

Corner barber still exists, despite styles

By LOUISE OKRUTSKI

Even though men's hairstyles became longer, the old barber pole kept spinning its endless red stripes. And there was hope in the profession that the good old days of short hair and tonic would someday return.

"I hope I see it in my lifetime," said Cliff Culham, 74, who keeps his 50-year-old barber shop open on Grand River next to the Botsford Inn. His nearest competitor in the Farmington-Farmington Hills area is the Korner Barbers in downtown Farmington.

The Korner offers a slightly more polished version of the down-home establishment Culham runs.

The white frame building in Farmington Hills Section 35 originally was built between the present locations of Vladimir's and the Bahama Motel on Grand River.

In the '20's, the project of moving the building across the street was complicated by the still wet pavement on Grand River.

The owner was forced to take the long way around Shawasssee to haul the shop to the position it still occupies.

In those days, farmers' feet tramped across the wooden floors as customers made their way to the red leatherette barber chair with iron foot rests.

CULHAM kept the shop open for them from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

"You didn't work all the time," he hastily explains. "You weren't standing on your feet all that time. But you had to stay open late for the farmers."

He slipped into barbering when the auto factories began laying off employees before the Depression. He was forced to leave Detroit and return to his childhood home in Farmington.

His uncle ran the barbershop and consented to take Culham as an apprentice.

In 1923, barber schools were unknown and prospective clippers learned their trade on the job.

"My uncle would call in the kids for a free haircut," laughed Culham, who admits he botched a few early jobs.

After Culham finished practicing cutting the youngster's hair, his uncle would fix the poorly done portions of the job so it didn't look so bad.

"No one complained. My uncle was pretty good at fixing up my mistakes," said Culham, who sports a silver brush cut.

Culham took over the business a few years after that. For a short time he gave women short bobs called razor cuts. But eventually he quit in favor of concentrating on giving short hair cuts to men.

FOR THE PRIVILEGE of sitting in that red chair and looking at the assortment of brushes, razors, combs and scissors the barber used, men paid 40 cents for a haircut and 20 cents for a shave.

It was a different wage for Culham

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Old-time barbershops are alive and well — some in spirit and some in fact. Remember the times when Mom or Dad took you by the hand and wandered on down to the corner barbershop? Cliff Culham (above), 74, has spent a lifetime keeping the profession of barbering alive. Don Warthman (left) gets his haircut the traditional way by Dan Klawendee. Meanwhile, some of the guys just take it easy and relax, as exemplified (right) by Bob Marshik, Andy Haines and Mike LeFever. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



THE INSIDE * ANGLE

THE FARMINGTON ANGELS needs an angel of their own. The 20-person soccer team under the leadership of coach John Magee is searching for a sponsor to provide \$100 for two soccer nets. So far, the team has managed to find a sponsor who purchased Angel T-shirts and another generous soul who allowed them to have some used soccer balls. The squad has one new soccer ball for matches. The team is under the sponsorship of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department. The women are 18 and over. The team also needs a few experienced players to help them make up for the ones they will lose this fall when school starts. Potential players or sponsors can call Magee after 7:30 p.m. at 478-6016.

ANGLES WAS SURPRISED recently when a customer walked into the office and asked to return a newspaper. "This can't be what people mean by recycling," Angles thought. The woman explained (on friendly receptionist Debbie Kotko handed her a quarter) that her husband had also bought a copy of the Observer.

"He said they wouldn't give me my money back. But now, I get to keep the quarter."

FAIRVIEW EARLY Childhood Center revs up for the fall by taking registration for the 3-to-5-year-old set. Morning and afternoon preschool sessions get under way in September in the former Fairview Elementary School building. Call 626-8335 for registration or information.

SNOOPY, PIPPI Longstocking, Heidi, Capt. Hook, Peter Pan, Little Boy Blue, Raggedy Ann and Andy, The Great Brain, Zambanga, Nidia Comaneci, Strawberry Girl, Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, Jo (from Little Women), Batman and Laura Ingalls Wilder were all there. Even Elmo Baggins showed up from the Shire. No, darling, they weren't disrupting the night away at Studio 54. They were marching in the Farmington Founders Festival Parade. Actually all these celebs were portrayed by 19 children and three librarians. The librarians, Jill Locke, Denise Albrecht and Barb Brower want to thank the children and young adults who marched in the parade with them. This is the first time the Farmington Community Library has sponsored any marchers in the parade. (Angles wonders if they were booked up for the parade in previous years.)

BOBBIN LACE FANCIERS will have their entries to the Michigan State Fair judged on Aug. 18 by Doreen Wright, of England. Ms. Wright is author of "Bobbin Lace Making" and is past president of the English Lace Guild. She will come to the Detroit area from New York and the International Old Laces Conference.

Ms. Wright is graduate of the Royal College of Arts, where she specialized in textile design. She has been lecturing, teaching and demonstrating lace for many years. Before judging the State Fair entries she will be a guest of the Detroit-Ann Arbor members of the Great Lakes Lace Group. The bobbin lace entries as well as entries for other contests will be displayed at the State Fair from Aug. 24 to Sept. 3. Admission will be \$3 for the fair for adults and children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Kale of 35173 Crompton Circle of Farmington Hills, who has won first place in his section in the Virginia City Fair, Flight A, a one-day bridge championship in which 768 players compete.

ANOTHER WINNER of an award, this time the Hardware Retailing Industry Service Award, is Jean's Trustworthy Hardware, of Farmington. The Hardware and Home Center Magazine is touting the award as "a tribute to the firm's leadership and outstanding ability in hardware merchandising and improving its service to customers." The July issue of the publication carried a story about the hardware store. (IA thinks it's super they've hammered out a place for themselves in the business world.)

ATTENTION STUDENTS : Aug. 15 is the last day to submit enrollment applications for the fall semester at Detroit Bible College.

All applications received after Aug. 15 will be subject to a late charge. Detroit Bible College is located at 35700 West Twelve Mile in Farmington Hills. For further information, call Mr. Anderson at 553-7200.

RABBI Elfr Spectre, of Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills will discuss his recent attendance at the annual meeting of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the plight of Soviet Jews at 7:10 a.m., Aug. 12 on radio station WJR-AM, 760.

SNIFF, SNIFF Angles most definitely smelled ties burning at Botsford Inn the other day. The Chamber of Commerce stunt was a comment on President Jimmy Carter's energy policies. IA figures if they wanted to show their support for conserving energy they could have done something more constructive and burned an electric toothbrush.

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This barely there gown is quite a relaxing proposition

Bare it, strap it or choose a halter look. The choice is yours in this slinky little gown. An adjustable bodice to wear as you like. Front slit to show just a touch of leg, or more if you dare. From Flair in silky nylon tricot. Sizes P-S-M. Choose teal or burgundy, \$16. Find it in Hudson's New Reflections Sleepwear.

hudson's