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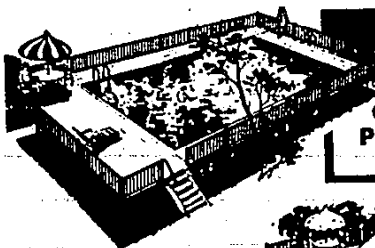
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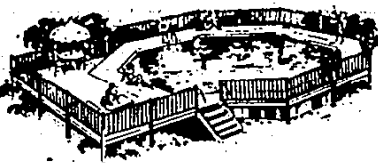
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Parlor & Pole...

Will they ever meet?



By JUDITH BERNE

If parlor and pole ever meet in the state of Michigan it may be as a result of efforts by a Livonia man and a Union Lake woman.

John Ryan and his employee Minette Hoyer have decided to challenge a 46-year-old state law which



MINETTE HOYER...

prohibits cosmetologists from cutting a man's hair while allowing barbers to cut the hair of either a male or female.

Ryan, who owns two "Family Hair Care Clinics" -- one in Farmington, the other in Keego Harbor -- is of the firm conviction that "hair has no sex." "It's true," echoes Mrs. Hoyer. "You utilize the same knowledge and the same methods of hair cutting, regardless of whether the subject is a man or a woman."

ON JULY 6, Keego Harbor police arrested Mrs. Hoyer as she was cutting the hair of a male customer. She was arraigned on the charge that she was cutting a man's hair without the proper license. When Ryan appeared to drive his employee home, he too was arrested and arraigned. The charge was operating a barber shop without the proper license.

The problem is that the Michigan law has not kept up with changing times, Mrs. Hoyer stated. "In 38 states the law has been changed to allow a cosmetologist the freedom to cut anyone's hair -- man or woman."

"The state's really dragging its heels," she continued. "They've got a nice thing going for them up in Lansing. They don't want their boat upset." She noted that 70,000 cosmetologists pay yearly registration fees to the state along with about 9,000 barbers.

BUT A CHANGE in the law is not the only thing Ryan and Mrs. Hoyer are pushing for. "Both sides need a complete revamping of their educa-

tional system," Mrs. Hoyer continued.

"What we'd really like to see is a school which combines the teaching of barbering and cosmetology."

"Give all students an opportunity to learn the skills. Everyone would be truly capable. Then, if they wanted to specialize in one kind of customer, that could come in an internship period."

The barbers claim that cosmetology schools do not concentrate on hair cutting, so that graduates are not qualified to work on men's hair. "But barbers receive only a small amount of training in coloring and permanent waving," Mrs. Hoyer reported. "Yet they are still licensed to do it."

Although Mrs. Hoyer received warnings from the state on two prior occasions, she was not prohibited from operating. "If the licensing and the law was really important, why didn't they try to stop me then?" she wonders.

She believes that it was the barber's board which finally pressed the warrant -- "although it's a cosmetology law I broke. The barbers are unionized and a strong force," she added.

"There are a lot of different organizations for hair dressers, but they are mainly social. We need an organization that can work for us."

RYAN AND MRS. HOYER are fairly confident that when all is said and done, the law will be changed.



JOHN RYAN...

"Our lawyer and others we have talked with are quite confident."

Meanwhile the two shops continue to operate as before, as does Mrs. Hoyer. Ryan is actively seeking an Ann Arbor location for a third operation, and plans on opening two additional hair clinics in the near future.

It's a sure thing that all sides will be tearing their hair before the issue is through.

HAIR HAS NO SEX

