

Yarnell~Hoffer

Do-it center. News

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THE WAY IT USED TO BE

Believe it or not, there are some of us around here that have lived in Chapel Hill for all or most of our lives. I thought it might be interesting for you to hear what it used to be like in Chapel Hill in the early days (1970's). That doesn't seem like a long time ago to some people but the town has changed so much in the last twenty years that I thought it would be nice to reminisce about the way it used to be.

When Craig and I were growing up in Chapel Hill in the early 70's there was no University Mall, no Lowes or for that matter no other shopping centers except for Eastgate and Glen Lennox. The highlight of the weekend was to go to Eastgate and roam through the Woolworths 5&10 or Grants. Woolworths was close to where the Intimate is now and Grants had center stage where Food Lion is. We liked Woolworths the best because we could buy BB's for our BB guns and check out the sporting goods in the back. When we got hungry, we would get on our bikes and ride over to Glen Lennox where the Dairy Bar was. They had great milk shakes.

I knew the back way through the Glen Lennox apartments because I delivered the Village Advocate over there. I might add that I had the largest route for the Advocate back then. I got paid a whopping \$30.00/month for rolling, rubber banding and delivering about 400 Advocates. It was an entire afternoon process every Wednesday but I got rich quick or so I thought.

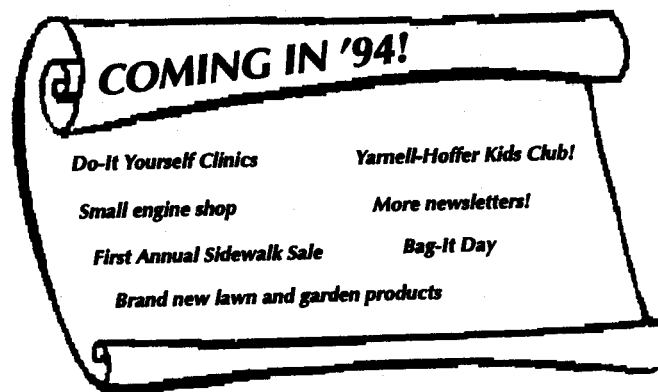
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Can you believe it - another Yarnell-Hoffer Newsletter? We've been so busy this year with the new store that this is only the second newsletter we've been able to put out. That's kind of embarrassing since they are so important to you and us. I promise next year you'll see a marked improvement.

Christmas is a special time for us because we celebrate the birth of Jesus. He has blessed us so much this year. We wouldn't be in this beautiful, new building without Him. We also couldn't have finished the best year in Yarnell-Hoffer history without your help. Thank you for trusting us with your hardware problems. We value the relationships we have built with each one of you. We can't wait to show you the new exciting things we have to offer in 1994!

Since I was so rich from my paper route, I was able to splurge on extra packs of baseball cards at 7-11 (now Circle K). I also can remember getting an Icee every time I went down there. Icee's are still one of my favorite things and now when we drive by Circle K my two year old son, Luke, says I-ceeee (like father like son, I guess).

In the early 70's something very exciting happened to Chapel Hill. We got a huge Kroger store (current site of Wellspring and Village Plaza). Now, this place was something. They had everything from food to toys to clothes. We flocked over there playing tag in the aisles until we got kicked out (I don't think I ever told my mom that). Just



down from Krogers were the new Plaza movie theaters. Craig and I got to know that parking lot well because that was where glass recycling was born in Chapel Hill. Our boy scout troop (Troop 39) started recycling glass on Saturday mornings by crushing the bottles in 55 gallon drums. We used cement filled coffee cans with wooden handles stuck in them (most of the handles probably came from Uncle Jim's back yard, a loyal father of several of our buddies in the troop). Craig and I and Mike Edmiston (our store manager) sweated there every Saturday for what seemed like years of our life. I can remember after the barrels got full, there was only one man that could move them - Uncle Henry (Mike E.'s dad). He was the strongest man I knew when I was a kid. He used to bear hug those barrels and roll them over to the side to make way for empty ones.

On some Saturday mornings we would head over to the Dairy Queen (currently Dominos) for some ice cream. Craig, on the other hand, had a different idea one day. He and one of his friends (the son of a prominent Chapel Hill businessman) decided they were going to be cool and smoke some cigarettes. Now, smoking was not something most 12 and 13 year olds did, but then again they didn't have Yarnell as a last name either. They went up to Walker's Gulf and bought two packs of cigarettes from the cigarette machine. A cigarette machine was their only option since they knew no one would actually sell

them any cigarettes. Besides, if someone did and they were caught they would be in big trouble. Anyway, they pulled on that knob like real men and went behind the car wash (the one that is still there on Franklin St.) to have a smoke. They smoked both packs in about 30 minutes and boy did they feel cool after that. When he got home,

Craig said his dad asked him why he looked so green, but he didn't have time to talk much - he was on his way to the bathroom. I guess that's why Craig never took up smoking.

At about the same time, the big field next to Binkley Baptist Church was getting developed into every teenagers dream, a mall. This was great for me because I lived right across the street. The mall opened finally and had the most awesome store in it - Billy Arthers. This was a kids paradise hobby store with everything. We used to buy model rockets and little army men to blow up with fire crack-

ers.

After the mid 1970's, development really blossomed in Chapel Hill but I don't think it hit the peak until January of 1993 when the big Orange building on Legion Rd. opened its doors (what's the name of that place anyway?).

It's been a long time since the glass crushing days at Kroger Plaza but one thing is for sure - I'm glad we've been here to watch it happen. By the way, for those of you who want to know way back history, come on by and ask us what used to be on our site.

STORE NEWS

- Beginning January 8, Craig and I will be hosting a **radio talk show** every Saturday morning on WCHL (1360 AM on the dial)! It will be a live call-in show that you can call in with your questions. We'll tell you more about the show in the next issue. Watch for details in the Village Advocate and listen to WCHL during the month of December.
- We have just started carrying lumber for those weekend projects where you need one or two pieces to finish up with. Our selection is limited to 2x4x8's, 2x6x8's, 4x4x8's and selected sizes of plywood right now but we hope to expand that in the near future.
- We have recently gone to scanning all of our merchandise at the register. This will give us more time to set up displays and get the products to the floor quicker. Within the next several months, we will have completed putting new tags on the peg hooks and shelves so the prices are big and easy to read. We appreciate your patience while we do this.
- **Craig and Mike** just returned from the hardware show in October and ordered lots of "new awesome impossible-to-live-without hardware." Read the *What's New Section* to find out more.