

# Yard sales provide oldies but goodies

By DENISE SMITHERMAN  
Staff Writer

One man's trash is another man's treasure. That's never more true than at a Saturday morning look-at-all-this-junk yard sale.

Where else could one buy a backpack for 35 cents, a necktie for 10 cents or a huge tartan plaid suitcase for \$1.25?

While UNC Student Body Treasurer Ryke Longest describes yard sales as "people's trash with prices on it," others say the sales contain many interesting items waiting to be matched with the right buyers.

In fact, one avid yard sale shopper recalls the story of a woman who, after a divorce, sold her \$1,000 wedding rings for \$5.

People hold sales to make money, or they frequent the events to find specific items, such as albums or depression glass, for extremely low prices. Both buyers and sellers are anxious to make a good deal.

UNC School of Pharmacy assistant professors Herb Patterson and Ralph Raasch combined yard sale items their families collected to "make a few bucks out of it." They will send what shoppers turn down to Goodwill or another charitable organization.

Patterson said baby items were most popular. A changing table was snatched at the start of their sale.

Sophomore Mike Tornero and his brother, Carlos, a freshman, also held

a yard sale to make extra money. When they were age 10 and nine, respectively, they sold old toys, Mike said.

"We made \$150, so I think it was pretty successful," he said.

Many search the tables of old kitchen paraphernalia or rummage through the boxes of ladies' shoes simply because they enjoy it. Yard sales have become a hobby and a pastime.

"It's a social thing, like bridge," said senior Karen Godfrey. "Lots of housewives get together and have them."

Nannie Phillips and Betty Oldham, employees of N.C. Memorial Hospital Printing Department, organize their throw-aways about twice a year. The two visit with each other, joke with neighbors and bargain in between.

While a Donna Summer eight-track tape played in a small stereo marked \$25, Oldham decided she could use the fur-lined boots that Phillips had never worn and was selling for \$3.

Oldham's brother, Raymond Pendergrass, came to set up tables.

Yard sales are an opportunity to socialize, he said. "It gets people together in the neighborhood."

So when your blender just mixed its last daiquiri and funds have dwindled to nil, a yard sale might be the best place to shop.

Adele Thomas, who did find a blender (that even works) for \$2, said, "You never know what's going to turn up."

# Models don clothes from days gone by

By MARYMELDA HALL  
Assistant Features Editor

The models paraded past their audience in elegant clothes of the finest silk, satin, velvet and handmade lace. Although the outfits weren't designed by the likes of Calvin Klein or Liz Claiborne, they made their statements in the fashion world — the world of the 1800s and 1900s, that is.

The Chapel Hill Historical Society hosted this "old-fashions show" Sept. 5 at the Horace Williams House on Rosemary Street. From about 4:30 to 6 p.m., an audience of all ages was treated to an evening in the past.

White wicker chairs and tables dotted the green lawn of the Williams house. A silver punch bowl and cut-glass cups glistened with the look of the Old South.

Many people came dressed for an afternoon of high tea.

Val Lauder, who co-chaired Chapel Hill's Heritage Week with Georgie Kyser, explained how the fashion show started.

"Each year the Historical Society does a calendar, and this year was 'How We Looked,'" she said. The calendar is filled with historic photos of Chapel Hillians, including an old picnic scene, a picture of the lady who owned the Tri Delta sorority house and pictures of antique clothing.

"We decided to have an old-fashions show based on the calendar," Lauder said.

Pam Smith of Pittsboro acted as the show's emcee. Smith has spent 10 years collecting antique clothing and owns the shop Beggars and Choosers in Pittsboro. Durham radio station WNCN provided music to match the period of the clothes shown.

The models, many of them area students, walked from the back porch of the house through the yard so people could get a close-up view of the clothes' craftsmanship.

Smith discussed not only the clothes, but also the fashion history of the time, including the story of the corset.

"The corset was worn by girls starting as young as 3 years old," she said, "and by the time they were 16, they often had trouble standing upright and breathing because of weakened muscles and constricted lungs. It was considered high class for a man to have a wife who fainted easily. Some women even attempted to make their waists smaller by having their top two ribs surgically removed."

No one fainted during the show, but the clothes often were hot and heavy.

Actress Kaeren Hawkesworth modeled a black silk-and-velvet gown from the Victorian era that covered everything from the neck down. (Women were not allowed to mention any part of the body below the neck, and often table legs and the arms of chairs were covered for propriety's sake.)

"The black velvet is very hot," Hawkesworth said. "The further back you go in time, the heavier the clothes are."

Old Salem village lent two sedate Moravian outfits for the show. The Moravians only allowed clothes colored solid blue, brown or black, so the clothes contrasted sharply with many of the other clothes in the show.

Pastel colors adorned with ribbons, lace and feathers were popular. Outfits ranged from flapper gowns supplied by the UNC drama department to cotton nightgowns from 1910 handed down through generations.

Frances Frankstone, who co-chaired the fashion show with Carroll Kyser, spent about two months collecting clothes and accessories for the show.

"I gathered all the clothes in one study, and I had people come try on outfits until we found ones that truly fit," she said.

Elenore Cole and Emily Brown, both

10th-graders at Chapel Hill High School, enjoyed the opportunity to wear old fashions different from the jeans and T-shirts of today.

"They're pretty tight," Cole said with a sigh, "and some of the clothes have a lot of buttons."

"They make you feel so . . . I don't know," Brown added. "I just like to wear them."

Rick Fields, a UNC student from England, said his favorite outfit was the Moravian costume, partly because of its "very austere look."

"It has all these different pieces and they just somehow fit together," he said. One inconvenience with wearing antique clothing he discovered was having to keep his braid pinned up to keep in fashion.

Accessories like a black velvet hat with fuschia ostrich feathers and an ostrich boa, fans, parasols and costume jewelry were used to make the outfits realistic. One black evening dress featured an eight-inch beaded ribbon and had been worn on a South American cruise decades ago.

The show ended in the Edwardian era with lots of cottons and flimsy materials. The final showcase piece was a fine silk taffeta Gibson Girl wedding dress that had been worn in 1906.

Admission to the show was \$3 for the general public. Money earned will be placed in the revolving fund of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society to help purchase historic buildings, then resell them to private owners to preserve them, Frankstone explained.

"It was great fun having student models from all over," she said. "This old fashions show felt like a wonderful trip into a lot of great grandmothers' attics."

# Second hand ain't second best



DTH/Larry Childress

Bradley Davis of Carrboro gets a lot of his toys at the PTA Thrift Shop on Main Street. But this basketball is just temporary comfort while he

waits for his mother to finish shopping. Besides, he already has one just like it at home.

# Thrift-shop visitors hunt for treasures

By LOUIS CORRIGAN  
Staff Writer

Colored cut-out drawings of birds by fifth-graders and flowers by second-graders cover the back wall. The floor seems cluttered with junk: a couple of sofas, racks and racks of clothes that look old and maybe a bit dirty, a bookcase full of damp-looking books. Who knows, maybe you're not going to find anything here.

The PTA Thrift Shop in Carrboro doesn't remind one of Macy's or even Belks. There's no Muzak, for one thing. Yet thrift stores, particularly PTA, have become nearly as acceptable as department stores.

The PTA stores in Carrboro and the Kroger Plaza prove thrift shops are not just for bag ladies. Anyone looking for almost anything may find happiness in thrift-store shopping.

Joshua Spadaro sorts through the bin of jeans while his mother browses. His wooden tiki necklace bounces against his chest as he explains thrift shopping.

"If I see anything I like, I just pick it up. It's a hell of a lot easier to find what I want," he says. "But it's hard to find stuff that fits."

Edna Clark pulls shirts from the

If I see anything I like, I just pick it up. It's a hell-of-a lot easier to find what I want. — Joshua Spadaro

boys' bin and inspects each closely. She says she comes in "as often as I can" and looks for clothes for her two sons. She doesn't mind mending a little. Her plaid skirt cost her \$1 a couple of weeks ago.

At the back counter where donations are accepted — and piled to the ceiling in a back storage room — two women talk to the clerk about an unpriced item they want. The clerk says she's not going to argue. One of the women says they are not arguing.

Into this thrift-store day enters Joel Katzenstein, bargain hunter extraordinaire. He comes not seeking bermudas — at least not necessarily — but glory and maybe some drawers for his kitchen.

"I come here 'most every day," he says. "I've finished my whole house with the most inconceivable finds."

Katzenstein's trophies include a four-poster bed for \$30, a huge 100

percent wool rug for \$8, a painting appraised at \$300 that he purchased for \$2, a couple of brass lamps and about two houses full of other "finds."

He looks for special books, too, and recently found a first-edition copy of Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage* for \$1 at PTA.

"There's sort of a thrill in doing that," he says. The excitement comes more from feeling like you won a treasure hunt than finding a valuable item, he says.

Katzenstein says most of his clothes are from thrift stores, and no one can tell. He owns four tweed jackets that Julian's donated to PTA as overstock items. They cost him \$4 each.

The price is, of course, the main feature of the thrift store business. Nothing PTA sells costs much.

The other main attraction, as Katzenstein has discovered, is that

a discriminating and diligent shopper can find some beautiful and unusual items — not just Halloween costumes, but dresses that aren't made anymore or handknit sweaters that your parents wouldn't buy you even for Christmas — all for what you'd spend on drinks on a Saturday night.

These features and a good organization have made the PTA Thrift Shops highly profitable.

In the year ending June 30, PTA generated \$250,202 in profits, after operating expenses. This will be distributed to nine schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system. The money goes to buy items that state and county funds can't cover, such as library books, playground equipment and computers.

The PTA Thrift Shops receive donations from individuals and businesses in the community. In turn, they serve all groups in the community and at the University.

"There are so many people in here, you just wouldn't believe. From all different walks of life," says Letitia Jones, head clerk at the Carrboro store. About a third are students.

So, don't be afraid to dig into that bin. You might find something pretty cool.

# Area bookworms may satisfy appetites at specialized local used-book stores

By KARA V. DONALDSON  
Staff Writer

Buying books can be an adventure when you explore some of the used-book stores in Chapel Hill.

Each store has a distinct personality. Most began as extensions of the owners' interests and hobbies. Some stores have very specialized collections, while others carry a range of subjects. No matter what subject you are looking for, you're bound to find it in one of these used-book stores.

**Second Foundation**, in NCNB Plaza at 136 E. Rosemary St., is a specialty bookstore.

"Some people come in and are surprised that it's all science fiction," said Owner Dan J. Breen. "These people don't stop and think what science fiction is. I try to tell them it's everything from Greek myths to George Orwell. But other people come in and their eyes light up when they realize it's all science fiction and fantasy."

Breen, whose store is an extension of his hobby, carries old and new paperbacks, hardbacks and comics. One would have to travel 200 miles to reach another collection as extensive, he said.

Books are bought and sold according to original price, condition and availability.

Second Foundation is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. Breen will hold a yard sale Saturday. Books will be priced from 30 cents to 60 cents.

Comics also are bought and sold at **Heroes Aren't Hard to Find** at 133½ E. Franklin St. It's open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The **Community Bookstore** is located in an old house at 409 W. Rosemary St. Owner Richard Davis was a UNC student 12 years ago and stayed in Chapel Hill to run his bookstore.

The shop, smelling of incense, houses its books on wooden shelves. Book topics include religion, metaphysics, philosophy, health, yoga, massage and vegetarian cooking. "We carry things that aren't readily available," Davis said. He has a mixture of new and old books.

Community Bookstore is open 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

**Internationalist Books** is across the street at 408 W. Rosemary St. The store carries a mixture of political and

social books, periodicals, t-shirts, buttons and posters. Most of his stock is new, although he has a section of used books. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The **Book Cellar** is not in a cellar at all, but in Carrmill Mall. The new owner, Patricia Wall, said she would change the name in the next couple of weeks.

The Book Cellar carries all used, mostly paperback books, including recreational reading, fiction, non-fiction, classical literature and romances.

"We have 14 copies of *The Red Badge of Courage*," employee Lisa Parrish said. "A whole class could buy its book here."

Wall buys books depending on supply and demand. Selling prices range from 10 cents to \$10. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The **Bookshop Inc.** is Chapel Hill's newest bookstore, but the faces behind the counter are familiar. Linda Saardemaa, of **Bookends**, and Bill Loeser, of **Keith and Martin**, now are joint owners of The Bookshop Inc. Keith and Martin is closed but Bookends will remain open a couple more weeks. Prices of the entire stock are one-third off.

Loeser's stock already is on the shelves at 400 W. Franklin St. He specializes in hardbacks and has a selection of North Carolina history books. Saardemaa now is moving and reshelving her stock.

The Bookshop Inc. owners want to buy and sell all types of used books. Some are rare, such as the 1840 printing of *Tales of a Traveller* by Geoffrey Crayon, Gent., but most are reading copies.

"If a customer is interested in a specific book or subject which we don't have, we put a card on file and watch for it," Saardemaa said. "We can also use a booksearch service to find it at another store."

Bookends' hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Until Sept. 30, The Bookshop Inc. will be open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. After that, its hours will be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Each store's personality makes it a unique place to visit, whether to find a specific book or just to browse. Stop by and discover the variety and personality of Chapel Hill's used-book stores.



DTH/Larry Childress

Linda Saardemaa of The Bookshop, Inc.