

FEATURES

Whatever style is desired Chapel Hill has just the cut

By RANDY WALKER

Whether it is a \$2 crewcut or a Permanent Relaxer, a style and dry or a Cold Wave, there are many ways to get a haircut in the Chapel Hill area.

Mack Snipes has been cutting hair in the Village Barber Shop below Hector's since 1930. Regular haircuts and shaves are \$2.

Snipes has many long-time customers, "some from the '30s still coming in," he said.

"A lot of old timers know him and gravitate over there to sit around and talk," UNC lecturer Raleigh Mann, a Snipes customer, said.

There is no piped-in music and no television in Snipes' shop. The only sound comes from the air conditioner. One of the pictures on the wall shows Snipes cutting former UNC Chancellor Ferebee Taylor's hair. Snipes said he also cut UNC President William Friday's hair.

He learned his trade at the barber school in Durham in 1927. Haircuts cost 35 cents when he first opened shop.

"Well, they went up 50 cents, then 75 (cents), then a dollar. I don't remember the year, they just sort of go up."

Snipes said the increased popularity of men's hairstyling did not really increase business for him.

"It was (an increase in business) for some, but it didn't affect me... my customers didn't ever grow long hair."

While waiting for his next customer, Snipes sits in one of his old-fashioned barber chairs that cost "somewhere around \$500 when they were new" and reads the Chapel Hill Newspaper. Piles of old newspapers are stacked in chairs around the shop.

Snipes' own hair is thinning but still dark.

On the second floor of the same building, above Sadlack's, is Take One Haircutters,

owned and operated by Michael Cantrell and his wife Janice. Take One opened in 1979.

"We cut men's, women's and children's hair," Janice Cantrell said. "We cut to the individual's face shape, not necessarily what's in style."

"We get a lot of students, a lot of professionals from the University."

A stereo console plays FM rock. Abstract art and an African mask decorate the walls.

Barbers need 1528 hours of experience and have to take a master's board exam to get a state haircutting license, Janice Cantrell said. Cosmetologists need 1500 hours.

Michael Cantrell has been cutting hair for three years, she said.

"He's the best in town," said a customer who did not want to be identified. "He's busy from 9 to 9."

Men started wearing their long hair in the hippie era, Janice Cantrell said, "but they didn't have it styled. It's been about 10 years that men have been conscious of their hair."

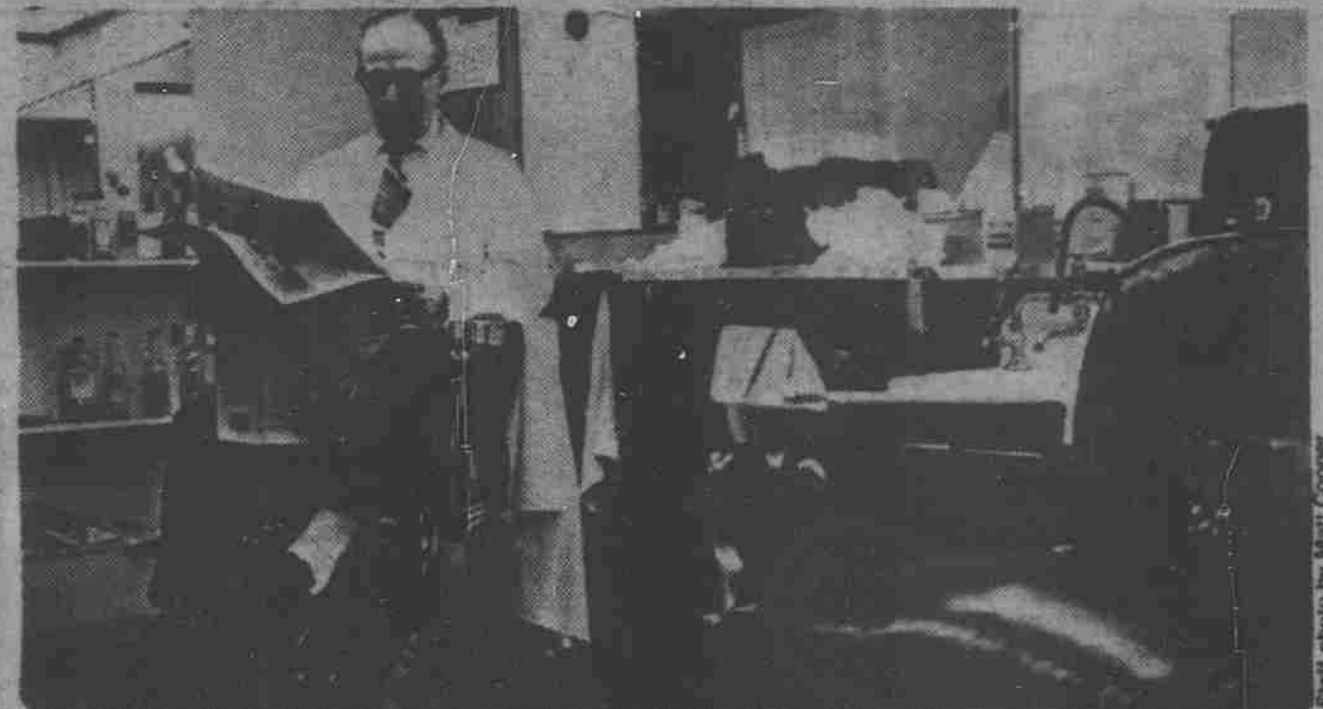
Styler hair looks better as it grows out, she said. "Barber cuts have flips and curves as they grow out."

"Most people in the last year have been wearing it shorter. I think people get tired of long hair. People want a shorter, care-free haircut."

Men's haircuts at Take One cost \$14, women's cost \$16.

Cantrell said style shops took away some customers from barber shops and beauty salons.

"Some of the hard-core people who used to go to barber shops now go to style shops," she said. "Men in their 40s, women who used to get a weekly shampoo set at a beauty salon now come and in and get a style and dry. It's easier to take care of. That seems to be the main thing."



Staff photo by Matt Cooper

Barber Mack Snipes takes a break to catch up on the news

The few blacks who come into Take One are referred to Juggy's Hair Designs, Cantrell said.

Juggy's, on Merritt Mill Road in Carrboro, is the most well-known black hairstyle shop in the area, she said.

Cutting black's hair is completely different from cutting white's hair, said Thurston "Juggy" Evans, the shop's owner.

"Everything is totally different. You perm white hair, it curls up. Black hair straightens." Black hairstyles use oil to camouflage the dryness of the skin, especially during the winter, he said.

"Permanent Relaxers take out the kinks and the curls. You have to have it re-permed in six to eight weeks," he said.

A new growth and cut popular with women, costs \$38.

Most of Juggy's customers are from Raleigh and Durham. "About 8 percent are (UNC) students," Evans said.

Evans, who went to barber school and styling school in Washington, D.C., said hair styles for black women had changed radically in the past five years. As black women began to get better jobs, they "had to have their hair looking good."

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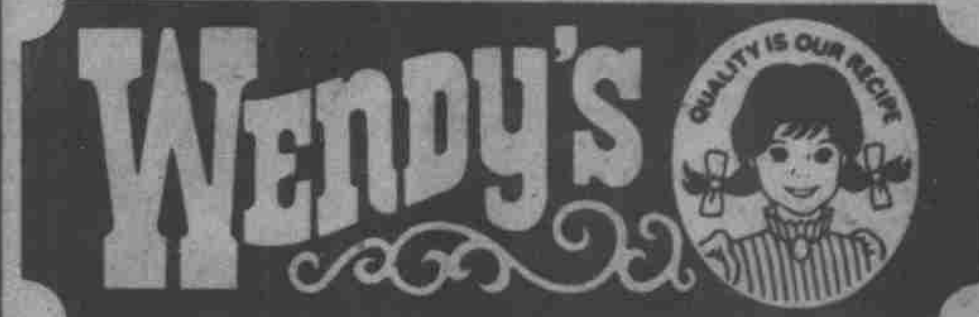
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