

ERNIE RIVERS

- o Shoe repairman at Modern Shoe Shop,
3713 Macomb Street, NW, since 1968

There are so many different varieties of people in Cleveland Park, but they all have the same kinds of things wrong with their feet. Most people who come here want a quality job on their shoes. We try to give them pretty much what they want.

The strangest thing I have had happen was when a guy came in who wore a size nineteen shoe. He said he wanted not a half sole, but a complete bottom on that shoe, so I had to go out and find a half a cow.

Sometimes dignitaries come in. One time I looked up and Chip Carter was walking around. One time Frank Howard, the baseball player, came in and the guy had to duck his head down to get through this door.

There are a lot of people who are here for three or four years and then go home....move back to places like Oklahoma and California and they'll send shoes back. We get a lot of diplomats who are here for two or three years, so we send shoes to Japan, Israel, England and Russia. Sometimes we send the shoes straight to the State Department, which uses its own mailing system.

When I first came here I thought I'd be here for a year or two. All the little kids that used to come in then are now coming back married or getting married. We see that change.