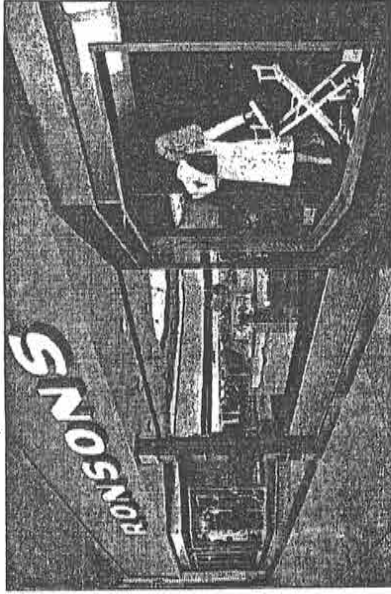


The Cardinal Theatre, in the old North Hills Plaza, closed in 1990. A time capsule from 1967 is buried there. It will be opened in 2017.



Ronsons, a women's clothing store, was among the first businesses to open at North Hills in 1963.

MAILL MEMORIES

Readers reflect on growing up with North Hills Mall — the landmark shopping area that is now being torn down

As a child, I went to the Cardinal Theatre to see a lot of movies. Once my older brother and I went to see a movie, and he showed me a time capsule that was buried and marked in front of the theater.

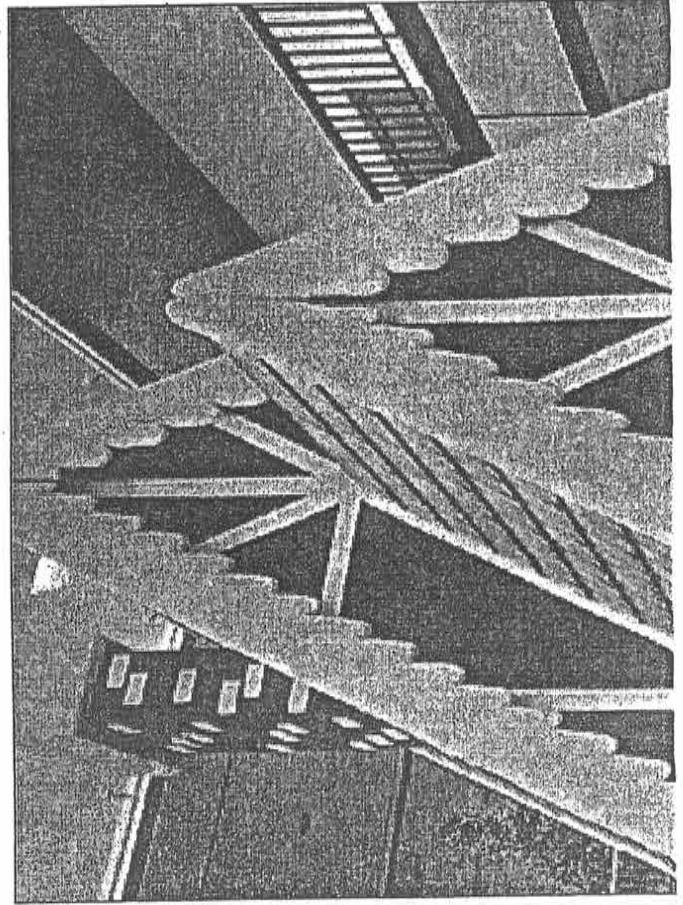
Many years later, when the theatre closed and Blockbuster Video moved in, I was curious about the time capsule and discovered it remained. In the past year, I took my 8-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter by to see the capsule site one day and to confirm its continued existence.

The capsule not only is nostalgic to me because of the location, but it was buried less than a month after I was born. I believe the marking says it is to be opened in April 2017. It is on my long-term calendar, and my wife and children are fully aware of my desire to be there.

NELSON "COOP" COOPER

I grew up just miles away from North Hills Mall, and my biggest memories are the petting zoo, Scotty's hot dogs, and shopping the mall with Nelson "Coop" Cooper.

AMY BOYETTE BROWN
Farewell, North Hills Mall.



Before moving to Northern Virginia, we frequently shopped at North Hills Mall.

Sadly, one of the more distinct memories I have of the mall occurred when we went back to Raleigh for a visit.

I had just gone to pick up my son from a friend's house when news came on the radio that a gunman had shot several people who were in the mall.

Later, we learned that the wife of one of our friends had been shot. Fortunately, she recovered. I had enjoyed shopping there when we were still residents of Raleigh. Sad to see it go. Sad to see the changes that have taken place.

I am grateful that my children had the opportunity to grow up there.

Wish we had been able to stay!

MRS. H. LEWIS

I lived the first 12+ years of my life less than a mile from North Hills Mall and Plaza.

Jim Collier's Hobby Shop was my favorite store in the mall. The assortment of airplanes hanging from the ceiling mesmerized me, and I used to stare through the glass at his sprawling model train set. The train was almost always running.

I remember dropping pennies in the scales at North Hills Pharmacy, and watching the fortune

Twenty-one years ago, it was not as common as it is now for malls to have extended hours, but

MALL MEMORIES

Page 2

and throwing coins into the fountain in the mall near Ivey's, whose jets shot water 10 or more feet into the air. You could hear the splashing water throughout the mall.

I will never forget the sight and smell of the Hickory Farms store, especially the smell of the complimentary coffee available in the back corner. I remember LPs playing on the turntable in the Record Bar, when they sold real vinyl records. About 1975, they sold 45s for 96 cents each (an even dollar with tax), and once you bought nine, the tenth one was free.

North Hills Plaza was important, too. I remember depositing allowance money in the passbook savings accounts my parents opened for my brother and me at First Federal Savings and Loan in 1972. I can still see the rotating time-temperature sign atop the building. The teller actually entered the amount of the transaction in the passbook with an ink pen back then. I still have that passbook.

North Hills Mall and Plaza will live on in our memories, and it is fitting that a part of the Mall, JCPenney, will remain. It will link the past to what is to come - a well-planned, mixed-use development suitable for such an important area.

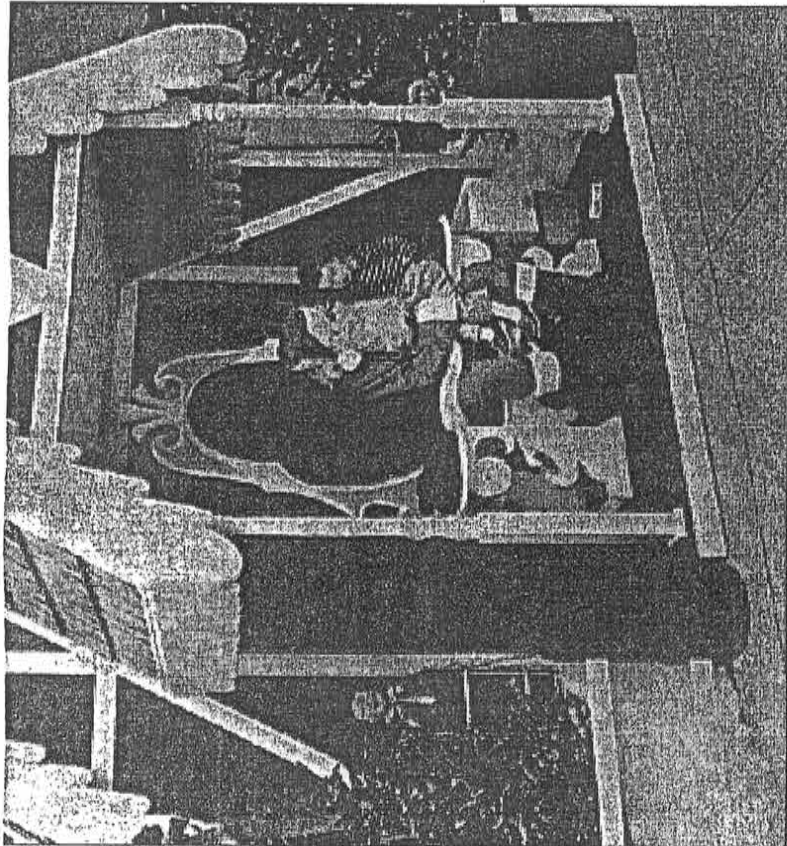
BILL MARLEY

I am a Raleigh native, so I remember North Hills before it was a mall. My great memories include my father, Bill Jackson of WPTF radio. He had weekly visits to the "new" shopping center to visit the owners, then talked about their stores on the radio.

As his daughter, I was exposed to a great place to shop. I loved Hickory Farms and learned to appreciate great cheeses. I loved art and learned so much about fine painting and drawing from Hungates. Our family spent many Sunday afternoons doing those infamous paint-by-number kits from Hungates.

My heart will always belong to JCPenney in North Hills. I shopped there for the first time alone in the seventh grade, allowed to finally pick out my own clothes. When I got remarried last year at 47, I bought my wedding gown at JCPenney - it was really a prom dress, but, fortunately, I am still small enough to fit into a teenager's size gown. I just didn't eat at Scotty's as much as I would have liked to!

JEAN JACKSON LANCASTER



A boy confides his Christmas wish list to Santa at North Hills Mall in this 1983 photo.

NSO FILE PHOTOS

arrival, a large paper star announcing the winner of the puppy was placed in the window where I had happily played with the dog every day. I did not win him.

Although I was sad then, I soon got over my disappointment with a new kitten. I remember back to this experience fondly. It was one of many happy times my mom and I spent at North Hills.

RENEE WATKINS

opening of the store. He was the most playful and adorable puppy I had ever seen.

Each day, my mother took me to Woolworth's to see that puppy. I completed many entry forms and would then sit in front of the window and "play" with the puppy. My mom waited patiently while other moms argued and hurried children past the box containing all the entries.

The day of the drawing, we could not get to Woolworth's fast enough. But upon our

One of my fondest memories of North Hills was the opening of the Woolworth's store.

It was one of the first stores to have a pet center in it. The grand opening offered many opportunities for prize drawings and giveaways. Woolworth's was giving away a wire-haired terrier puppy.

You could complete as many entry forms as you liked, and the winning one would be drawn in two weeks (I believe) from the

North Hills Mall had "Midnite Madness" every July and January.

On July 17, 1982, my husband Jim and I strolled through the mall until almost midnight. We did not find anything in the sales that we needed, except for a small baby album that might come in handy since our first child was expected Aug. 3.

We had missed my brother's wedding that day in western New York. Always accommodating, Jim had offered many times to drive us there. It would have to be a short visit because he had just started to work for IBM and did not have any vacation time. Some maternal instinct told me to decline the 1,200-mile round trip.

Arriving at our apartment very tired because of the late hour, we started to get ready to go to sleep. Then my water broke!

We were quite awake for the next 6 hours until our Jenny was born. I will always remember Aunt Mary saying that learning of the birth of the new baby was the perfect news for the family gathered for the wedding.

LILLY HOLMES

When I was in high school I worked at the Posy Patch - a plant store that was set up between the escalators at North Hills Mall.

My senior year of high school, my husband of now 22 years asked me to marry him at the Posy Patch.

Three children later and many days strolling at the mall, kids nights, shopping, Santa Claus, Easter Bunny and Trick or treating, I am reminded of the good times my family spent at North Hills. It will forever be a fond memory.

ANGELA BLALOCK

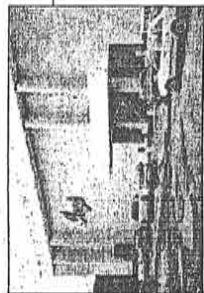
The first Christmas North Hills was enclosed, my best friend Normie Dean and I decided, being the wise and sophisticated 16-year-olds we were, to sit on Santa's lap and give him our Christmas lists.

Afterward, we walked away much more sedate than when we arrived. Days later, reflecting on the experience, we found out Santa had pinched each of us on the back-side as we departed.

Through the years, I have enjoyed sharing this with others. Every Christmas I would see that nice gentleman with a twinkle in his eye.

North Hills will be missed for its family appeal and down-home warmth.

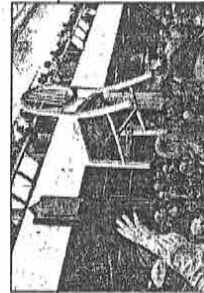
JANE E. HOWE



1963: North Hills Shopping Center opens.

1966: Ivey's opens.

1967: North Hills becomes the first enclosed mall between Washington and Atlanta.



A chair is auctioned in January. Details of a 3-year, \$50-million expansion to be completed by the end of 1998. ASW Cafeteria closes.

A HISTORY OF NORTH HILLS

customers.
OCTOBER 1984: North Hills celebrates its "grand reopening" after an 18-month, \$3-million renovation that features eight new stores.

1991: North Hills gets another face-lift in response to the opening of Crossroads and expansion of Cary Towne Center.

1994: Plans for Triangle Town Center off Capital Boulevard are announced. North Hills Mall is for sale again.

DECEMBER 1995: North Hills Mall releases de-

MAY 29, 1972: On Memorial Day, 11 people are shot, four fatally, by a gunman in the North Hills parking lot. The shooter, a 22-year-old high school janitor, then kills himself.

AUGUST 1972: Crabtree Valley Mall opens.
JUNE 1980: Three North Hills stores - JCPenney, Ivey's and Woolworth - begin regular Sunday afternoon shopping hours.

FEBRUARY 1983: Now 20, North Hills Mall begins a major renovation. With the new look, the mall hopes to attract younger, more affluent

DECEMBER 2000: Developer John Kane buys North Hills Mall. Kane already owns North Hills Plaza across Lassiter Mill Road from the mall. He'll renovate and rename it The Lassiter.

MARCH 2001: Dillard's announces it will move to Triangle Town Center when it opens in 2002. Dillard's closes in July 2002.

JANUARY 2003: Kane holds an auction, selling items from storefronts to light fixtures.

APRIL 2003: Demolition begins.

CRABTREE VALLEY MALL: ASW; CROSSROADS CENTER: KANE/ASW