflinchingly tried to be what he preached, giving away most of his personal fortune and faithfully answering all his mail, even in illness.

Lewis is best known for his books on Christian theology, which include *The Screwtape Letters*, a best-selling book of letters from one devil to another, and for theological essays on almost all of the big religious questions and controversies.

"One of his arguments is that it's very hard now for college students not to put Christianity into an anthropological context," Betts said, "where the same pat-

terns reoccur in different cultures.

"His approach to that is (that) all people have to endeavor to grasp truth and that these other stories are rehearsals for the real thing."

Betts said that *Till We Have Faces*, which is a reworking of the Cupid and Psyche myth, is Lewis' most serious novel.

Using 2 Corinthians 13 — and Greek mythology — as a base, the novel deals with the nature of love without being overly religious, since the events take place long before the advent of Christianity.

While Betts said that Lewis endeavors to argue for the Christian doctrine, this novel goes beyond realism into human feeling.

"My view is you never persuade anyone to a religious faith," Betts said. "It works only if you want it to work. If you believe, (Lewis) confirms your belief; but if not, it does nothing for you."

Lewis also accounts for the common chronological error people make in believing that those before our time were stupid in dealing with religious matters. "No one in *Judea* didn't have the same

problem with the virgin birth as we would today," Betts said.

Betts said Lewis takes all the religions of the world and eliminates them until he reaches the one he considers the best — Christianity.

"He takes views he thinks are modern, for example, the god of nature — that vague feeling you get looking at the ocean — and points out that that god never asks for anything and never requires commitment," Betts said.

Three parts remain in the course on Lewis' life and fiction.

This Sunday, Dr. James H. Crawford, a UNC physics professor, will discuss *That Hideous Strength*, the last novel of Lewis' space trilogy. Betts' discussion follows on the next Sunday.

On March 4 the course will conclude with speaker Jane Thompson Stephens, a Lewis scholar from Winston-Salem, who will talk about *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis' beguiling autobiography of his early years.

All sessions are held on the first floor of the Presbyterian Student Center at 110 Henderson St. at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

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DOWN: 24 Sunbeams, 25 Small ducks, 27 Inclination, 30 Finish, 34 Sp. house, 37 Parsia, now Scot., 40 Small drum, 41 Loaf end, 42 More ashen, 44 Center, 45 Saudis, e.g., 47 Drama, 48 Miss Sommer, 49 Permeable, 51 Shakespear-ean king, 53 Carroll heroine, 56 Rolling stone lack, 59 Navy man: abbr., 62 Famous football coach, 66 Spokes, 68 Ostrich's cousin, 69 Movie critic, 70 Originated, 71 Electrical unit, 72 Lat. abbr., 73 Stores, 74 Being: Lat., 75 Dries hay, 1 God of love, 2 Go by car, 3 Writer Jong, 4 Movie fighter, 5 Author Paton, 6 Actress Cheryl, 7 Chris — Lloyd, 8 Pirogue, 9 Onion relative, 10 Neighbor of Mont., 11 Included with, 12 Quaker colonist, 13 Kind of code.  
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:  
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