

Humorist To Receive Achievement Award

HAMMOND — Jean Shepherd has been chosen to receive the Hammond Achievement Award for this year.

Shepherd will receive the award April 7 at the Wicker Park Social Center during a recognition banquet.

Shepherd is a nationally known author of humorous novels and short stories and has produced such TV series as "Jean Shepherd's America" and "The Phantom of the Open Hearth."

His novels include "Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories

and Other Disasters," "The Ferrari in the Bedroom," and "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash."

Shepherd grew up in Hammond and attended Harding School and Hammond High School.

Newsweek magazine described Shepherd's career as "an exploration of the far-off rubbish heap of memory. His sad, funny collections of stories contain bittersweet memories of what it was like to come of age in pre-war Hammond, Indiana . . . Shepherd is that very rare breed, a homespun humorist cut from the same Midwestern cloth as Mark Twain and Hoosier, George Ade."

The Hammond Achievement Award began last year under the sponsorship of the Hammond Historical Society and the Hammond Rotary Club.

It honors each year a living person whose formative years were spent in Hammond and who has achieved national or international recognition in a field of the arts, sciences or public affairs.

Last year's winner was Irv Cross, former professional football star and a CBS sportscaster.