



## 'Something Old, Something New' (or nearly)

Where can you buy a Bergdorf Goodman dress or a Brooks Brothers suit in Durham for \$15? Or how about a fine pair of shoes for \$5? Or maybe last year's best selling novel in hardback for a buck?

Impossible?

Not at all. Housed in a modest red brick building at 1801 Erwin Road is the Nearly New Shoppe, an enterprise sponsored by the wives of School of Medicine faculty members and specializing in clothing and other kinds of tried and true merchandise.

As a matter of fact, you could probably walk into the store in your birthday suit and purchase everything you needed to cover nature's mistakes before the public safety officers arrive to escort you downtown—everything from golf shoes for bare feet to wigs for bald heads. All very reasonable.

Ethel Wyngaarden, president of the Hospital Auxiliary, had the good idea for starting the Nearly New Shoppe in 1968. In that year the fledgling business showed a profit of \$3,600. Six years later, in 1974, profits totaled \$36,000.

And the nice thing about it is that all that money goes into an endowment for scholarships for medical students. At present, the endowment is the School of Medicine's second largest.

"People don't realize how valuable a resource the Nearly New Shoppe is to the community," said Ortrude Busse, co-chairwoman of the shop. "It provides low cost clothing for those who can't or don't want to pay high retail prices, and it returns money to the community through the consignment system."

Anyone in the Durham area can bring garments to the shop to be sold, she explained. Half of the sale price goes to the store, and the other half is paid to the original owner of the clothing or merchandise. In addition, those who bring articles to be sold are given tax credits since their articles are considered donations. Last year alone more than 1,500 people received tax credits, she said.

Sharing the work of the shop with Mrs. Wyngaarden and Mrs. Busse (and there's a lot of it) is Georgia Parker, also co-chairwoman, and 22 other volunteers. Two co-managers, who are the only full-time paid employees, help keep the business working smoothly on a day-to-day basis.

Any day between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., except Sunday and Monday, you can stop by. Fridays, just show up before 5 p.m. Don't wait too long, though. Those bargains are snatched up quickly and the Nearly New Shoppe is always busy.

