# Soda fountains of old live on in Chapel Hill

By KEITH GRIFFLER Staff Writer

Want a cold drink? Maybe a quick bite to eat? How about the latest on anything and everything that's happening around town?

If you don't know where to go for this, you obviously haven't discovered Jeff's Campus Confectionery or Sutton's Drug Store.

If you're just looking to quench your thirst, Jeff's Campus Confectionery is a good bet. It's a stride east of the Varsity Theater on East Franklin Street. But be careful two strides and you're past it.

Despite its small size and lack of seating space, Jeff's offers a cozy, friendly atmosphere and plenty of satisfying drinks. The sodas come in four sizes, ranging from 50 cents to 85 cents. Cherry Coke is the major attraction.

Milkshakes also come highly recommended. Or Jeff's selection of beer might be more to your taste.

You can munch on some of the packaged junk food that abounds, breeze through one of the many magazines offered for sale or just take in the impressive array of gossip that floats around - not that you'd be listening, of course.

If you did listen in, though, you might catch some of the same types of stories that have been told on

Jeff's, Sutton's let customers sample food, drink and a little helping of local gossip.

the premises since 1927, when the original Jeff, uncle of the present owner, sold his first Coke. One Chapel Hill resident, Britt Sanders, characterizes Jeff's as a "part of the history of the town."

It hasn't changed much since its inception. A fire in 1967 required major rebuilding, but, even so, much of the original paneling on the counters remains.

To say Jeff's serves as a link between past and present in Chapel Hill isn't stretching the imagination. To be convinced, you only need to see the blend of long-time Chapel Hill residents and the everchanging cast of UNC students that form the bulk of the customers.

If you want more than junk food to go with your drinks or you want

the last word on the goings on of the town or campus, go to Sutton's Drug Store at 159 E. Franklin St.

One veteran observer of the local scene confided that Sutton's is the mecca of Chapel Hill gossip. And Sutton's offers a fairly wide selection of moderately priced food.

Breakfast foods range from \$1.50 for an egg to \$2.55 for eggs and a side dish.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and sandwiches run from 90 cents to \$2.25. Drinks cost between 48 cents and 67 cents. Ice cream costs 60 cents per scoop.

And you needn't fear run-of-themill food from a learn-as-she-goes cook. Sutton's Willie May Houk is in her 30th year as a short-order cook.

Comments such as "delightful," "efficient," "patient," "chatty" and "never forgets a face" often arise in discussions about Houk (or Dr. Houk, to use her proper title, an honor granted her by the "Franklin Street Irregulars" in 1975).

Houk alone may render a visit to Sutton's worthwhile, but there are many other reasons to visit this senior resident (class of 1923). The atmosphere is friendly and intimate. The counter is a convenient meeting place for townspeople and students, before or after work or class. It opens at 6:30 every morning (9 a.m. Sundays) and closes at 6 every evening (4 p.m. Sundays).

If that's not late enough for you, Jeff's is open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. weekdays and until 5 p.m. weekends.



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Willie May Houk has seen 30 years of Sutton's customers

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