

Brown Bagging ^[1]

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by Alex Coffin, 2006

See also: [Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission](#) ^[2]; [Beer and Breweries](#) ^[3]; [Beer](#) ^[4]; [Wine and Wine Making](#) ^[5]; [Moonshine](#) ^[6]

Brown bagging was the widespread practice of customers bringing liquor into restaurants in brown paper bags, purchasing soft drink set-ups and then mixing their own drinks at the table. Brown bagging was legalized in North Carolina in 1967. Until then, public drinking of liquor had been illegal since 1908. The first liquor-by-the-drink sale in the state occurred amidst much fanfare in Charlotte in November 1978.

Brown bagging originally was Air Force slang for a married man who carried his lunch in a brown paper bag. A "brown-bagger" eventually came to mean simply a married man in the military.

Reference:

Luther Hodges, "Not 'If' But 'When': Liquor by the Drink," *Charlotte Magazine* (Spring 1976).

Additional Resources:

1923 law outlawing selling of liquor with purchased meal, NCDCCR Digital Collections : <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/p249901coll22&CISOPTR=236847&REC=1> ^[7]

Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission: <http://abc.nc.gov/> ^[8]

1981 law describing brown bagging permist, NCDCCR Digital Collections: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/p249901coll22&CISOPTR=364782&REC=9> ^[9]

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Authors:

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From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[16]

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