

JO FENWICK

OPEN FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY
Tuesday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Research Paper. Oral History
GORDON EDWARDS
A NEWCASTLE HAIRDRESSER.

Joe Jensen

Although women have been braiding, curling, waving and frizzing their hair almost from the time men began to scrape off their whiskers with sharpened flints, little has been written about the history of hairdressing. We gain some knowledge from early novels, illustrated magazines, family photographs or in more primitive society handed down from generation to generation. Another source of information is gained by the casual mention in letters or written reports describing the shaving of the heads of convicts, either as a matter of hygiene, or (for female convicts) as a punishment. The diggers on the goldfields vented their anger on the Chinese by cutting off their pigtales. The references to the bewigged heads of the Officers and Court Officials appears to be a social comment emphasising the difference between the jailers and the convicts.

In October 1984 Senator Susan Ryan announced the appointment of the Committee to review Australian Studies in Tertiary Education (CRASTE). The following paragraphs are from one of these studies.

Hairdressing training in Australia has historically been obtained through the apprenticeship system - although in Victoria private schools of training also exist.

The apprenticeship training model has provided instruction and practical experience for the apprentice with supervision from the employer and/or manager and relevant State Authority

Although there may be state and individual variations, the average term of apprenticeship is four years. Over the years, the industry has progressed in marketing strategies e.g. the type and range of services offered as well as technological development. Not all employers kept pace with changes in industry and many were selective in the type of services they offered and this in turn limited the apprentices' training opportunities.

Trade school evolved as a means of exposing the apprentice to a wide range of skills, ideas and theories which individual employers might be unable to offer, particularly in smaller, traditional salons. Such exposure stimulates professional development combining artistic endeavour with technical and personal skills. It is now mandatory in each state for apprentices to attend trade training schools for a specified part of their training. 1

1. Pauline Dargan
Hairdressing Training
An Australian Focus.
(Craste Paper No. 15).
Canberra. Dec. 1986. P.13.

The committee stressed the need of more than hairdressing skills and knowledge for the apprentices. They pointed out the necessity of business training for those wishing to set up their own salons, the need for an understanding of economic activity and tax appreciation, the responsibility to their future employees as well as their customers. They emphasised the needs of our multicultural society and also for the future employer/employee the necessity of knowledge of union rules.

Against this background I present the story of Gordon Edwards, who for many years, together with his wife, ran a Hairdressing Salon in Pacific Street, Newcastle. Gordon was in his 80's when I interviewed him in July 1988.

Gordon began his apprenticeship in Male Hairdressing in the early 1920's. Men's haircuts were 1/6 (15c) and shaves 9d (10c) at that time. Gordon's wages, as a 1st year apprentice was 15/- (\$1.50) for a 48 hour week. No sick pay, no annual holidays, no overtime. The apprentices provided their own white coat. The normal hours were from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m., with possibly Wednesday afternoon off. (They worked Saturday afternoons). Most barbers had Toilet Clubs which meant that the customer had his own shaving mug, brush and soap, which were kept in a wall fixture. The members of the toilet club paid 2/6 a week and this entitled them to a shave every day and a haircut every two weeks. Many men joined the toilet clubs because they were reluctant to use the open cut razors (cut-throats). With the exception of Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day the salon the salon opened on Public Holidays from 8 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. for members of the Toilet Clubs!.

One of the apprentice's first duties was to prepare the customer's face for the shave. He applied the soapy lather, by means of the shaving brush, then massaged the lather into the whiskers. After a day of doing that his fingers were quite sore. Gordon worked in a busy salon and there were 6 - 8 customers waiting all the time. The next thing he learned was to use the clippers (hand operated, of course). The hair style at that time was short back and sides. The price 1/3 (15c.) and most customers had a haircut once a fortnight. The introduction of an American Style called the Jazz Cut, where the neckline was shaved right across the neck, gave the apprentice the chance to learn to use the open-cut razor (the cut throat). Shaving was one aspect of his trade that Gordon did not like but as he said " It had to be done ". He progressed in his trade, learnt to wax moustaches, trim and crimp beards, trim side levers and, of course, cut hair. He described the technique for singeing the hair, (it was used in conjunction with a style similar

to the crew cut) the hair was cut very short, a lighted taper was applied to the hair and then the burnt ends were rubbed off with a paper towel. The singe helped the hair stand up and gave it a brown colour. It was very popular with men whose hair was thinning and/or going grey. Not to be used on the customer who had recently applied crystalline brilliantine as Gordon discovered one when there was a "whoosh" when he applied the taper and a flame went up. Quick thinking and hands clapped immediately over the head, saved the day, the hair and Gordon's job! (The customer was one of the Directors of the firm for whom he worked.) The customer was unaware of what had happened !

Gordon had often watched his mother dressing her hair. She wore it in the Edwardian Style. She used curling tongs - heated on a gas jet - and swept the hair up over padding. This stimulated his interest in Ladies Hairdressing. Men's Hairdressing gave him no scope to exercise his creative instinct. Through a Mr. Pat Buckley, a representative of the Hairdresser's Union, Gordon learned that a Course in Ladies' Hairdressing was to commence at Sydney Technical College. He enrolled and was such a keen student that as well as attending the day classes he also attended the night classes for qualified hairdressers. He learnt 'The Bob' and 'The Shingle', the haircuts of the day, the various methods of finger waving and perming, how to make switches. (Later in life Gordon was to learn Blow-Waving in Switzerland).

Perming in those days was an endurance test for both hairdresser and customer. The Eugene Electric Wave required the Lady to sit for 5 - 6 hours or more attached by electric wire to a machine hanging from the ceiling. (The Hairdressers did provide a cup of tea and a sandwich). The Steam Wave, a method whereby hollow metal rods with rubber caps (around which the hair was wound) were joined to form a continuous pipe all over the head. One end was attached to the steamer on the wall. The steam passed through the continuous pipe and emptied into a jug placed on the floor to catch the run-off. Great care was taken when using these methods as any break in the pipeline or lack of correct protection of the scalp

Jo Gordon

could end in a severe burn. The first non-electric perms (the forerunner of the modern day perm) had the distinct disadvantage that the chemicals used produced very offensive odours.

Gordon regarded his apprenticeship as only a foundation on which to build his knowledge and skills. He entered as many Hairdressing Competitions (and did well) as he could - mainly so he could see how the top hairdressers worked and to learn how to do the new styles. As he pointed out, women hairdressers could go to a salon and have a perm or a set, he couldn't. Hairdressing Salons in those days were sex segregated. He took his Movie Camera to the competitions and filmed the hairdressers at work. He used the films, not only for himself, but also to teach his apprentices. He subscribed to Overseas Magazines (mainly English, American and German) to keep himself up to date with styles. After World War 11 he toured England and Europe and visited top Salons in England, France and Switzerland. On his return from Europe he introduced the Open Salon concept to Newcastle.

He was instrumental in forming a local Master Hairdressers Association and through this Parliamentarians and the Head of Newcastle Technical College were approached with the objective of having classes for the apprentice hairdressers. The class commenced in 1961 and one of the first Teachers was a Mr. McCreedy who had taught Gordon when he was at the Sydney Technical College. Three of Gordon's apprentices won 'Apprentice of the Year' Awards.

He made and cared for theatrical beards and wigs. He had a thriving trade in measuring, fitting and caring for wigs and hairpieces (for both male and female customers). He had a back room at the Salon which had a private entrance for his male customers.

Gordon was also a part-time Cameraman for both N.B.N. 3 and Chanel 7 (Sydney) and now in his retirement he entertains at Senior Citizens Clubs. He is a lovely, vital, talented and very humble gentleman. It has been a privilege to know him.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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Canberra. 1987

DARGAN, Pauline

Hairdressing Training - An Australian Focus

Craste Paper No. 15

Canberra 1986

GAUDRY, Barbara

Industry and Tertiary Education in the

Lower Hunter Region.

Project Report

Craste Paper No. 11

Canberra 1986

Gordon commenced his apprenticeship as a Male Hairdresser in the early 1920's. He describes the working conditions of the day. The hours worked and the prices paid for the services, also the wages paid. We are taken through the various stages of his apprenticeship commencing with the duty of preparing the customer's face for a shave. He progresses in his Trade learning how to shave (with an open-cut or cutthroat razor) to massage a face, to trim beards and crimp them, wax moustaches, trim side-levers and cut hair and also to singe the hair after cutting.

He found no outlet for his creativity in Men's Hairdressing and when a Union Representative, Mr. Pat Buckley, advised him of the commencement of a Ladies Hairdressing Course at Sydney Technical College he successfully applied and went to Sydney. This was at the time that "The Bob" and "The Shingle" were in fashion. He was a very keen student and attended both day and evening classes, learning to make switches, do the modern cuts and the various waving and perming techniques of the day.

Gordon regarded his apprenticeship as only a basis on which to build his knowledge and skills. Throughout his working life he contributed to Overseas Magazines and entered as many Hairdressing Competitions as he could. This kept him up to date with styles and techniques; allowed him the opportunity to see "Top Hairdressers" at work.

Gordon describes the various perming techniques, the Eugene Electric Wave - an endurance test for both customer and operator. The Steam Wave whereby the hair was wound on rubber capped metal rods which were then connected to form a continuous spiral around the head through which the steam ran from a steamer on the wall and emptying into a jug on the floor. The Non-electric Wave, invented by Frederick Meda and demonstrated in the City Hall. He describes the various "chemical type" perms - the forerunners of today's perm - and the problems encountered by people doing 'home perms'.

He speaks of problems such as alopecia and its causes. This leads into his interest in making and caring for Wigs and Hairpieces and some of the amusing incidents and problems which wig wearers encountered.

Gordon also made and cared for Theatrical Wigs and Beards and talks of his association with troupes such as Barton's Follies and Sorlies and mentions some of the Artists.

He speaks of the training of his apprentices, the forming of the Newcastle Master Hairdressers' Association and the successful lobbying to have Hairdressing Classes established at Newcastle Technical College.

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Gordon mentions, with sorrow the dumping of the old Electric and Steam Waving Machines when he closed his business. (What a loss).

He speaks of the introduction of the Open Salon concept when he returned from Europe.

He concludes with the time he was met by a crowd of girls applying for an advertised position.

AUSTRALIAN HAIR STYLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1947

N.S.W. STATE COMPETITIONS

CLASS 14.

LADIES' HAIRCUTTING

WED. JUNE 25, 1947

Open to all comers. For the best exhibition of Ladies Haircutting on two models.

1st model: LAYER CUT. Hair not to exceed 2" from nape of neck when cutting completed. Time allowed 20 minutes.

2nd model: SEMI-SHINGLE. Hair to be a minimum length of 1 inch from nape of neck before cutting commences. Time allowed, 20 minutes.

WINNERS IN THE N.S.W. STATE CONTEST WILL QUALIFY TO COMPETE AS FINALISTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP AT SYDNEY TOWN HALL IN AUGUST. THEY WILL ALSO RECEIVE N.S.W. STATE CERTIFICATES.

| <u>FIRST GROUP</u> | 7.30 p.m. | <u>SECOND GROUP</u> | 8.30 p.m. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. C.W. BENSON (Wollongong) | | 1. A. S. BATTY (Concord) | |
| 2. J. BENTLEY (Boga N.S.W.) | 5 | 2. IRIS BENASSAI (Sydney) | |
| 3. VINCENT DE LORENZO (City) | | 3. LOUIS GORDONY (Sydney) | |
| 4. GORDON EDWARDS (Newcastle) | 1 | 4. ANTON DE LORENZO (City) | |
| 5. BETTY HAYES (Concord) | 2 | 5. W. ESTGATE Dulwich Hill | |
| 6. W. V. INMAN A & W. Brown | 4 | 6. NORMAN FLOHM Sydney | |
| 7. PATRICIA LESLIE Berry | | 7. MRS. K. MAHER Goulburn | |
| 8. J. MACK Blekehurst | | 8. BERNARD MITCHELL Sydney | |
| 9. W. J. MURRAY E.N. Walker | | 9. W. ROWAN F.J. Thompson | |
| 10. H. TULLIPAN Cronulla | | 10. H. RAKE Ernest Barnes | |

Hairdressers don't want to lose space

From Norma Sargent

I AM concerned over the administration of the Hamilton College of TAFE's school of hairdressing.

After only five months of occupation by students and staff, part of the accommodation fought for by students has been appropriated by another department.

During semester week, which began on June 27, there was a shuffle of hairdressing staff, with teachers removed from their offices so that

people from another school could move in.

The school of hairdressing's new premises were brought to fruition mainly due to the actions of students and staff. They had laboured since 1961 in inadequate and antiquated conditions that were so appalling by the 1980s that action by students through the media was seen to be the only avenue by which the hierarchy could be stirred from its inertia.

If this trend is allowed to continue this hard-fought battle for the attractive classrooms will be lost, and hairdressing classrooms may be turned into kitchens, butchers' shops or other facilities.

It has taken 27 years for hairdressers in the Hunter Region to acquire an adequate learning facility within the Hamilton College of TAFE and I urge all associated

with the trade to fight to maintain every inch of accommodation.

NORMA SARGENT
Hexham St, Kahibah

Corner Scott and ... Streets,
Newcastle. Phone B1554.

Second To North In Hair Waving

Mr. Gordon Edwards, Berkeley Salon, Newcastle, was second in the permanent waving championship of New South Wales, held in Sydney last Thursday night. He was the only competitor outside Sydney.

Mr. Edwards finished 1½ points behind Mr. Norman Flohm.

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HAIR FASHIONS

FEBRUARY, 1964

Vol. 5, No. 1

**New Rules for Technical
Education of Apprentices**

**Industrial Commission of
N.S.W.**

Raising Hair Standards

Long Service Leave

World Cup Competition

The World Cup Tour



"FLUORO". For Style see pages 22, 23.

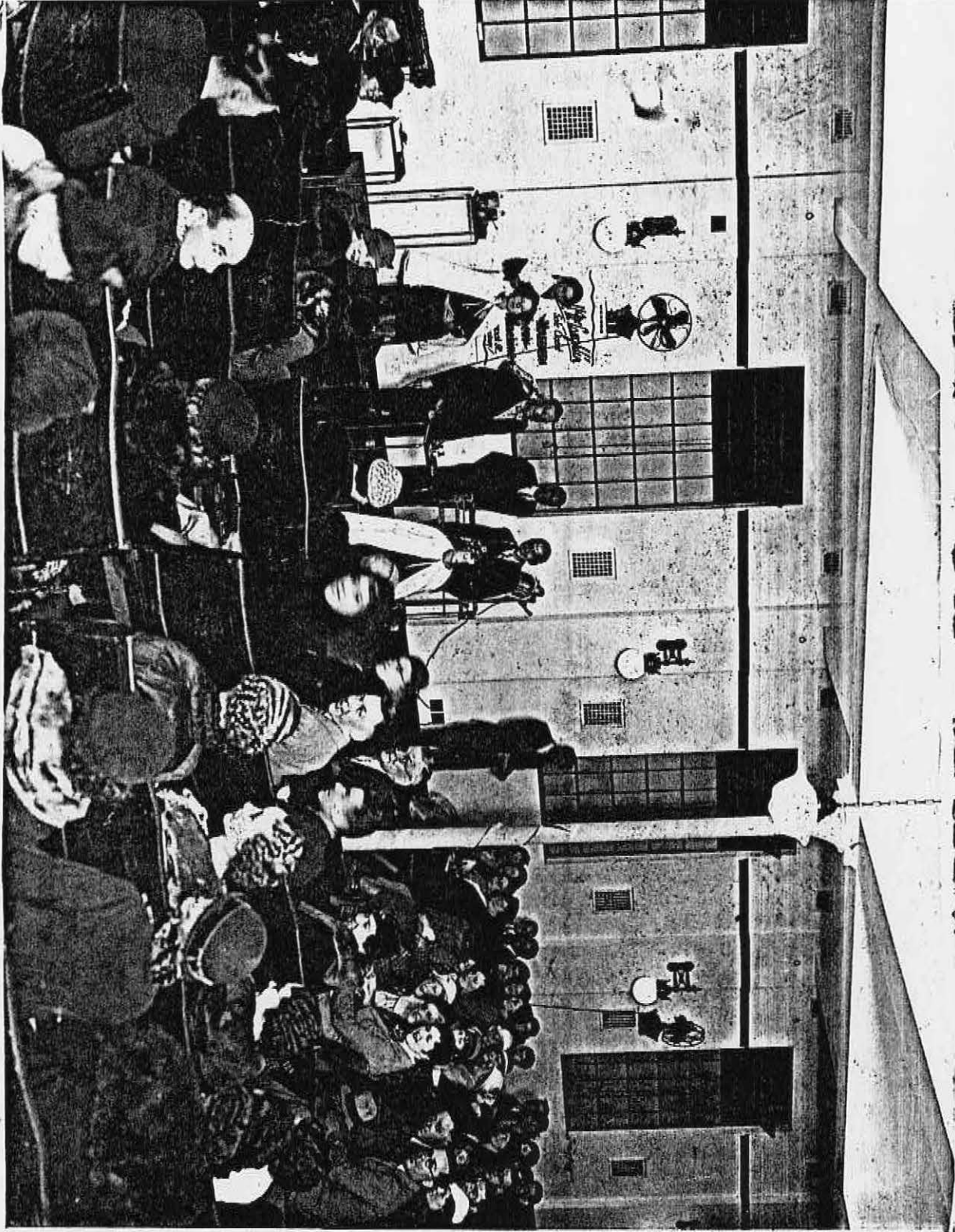
Award Rates for Hairdressers

February, 1964

Members are advised that there is no change in the State Basic Wage for February, 1964.

The following minimum rates of pay are therefore applicable as from the first full pay period in November, 1963. Tax deductions shown apply to those without dependants.

| | | Less Tax |
|---|----------|----------|
| MALE JOURNEYMEN | £19 13 0 | 2 1 0 |
| | | |
| FEMALE JOURNEYWOMEN (Performing usual ladies' work) | £15 17 6 | 1 7 0 |
| | | |
| FEMALE RECEPTIONISTS: 17 Years | 8 6 1 | 7 3 |
| 18 " | 9 13 2 | 10 3 |
| 19 " | 11 0 3 | 13 6 |
| 20 " | 12 7 4 | 16 9 |
| 21 " | 13 17 6 | £1 0 9 |
| 22 " | 14 7 6 | 1 2 3 |
| 23 " | 14 17 6 | 1 3 9 |
| Senior Casual Receptionists: Less than 4 hours, 9/4d. per hour. Saturday morning, 9/4d. Four or more hours, 8/3d. per hour. | | |
| | | |
| FEMALE APPRENTICES: First Year | £5 3 1 | 2 3 |
| Second Year | 7 3 10 | 5 3 |
| Third Year | 11 2 5 | 13 6 |
| Fourth Year | 13 3 4 | 19 0 |
| | | |
| MALE APPRENTICES: First Year | 5 18 4 | 3 0 |
| Second Year | 7 8 2 | 5 6 |
| Third Year | 11 5 0 | 13 9 |
| Fourth Year | 15 7 0 | £1 5 3 |
| | | |
| CASUAL JOURNEYWOMEN HAIRDRESSERS: | | |
| (a) Working 4 hours or more any day, Monday to Friday, 8/9d. per hour. | | |
| (b) Working less than 4 hours any day, Monday to Friday, 10/- per hour. | | |
| (c) Working Saturday morning at the rate of 10/- per hour. | | |
| | | |
| MANICURISTS: 18 years and under | £10 16 9 | 12 9 |
| Over 18 years | 13 12 0 | £1 0 0 |
| Manicurists, Casual: Less than 4 hours, 8/7 per hour; 4 hours or more, 7/6 per hour. Saturday morning, 8/7 per hour. | | |
| | | |
| BEAUTICIANS | £14 17 0 | £1 3 9 |



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE . . .

Haircuts
rise
by 10c

More Newcastle men seeking 'beauty' care

• By a special reporter

The trend to exotic hair fashions for men is becoming apparent even in Newcastle.

Illegal barbers are unlikely to receive additional custom by men disprunted at dearer haircuts. secretary of the Hairdressers Union, Mr. J. Scully, said today.

A uniform increase of 10c for men and boys is to come into force throughout NSW on Monday.

The new prices will be 80c a haircut for men and 60c for boys.

Mr. Scully said Newcastle was the worst area in NSW for backyard barbers operating illegally in industries.

However, he did not expect they would receive more business as a result of the higher prices.

Longer hair probable

People would just let their hair grow longer before going to the barber, as they had done in the past, he said.

Mr. Scully said the increases were needed to meet increased costs.

Barbers' prices over the years had not risen as much as prices of other commodities which went up frequently by 1c or 2c a time.

The day might not be so far off when a burly steelworker playing first grade Rugby League may crash over for a try with his hair carefully waved and colored.

Or perhaps he'll quit football because of wear and tear on his wig. Newcastle hairdressers, at least, are already feeling the need to brush up on their skills.

The secretary of the Hairdressers' Union, Mr. J. Scully, announced today that a demonstration of "blow-waving and tinting" for barbers would be held at Newcastle Trades Hall on August 9.

He said the demonstration had been organised at the request of Newcastle hairdressers at the July meeting of the branch.

The demonstrator will be Mr. G. Edwards, proprietor of a city beauty salon which caters for men and women.

WIGS ARE POPULAR

"If I have the time, I'll show them how to fit wigs, too," he said today.

Coloring and waving of men's hair is fashionable in Europe and the U.S.

Facilities are being installed in Sydney and Melbourne to meet the needs of style-conscious men.

Mr. Edwards is certain that the trend towards better-groomed men will grow stronger.

He explained that more men were wearing full wigs or patches fitted to cover bald spots.

Some male customers were having their

hair permed and, although there were no facilities, demand for blow-waving and coloring of men's hair was increasing.

"Why shouldn't men take this kind of pride in their appearance?" Mr. Edwards asked.

He said that blow-waving involved using dryers on wet hair to produce a soft wave that "gives a finish to a hair cut."

Few men were prepared to spend an hour and a half getting a permanent wave, but blow-waving was quick and tidy.

Such fashions ought not to be regarded as effeminate.

Main demand for these services in Sydney was from executives who had to present a neat appearance.

Most men needed a push to ask for these services, he added.

Some women convinced their menfolk of the need for a wig or fashioning and then made the appointment.

ALL DONE IN PRIVATE

Some wives were even paying for the beauty shop services as a present to their husbands.

"I fitted three men with wigs yesterday and they all went out smiling," Mr. Edwards said.

"It's all done in private," he added. "That's something, anyhow."

It would be upsetting if in some public house of the future a drinker were to down his beer and tell his mates:

"Well, I have to shoot through now, I've got to get a perm at five o'clock."

and made it nice with new furniture and wet to range of jet pu
The woman was
world's leading sopranos.
She is here to give a concert at the Cen
celebrity series. she said, "especially on
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 " one officer said.

REFUGEES
 SHINGTON, Aug. 10.
 -Reuter. — The U.S.
 Department announced
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 ce into the United States
 political refugees from
 ommunist China.

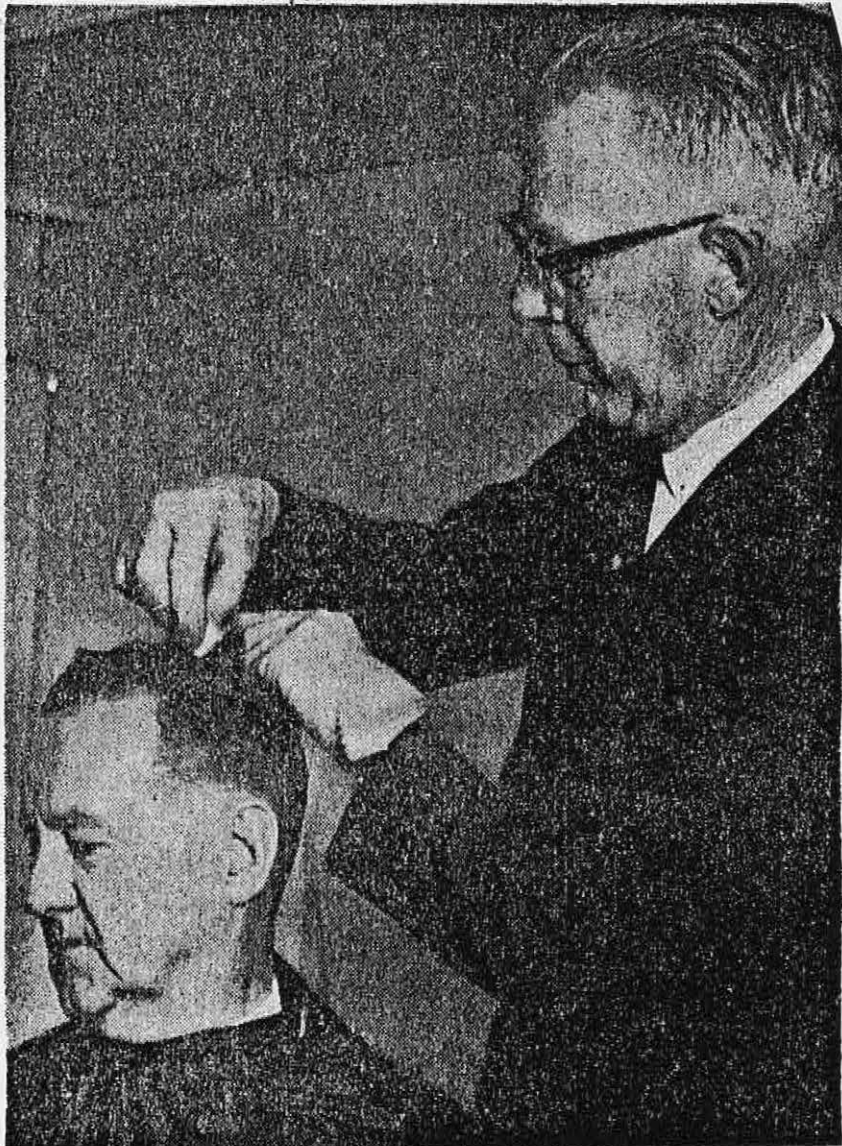
'SET AND PERM' FOR MEN

Hardy union organiser Mr. Ross Molloy, sits quietly and patiently as Newcastle hairdresser Mr. Gordon Edwards puts the final touches to his hair. Mr. Molloy was a volunteer at a special demonstration—the first of its kind in Newcastle—of male hairdressing at the Trades Hall. Barbers watched as Mr. Edwards showed how men's hair could be coloured in styles to suit. And if the interest by barbers in the demonstration is any indication there will be plenty of Newcastle men being asked to pay for the treatment being given to Mr. Molloy. Special colouring and hairstyling salons are open for men in Sydney and Melbourne.

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Budget

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 closure yesterday that
 costs will total about
 million this year, up by r.
 one-third on last year.
 Australia's Seato aid



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\$900 haul in house robberies

Thieves took goods and cash worth a total of about \$900 in two house robberies at Merewether last night.

They took a tape recorder, two speakers, a record player, a gold chain bracelet, a typewriter and slide projector worth a total of \$500 from a house owned by John Brisk, in Yule Rd.

The thieves entered the house by forcing a side window.

In the other robbery thieves forced a rear window to enter the home of George Roussos in Woodward St., Merewether.

They took a wide variety of goods and \$38 in cash from the house.

The stolen goods included a quantity of spirits and beer, a coffee set, glasses, a decanter, two radios, wedding and eternity rings, four watches, shirts, perfume, a steam and dry iron, an electric shaver, soap razor blades, towels, bedclothes, a cigarette lighter and an alarm clock.

Detective Sergeant M. Stead and Detective A. Shaw, of Hamilton, are in charge of inquiries.

THIEVES INHIRE DEACONER

SYDNEY: A deaconer was assaulted early today by two youths who tried to rob him in a subway at Strathfield Railway Station.

Geoffrey Bennet, 73, who lives at the Salvation Army Hospital, Albert St., Sydney, was waiting for a train.

One of his assailants tried to take a wallet from his hip pocket.

Bennet called for help. The youths ran away, after attacking him.

Bennet was admitted to Western Suburbs Hospital suffering from abrasions to the head and severe shock.

Burwood detectives are searching for the youths.

CARTONS

BRISBANE: Cardboard cartons have been used as emergency cribs for newborn babies at Southport General Hospital.

The hospital has been caught unawares by a baby boom—25 births in the first three days of spring.

Gifts that will tickle Father's fancy

If you really want to tickle the "old man's" fancy this Father's Day, why not buy him a set of genuine pure hair side-levers?

To complete the picture you can throw in a matching quality made moustache as well.

Dad can wear them for that dress-up occasion with his modern-cut suit and hair-style and, presto — instant Jason King that suave hero of television's Department 5.

Don't laugh. It may not be as absurd as it sounds.

After all, cuffless trousers and multi-button suits were ridiculed at first.

And some of our top personalities have appeared with side-levers or moustaches that seem to have grown suddenly overnight!

A Newcastle wig specialist, Mr. Gordon Edwards, who is selling the new items, said today that side-levers, moustaches, beards and goatees were available in many shades and shapes.

Advantages

They were professionally made of 100 per cent human hair, similar to hair-pieces.

"In the 1950s I was selling the same thing, until their popularity lapsed," Mr Edwards said.

"Now they are coming into fashion again."

The stick-on pull-off pieces had advantages over the self-bred variety.

There was not the added burden of daily trimming. They could be "whisked" off for the more formal function.

Side-levers are available for \$6.75. A moustache can be had for a further \$4.

"The main buyers are part-time young musicians who, for some reason or another, cannot have the genuine thing at work," Mr Edwards said.

"But there is no reason why they can't be worn by adults as well."

For the Dads who don't wish to become members of the modern whiskered set, Newcastle stores are offering a massive variety of unusual Father's Day gifts.

Ornaments popular

A great many gifts are aimed at buyers whose fathers drink, smoke or own a car.

Ornaments appear to be the most popular items — for the walls of dens or over private bars.



● These two pictures show effect of the tonsorial before and after.



Some contain practical eye-pieces — cigarette lighters, decanters and so forth.

But a salesman said the continued to be the toiletary paring in price.

An unusual gift is something pipe-smoking Dad who watches.

It is a pipe, available for which has a stem acutely angled bowl so that the view is not while puffing at it.

ROY COTTEKILL

An honorary member of Letters vferred on the

NEW RULES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF APPRENTICES

Female Hairdressing Apprenticeship (State) Award

[A new scheme of daylight attendance at the Technical College has been introduced into the Female Hairdressing Apprenticeship (State) Award.]

1. The new Ladies Hairdressing Apprenticeship course will be changed from a three-stage course to a two-stage course.
2. Apprentices will be required to attend the course in daylight hours, i.e., during working time on one day per week for the two stages.
3. Apprentices who do not complete satisfactorily the two-stage course during their attendance in two years will be obliged to attend night classes in their own time until they have completed the course.
4. If the Technical College is unable to accept the enrolment of an apprentice by April 30 in any year, the award will not require such apprentice to attend the College during the period of apprenticeship. In order that this apply it is necessary then that the apprentice actually enrol by April 30.
5. Any apprentice whose employment commences after April 30 in any year, and because of this such apprentice is not enrolled at the College during this year, commences the two-stage course at the beginning of the following year. This also applies to an apprentice whose employment commences before April 30, but who does not seek enrolment

before such date as she will also be required to commence the two-stage course at the beginning of the following year. Members will realise the necessity therefore of ensuring that apprentices who are taken on before April 30 in any year actually do enrol.

Change-Over Provisions

Special provisions will apply to those apprentices who attended the College in 1963.

1. Any apprentice who satisfactorily completed Stage II in 1963 is not required to attend in 1964 or thereafter.
2. Any apprentice who completed Stage I in 1963 shall attend daylight classes for Stage II in 1964, and will not need to attend any third stage.
3. Any apprentice who first commenced attendance in 1963, but failed to pass in 1963, will attend daylight classes for Stage I in 1964 and thereafter night classes, until the course is satisfactorily completed.
4. Any apprentice who fails to pass Stage II in 1963 will attend night classes until the course is satisfactorily completed.

Male Hairdressing Apprenticeship (State) Award

A similar scheme has been introduced into the Male Hairdressing Apprenticeship (State) Award to operate from this year. The summary above of the Female Award Clause gives all necessary information.



NUTRI-TONIC SLOGAN WINNER GETS HAYMAN ISLAND TRIP

It was a proud moment for Mrs. L. Barnes, of Birchgrove, Sydney — winner of the grand final of the recent Nutri-Tonic Slogan Competition. Picture shows Mr. and Mrs. L. Barnes accepting their Hayman flight tickets from E. C. ("Mick") Wordley — Sales Manager of Nutri-Tonic and Frank Allum, Director of Mayfair Salon Products.

Nutri-Tonic takes this opportunity to thank all professional hairdressers for their support in this highly successful operation.

I'm Jo Fenwick, this is my Oral History Project, I'm interviewing Mr. Gordon Edwards, a Hairdresser in his eighties, about hairdressing in Newcastle during his working life.

Jo : Gordon, I was right in saying, wasn't I, that you started your apprenticeship in the 1920's ?

Gordon : That's correct. Jo : And in Men's Hairdressing originally.

Gordon : Yes; that's right. I started in the Men's Trade and one of the first things for the apprentice to learn was to - well, of course, I might mention at that time there was a lot of shaving done in the Hairdressing or Barber Shops because it was the age of the Open Type, or as some say 'Cut-throat' razor - safety razors were not popular then, and many men just could not handle the open razor, and for that reason they would go to the Barber Shop daily for a shave. The price for a shave would be about 5c or sixpence. And, of course, the apprentice would apply the soap - as we were using the mugs and soap - and you would apply the soapy lather by means of a shaving brush to the face and lather up the face with the brush and then you had to massage the lather into the whiskers and after a busy day, just doing that all day, you'd find the fingers became quite sore.

Jo : I'm sure they would be. (Laughter).

Gordon : It sure was, as on a busy day there would be 6 to 8 customers waiting all the time. It was a very busy business. And then, of course, the next duty would be the haircutter's field. You were trained to use the Clippers but they were all hand-clippers - there were no electric Clippers then and the Style of the day was 'short back and sides.' Most Australians wanted short back and sides and had their hair cut about every fortnight, and it cost them about 15c. It was pretty hard on the wrists when you think back and recall that you were using those clippers from one customer to the next. That was your introduction to the first duties and when you came in contact with the customer. Then, of course, you learnt to use the Open-Type Razor. When the customer had a haircut you always shaved the side-levers and over the ears and down the neck. Then there was an American Fashion come in for haircutting called the 'Jazz Cut' where the neckline was shaved right across the back of the neck. That was the chance for the apprentice to learn to use the open-cut razor and really being part of the trade.

Jo : I was glad to hear they didn't start on the face, it would do less harm on the neck. (Laughter).

Gordon : Yes. At my time I was very young and I'd never handled a razor. I'd seen my father shaving and he was always complaining about the bluntness of the razor and then sometimes he would cut himself. I was always scared of razors! It was most difficult for me to take on the shaving part of the trade. I was really frightened. And, of course, you had to learn to strop the razor and I think every apprentice would have cut a strop in half at some time. (More Laughter).

Then at that time there were no such things as Annual Holidays or Sick Pay - you just did not have any holidays. Jo : None at all. Gordon : No, there were only three closed Holidays a year : Christmas, Good Friday and the other one - I think it was Anzac Day - I'm not quite sure. It was only three days because of

the fact that so many men were depending on the Barber Shops for a shave. In the Hairdresser's Award - the Men's Award - it stated that the Hairdressing Salons, the Barber Shops could be opened from 8.00 a.m. till 10.00 a.m. each morning for the benefit of those men who had to go to the barbers for a shave. And that made it rather unfair when your friends were away having a good time on a Public Holiday and you had to work from 8 - 10.30 a.m. which ruined the day. Jo : Even on the Public Holidays you had to come in ? Gordon : Apart from those three days of the year we had the Public Holidays when you could be worked from 8 - 10.30 a.m. Then, of course, Barber Shops were allowed to remain open till 7 o'clock at night, every night. Some of them had Wednesday afternoon off, but that meant that you could be working there till 7 p.m., especially on a Saturday which I didn't like. You could be working till 7 o'clock at night and your friends had already gone off to the Pictures. Jo : That's right. Gordon : But anyhow things have changed since then. Another change at that time was that a lot of men wore beards. But they were different then to what they are now, and I think most men then took more pride in their beards than they do now. And there were so many more styles. There was the Ned Kelly - that was the rough beard. There was the Goatee, Jo : That was the little pointed beard, Gordon ? Gordon : Yes, the little pointed ones - some of the larrikans used to call them 'Billygoats' (Laughter) - you remember that? Jo : I remember Dad talking about Billygoat beards. Gordon : And then, of course, they took pride in their beards and that would be a service in the Barber shop - the beard trim. I like trimming beards. Then there were the Moustaches, some of them didn't wear a beard, they'd wear a moustache. There again there were different kinds of Mo's - there was the Military Mo and something like a Clarke Gable Mo. then there was - Jo : That short, neat little style. Gordon : Yes, the wisp across the lip you know. Then there was the waxed Moustache - that came to a point at each end, That was part of the trade, learning to wax the moustaches, there was a skill required in that. The customer was lying back with his head on the headrest and you would work from behind. You'd apply the wax - it had to be a special wax, it came from Paris and was called Andre's Pride. Jo : And was this a hot wax ? or just a - Gordon : No, it was a type of wax you could soften in your fingers. You squeezed the head of the tube and then worked the wax in your fingers and then applied it to the ends of the moustache. You stood at the back of the head and you wound one end to you and the other side backwards - see (illustrating) stretching it out as you were winding it, or curling it. Jo : That's the style of moustache they depict villians as having - you know in the melodramas. Was it that type of thing ? Gordon : Yes, that's right. (Laughter) then, of course, there was the Dunbarry, something or other, Dunbarry, some name like that. It as like the glorified side-levers, coming right down the jawbones.

I rather liked the beard-trimming. I much preferred doing beard-trimming rather than shaving, I wasn't too keen on the shaving, but it had to be done. Jo : Yes, it was part of the trade. Gordon : Yes. Then, of course, there was shampooing, that was another service. It was mostly, what they called, a dry shampoo, and that was done while the customer was still sitting in the Barber chair, sitting in an upright position. First of all you would apply hot towels

to the head, after brushing the hair thoroughly, then apply a hot towel, it was a spirit shampoo really, and you'd sprinkle that spirit on and massage it into the hair and lather up and you'd keep massaging it until the lather would disappear, then you'd apply more hot towels and then finish with a cold towel. That is the way you did the Spirit Shampoo with the customer sitting upright in the barber's chair. For the other Shampoo, of course, you would take the customer to the basin and in most cases you would have the shampoo tray and towels so you would not wet the customer's face, then you'd dry off with a hand-held dryer. Jo : Oh, I didn't realise they had dryers that early. Gordon : No, it was a metal hand dryer, quite different to the ones we have nowadays. It was metal - "Feon" was its name. It was always a Feon.

Then there were Face Massages, some customers liked to have their faces massaged, you used a vibrator. First of all, in that case, you'd apply a hot towel to cleanse the face, they had been shaved first, and then you'd apply cream to the face - a greasy cream - cleansing cream, then you'd apply the vibrator to the face. That's if you had electricity - otherwise you'd do a hand massage. There was a skill in that - a right and a wrong way to do it. First you would give a hand massage - after that you'd finish off with another hot towel. Of course, in those days, I found the best way was to hold the towel under hot water - you might even have a kettle boiling in the shop (Laughs) I didn't have a proper hot water system. I'd pour the hot water over the towel, wring it out then put it on the customer's face. Jo : The danger of burning you hands and the customer's face. Gordon : You soon woke up to that and found how to test that. Then, of course, you'd finish off with an application of vanishing cream and some powder, as the customer preferred.

I was just thinking - getting back to the hair cutting - there was a Singe - that was quite popular thing then. The customers had their hair cut and there was one style called a Pomperdor, and it was short all over the top of the head, just like a scrubbing brush bristles. Jo : Like a Crew Cut. Gordon : Yes, like a Crew Cut - later on they called it a Crew Cut - similar to that. And, of course, this was a good selling point for the Barber too, the hair was better if you if you had a singe, it stood up better and gave it a very even finish. Apart from that, I knew of some men who were grey-headed and they'd have their cut very short and they'd have a singe. The singe wasn't to make their hair grow or anything like that - some of the reasons that were given were it would make the hair grow and others were that the hair would bleed and that would seal up the ends. But, what I am leading up to was : these men, a few of them I knew, would have a very short cut and they'd be as good as bald, but the singe would make their hair look brown - it would give it a brown effect. You had to be very careful singeing the short hair. Jo : Oh, yes. (Laughter). Gordon : It was marvellous what you could do with that flame, you know . You would singe the hair and after you singed it you'd get some paper and just rub ~~the~~ hair and you'd get all the burnt ends off. Jo : What, a brown paper ? Gordon : No, no, just a paper towel, usually like a bit of toilet paper and rub it like that (illustrates). There was one experience I will never forget - this was later in life - when I was working in a top-class Salon. The

Managing Director liked to have his hair singed, as a matter of fact he liked to have everything in the way of hairdressing and face massage, he really liked it. But he liked to have a singe - this day he came in, just walked in, and wanted a singe. The Salon was part of a big business. So, alright, I started to give him a singe, but as soon as I applied the taper WHOOSH ! the flame went up. What had happened and what I didn't realise, was he had what we called in those days crystalised brillantine on his hair which was highly inflamable. Jo : Oh dear ! Gordon : And he had only just put it on a while ago and when he came in, I'd applied the taper, of course, very smartly I clapped my hands over his head, and he didn't even know, and I didn't say anything. Jo : You didn't want to lose your job !. Gordon : Gee, it gave me a fright for awhile . . . and I've never forgotten it ! (Laughter). Jo : Check the hair to see if there was something on it before putting the flame on. Gordon : Yes, that's one of the lessons that wasn't in the book. Jo : You've got your funny experiences. Gordon : Yes. (Much laughter).

Then, as I said, the popular style was 'short back and sides' but eventually the Australian male decided to wear his hair much longer, especially after watching American Entertainers with their long hair-do's and so forth. So they allowed their hair to grow - they adopted longer hair styles which meant that you could practise more of your artistic skills in the way of hairdressing and styling in the male hair-do. Jo : Would this be after World War 11, when this happened ? Gordon : No, that was just before World War 11. When World War 11 came along we had an influx of Americans into Australia and they were surprised with the short styles the Australians were wearing. Of course, it was a hot climate here and they were wearing short styles. Then that was really the start of the longer styles - for the longer hair-cut -or hair style, I should call it. This lent itself more to a following of the Actors and Entertainers - wearing the long hair. That was the big thing - although - Jo : Because, once upon a time if you saw any man with long hair you just automatically thought of him as an Actor. Gordon : Yes. Of course, the young people seeing entertainers coming here with their long hair, soon adopted the long hair style. Jo : That's one of the reasons why you said earlier that there wasn't much scope for creativity. Gordon : That was one thing I didn't like in the Men's Trade. I thought to myself : There you are working away getting into a sort of mass production and I wanted to be more creative, so I practised blow-waving and so forth. I would practice my crude attempts at blow-waving long before blow-waving ever came in. A man would have his shampoo, especially the younger fellows, and I might put a wave in their hair here and there and so forth and with a hand dryer I would try to do the wave with a comb actually before I had any training in blow-waving. That's how I started just practising myself, with the comb and hand dryer.

Eventually I learnt blow-waving in Switzerland. Jo : That's where you learnt it ? Gordon : Yes, but then I was more interested in Ladies' Hairdressing than in Men's Hairdressing. I became friendly with a couple of staff who were working in a Ladies' Salon in Newcastle and I used to want to know this and that and the other thing about what they did about waving hair etc. and, of course, about waving with Tongs and that sort of thing. My mother always wore her hair in an

Edwardian style. When I was a young fellow I used to watch her waving her hair, curling it with tongs and the way she made the tongs hot - in those days we only had Gaslight, and one of the gas-outlets instead of having a mantle had an open jet. The type we had on the wall was an open jet and I still remember her holding the irons - tongs, up near this gas jet and then curling her own hair - she wore a lot of hair padding - she used to curl the hair upwards with the tongs. And I can remember doing the same thing.

Speaking of those tongs - I'm getting off the track - but one place I was working when I first started - the first of my experience in Ladies hairdressing the hair was quite long and then the shorter styles came in - The ~~Bob~~ and The Shingle - we were kept very busy doing Shingles but the Boss's wife had her hair cut in a fairly longish style and then - I forget if she brought the tongs in or - anyway she brought these crimping tongs one day and I said I's use them on her hair. So I just made them hot using four jets under the heater and then I waved her hair with these crimping tongs. To me it was not waving only crimping. Strange to say crimping has been most popular just recently. It was always done with an electric tong but anyhow I started learning on the Boss's wife. (Much laughter). Jo : You were game ! Gordon : Yes, compared with some of the things I used to do that was nothing. But also she was telling her friends about this and they were coming in getting their hair crimped and to me there was nothing to it. It was just putting the hot tongs in the hair - there was nothing to it. It wasn't waving just putting corrugations in the hair - that's the way I saw it.

But anyhow I learnt Marcel Waving, a French invention, the Marcel Irons, Tongs and you just - Jo : Excuse me Gordon, when you first started in Women's Hairdressing did you just sort of ease into it or had you gone down to Sydney ? Gordon : Oh no, what happened ; in those days as soon as I started in the trade - the other Hairdressers were in the Hairdressers' Union and although I was only an apprentice, a beginner, they said ' You should join the Union '. Right, so I joined the Union and then a Mr. Pat Buckley, the Secretary, who used to come and collect our money every few months, said to me - he was good, he took an interest in me, " Gordon, we are starting a Hairdressing Class at the TEchnical College in Sydney, why not come down and get into the Ladies Hairdressing, that's what you are cut out for and that's what is going to go right ahead ". Jo : And there was no actual trainging scheme for Men's Hairdressing ? Gordon : No. Jo : It was always an apprentice system ? Gordon : Yes. So, yes, I'd be in that. I can still remember that day I went down to the Hairdresser's Union Office and there was this Mr. Pat Buckley who later became a Member of the Sydney City Council and a Member of Parliament. Jo : Was Mr. Buckley in Newcastle or Sydney ? Gordon : He was in Sydney and he only came to Newcastle to collect Fees etc. but he did take an interest in us. And I went down there and I joined up the Technical College in, I think, it was Hay Street, just near the Museum. Jo : Around about where the Power House Museum is now. Gordon : Yes, just near there, across the road from there. So I went there and I joined up in the day class and I became very friendly with the Teachers there Miss Crouch and Miss Venn. Alright they started me off and as well as that - they were a bit amused down there becuase I was so keen , and there was a night Class full of fully qualified Hairdressers and I joined that too. So as well as going to the day class I went to the night class as well.

They started me off on what you call Board Work, just making Switches and things like that, but I wanted to get into more : Waving, Finger Waving and so many different methods of Permanent Waving. So they put me through my paces and all the different methods so I would be acquainted with them. But I was mainly concentrating on Water Waving. Jo : That's what we used to call Sets ? Gordon : Yes. We called them Sets. And then there was Styling and so forth. That's how I really started in Ladies' Hairdressing. I was very, very keen.

Then over the years I became well known to the Hairdressing Fraternity in Sydney because whenever there was a Competition I'd be in it. One of the reasons I went and followed up these Competitions which were held in the Town Hall - and I'd always be there and I'd always enter - the main reason was to see how the Top Hairdressers worked. Because a man could not go into a Ladies' Salon and have a Hairset just to see how they did it, or to have a Perm or anything like that. If you were a female you could do that, but not let on that you were there just to have a sticky-beak and that's why I used to be in all the Competitions - and I did very well in them too. (Laughter). And I often think back you know, they used to say Hairdressing was a four year apprenticeship - they said there's no need to have four years apprenticeship for a Hairdresser. Jo : Was this for Men's Hairdressing or both ? Gordon : Both, but I always looked on it, and this is true, that this was the foundation work as far as I was concerned. Right up until the time I retired from the business in the Salon I was getting books from America and still studying, because styles were changing, you can't just do your four years and that's it. You're not going to go far . Jo : And you don't get the same enjoyment out of it either. Gordon : No. I was very keen.

With regards the Permanent methods those days - the popular one was the, well it was popular then, it was really an endurance test, 'Eugene' which we called the Spiral Wand. It was a big machine, sometimes hanging from the ceiling or at times it would be on a big stand, but it was like a big dish. There were electric wires came down from this machine and to do that Perm - The Eugene Electric Perm - you had to first of all, after the hair had been thoroughly cleansed and dried, you'd section the hair off into partings about 1 or 1½ inch squares, depending on the texture of the hair, then you'd lay protective pads round all those sections of the hair, then put the hair through all these protective pads, because you were going to use heat on the hair. Jo : Were the pads felt or cotton ? Gordon : No, felt and rubber. Then after you had divided the hair into sections and applied all these pads to the head you would tie a curling rod, which was something similar to the size of a thin Ballpoint Pen or a Knitting Needle. Jo : A metal type thing ? Gordon : Yes, an alloy and you would tie the end of that tie to the end of the hair close to the root - close to the scalp. Then you would wind that hair - what we call spiral winding - starting near the scalp in a corkscrew method round that rod, applying tension, very tightly round that rod. When you got to the end you would apply a little bit of gauze to the end of the wrapped end of the hair and then tie that with twine, dampen it, and you'd wrap that around the hair - wound it round and then put a metal

clamp round that near the scalp end of it , tie the twine to the rod down that end with a little metal clip which would hold the satchel in position. After that these elements from the machine - you would bring them down - they were the heat wands - and you'd put these over all these wands with the hair wound on them - you'd put those on - and then you would switch the power on and then watch and out of the ends of those you would see the vapour, heat vapour, like jets of steam vapour coming out. And according to the texture - Jo : You had to use water to dampen them ? . Gordon : No, you'd use special lotion. Jo : Just put it on the hair ? Gordon : Yes, then, of course, the satchets, you'd damp those with a special lotion. Then you'd see this vapour coming out and as soon as you saw that vapour coming out you'd time it, according to the texture and condition of the hair. The steaming time from memory - going back a long time - would be eight minutes. After that you'd switch the power off and allow the appliances to cool. Then take them off and you'd find those satchets would have a 'toasted' look around them, they would be quite hot the temperature they were working under. Jo : That would be a cloth type satchet, would it, Gordon ? Gordon : No, they were like a wax paper to handle, it wasn't wax paper itself. Then, of course, you would wait for it to cool and then strip it off, shampoo the hair and set it in the style preferred. That was the 'Eugene'.

It was quite a long process. From the time the customer - of course it was all done in cubicles, privately. Jo : Oh, yes, none of those Open Salons, I remember that! (Laughs) Gordon : From the customer came in and you started I'd say it took five or six hours. Jo : Talk about an endurance test, both for the operator and customer. Gordon : Yes. Then, of course, there was another point you had to consider; as well as dividing the hair into sections and so forth, you would also apply cotton wool padding as a protection. Jo : Quite a danger of burning ! Gordon : Yes a careless hairdresser would soon be in trouble. But then, of course, a lot of Salons would provide Morning Tea or Lunch, whatever, but it wasn't because they were obliging in providing that service but the customer was there for so long. Jo : That's it, they could hardly go walkabout if they were attached to those thing hanging from the ceiling. (Much laughter). Gordon : It was quite an endurance test by today's standards, quite a business.

Then there was the Galiphon, where they used Borax - a similar method - but using Borax and strips around the hair. You always had to have that tension, the hair had to be stretched. That was the Heat Method. Of course there were others - different brands. What we called the Spiral Wand, winding it from the root out to the end. Jo : You were telling me about the Steaming - that sounds fascinating. (Laughs) Gordon : Yes, that's what we called Wella Vapour Steam Wave, it was a German who invented that and I learnt it in Sydney - Crow's Nest. Anyhow that's beside the point. In that case, you'd first make sure the hair was clean, section the hair off into oblong sections 3 " long by 3/4 " wide, that was about the size of the protecting pad. The curling rods were hollow, they were still an alloy but they were hollow, with a rubber washer each end. You would in that case apply a lotion to the hair and then wind the hair on these curling rods starting on the end of the hair to the root and that was the reverse to the Spiral Wand - the Crochenal. Start from the end

of the hair and wind to the scalp at right angles to the scalp standing up like that (illustrates), and you'd wind the hair up. There was a special clamp and you wound the hair on these hollow curling rods with the rubber clamped over them, this insulated and sealed it, covered that completely with a flat little envelope cover. When you had wound and applied these rubbers all over the head you'd connect each curling rod to the other by a piece of rubber tube round about 6 or 8" long - one curling rod to the other forming a continuous pipe all over the head - the curling rods and these long tubes made one continuous pipe and one of these curling rods would have a longer rubber on it - that's what you call the Inlet. And you'd have the Outlet somewhere near the nape of the neck - the curlers down on the back part of the head. A long rubber tube going from there into a container sitting on the bench or on the floor, a jug or something like that. Then you had a steamer, like an Urn hanging on the wall and you would connect that to the inlet and the steam would pass from there right around the head and that's where it got the heat to create the Perm. After circulating right around the head it would come through the outlet on the other side. you had to be very careful of always padding the head well and be on the lookout for a leak of steam. Sometimes the rubbers where they pushed on the ends of those curling rods might be a bit loose and there might be a tendency to a little drop of water. Jo : There could be a scald. Gordon : Yes. But there was another thing I used to do before connecting it up from the steamer to the rubber - the inlet - I'd always put it in my mouth and hold that rubber up against my face and blow, just to make sure. It was very easy to connect one rubber to another which was not continuous or even kinked. Every time I'd blow through to make sure the pipe was free. The same thing applied then according to the texture of the hair and condition of the hair, you varied the steaming time. That was usually from five to eight minutes. Of course, with experience you got to know what steam you'd need and you became competent in that method. That was one of my favourites, it always left the hair in good condition. It was always wet when you turned the equipment off. Jo : And you weren't using chemicals on the hair. Gordon : Yes, when I first wound it, but it was not as severe as some of the others, and the hair was always in good condition. It was one of my favourites and in all the years I was in the business, from memory, I don't think we had one hairdresser who came to us who was competent in that method, and for years it was our most popular method. Jo : Gordon, what year would that be ? Gordon : About the '35 to 50's. Jo : So the electric one was in before ? Gordon : Oh yes that was the early one, the electric, as I said, the Eugene was the popular one - the better known. Then came the Steam Wave and at the same time as the Steam Wave there was what was known as the non-electric, that was invented by a chap in South Australia called Frederick Medar. I have a photo of the first one of those which was done in Newcastle in the Supper Room of the City Hall. Jo : What a big demonstration. Gordon : I still have it. Jo : I'd like to have a look at it after. Gordon : That would have been about the '30s. Jo : And that would have been the forerunner of the present Cold Wave. Gordon : That was what we called it in those days - the Non-electric. Well, that was a heat wave. The machine itself - they called them machines - was a trolley with electric bars on it and those bars were hot, then on those bars were clips, something similar to paper clips, they were made of aluminium alloy, very crude

and those clips were covered in felt so you wouldn't burn your hands. The customer's hair, in this case, was sectioned off into app. 1" squares and you used rubber pads - no, you didn't, I'm wrong there - when it first came out they used to have a little clip arrangement, you'd clip a square of hair and then you had a metal-like curling rod about 1" or 1½" long, you'd put that in like of pair of tongs to hold it and then you wound it, that's the crockenal wind from the end down. You'd put one of these very hot clips, of course, you'd apply lotion to the hair first and then you put that clip on it, and still holding it you'd slip the little felt pad underneath it - felt or rubber - underneath it to protect the scalp. But other makes came out and instead of doing it that way they used to section the hair off into squares and use rubber pads, which was much better. But - what happened then - it wasn't so good - this is the time the Hairdressing Salons got a bad name for their SMELL. Jo : Oh, yes. Gordon : To soften the hair they were using Sodium Sulphide, and this solution was very smelly. Anyhow, I remember I was working in a Department Store at the time and they introduced their first non-electric Waving Machine in the Salon, they had had the old Eugene and they introduced this one but there was another make, it was called 'Giles' they brought this one which was an improvement on the Frederick Medar one - they improved on it. But there was a Tea Room on the same floor as the Salon. (Laughs) I think it was the first day they introduced it, there were complaints flying all around the Tea Room about the smell. Something had to be done about that. I found out where I could obtain a Waving Lotion or a solution which didn't give off this terrible smell. Anyhow that was what was called the Non-electric Perm. And, of course, the feature of that was that the customer wasn't connected to a machine in any way. They could get up and walk about. Jo : Was it a shorter length of time involved or about the same length of time because of all the preparations ? Gordon : No, it was much quicker, but the result was mainly tight curls all over the head.

But those methods, the Non-electric methods, the idea of them when they were first introduced was for them to be used in conjunction with the electric Spiral Wave. The Electric Spiral Wave being so hot they could not get close to the scalp and also the hair round the base of the neck was always worn shorter and by not being able to get close to the scalp you couldn't get a real satisfactory curl on the neck. These machines were brought out - the first ones were brought out - to be used in conjunction with the others and was what we called the Combination Wave. The electric Wave or Steam Wave on the head, the non-electric around the neck. And, of course, as well as this being a quicker and cheaper method it was applied to the whole head. That method was used for quite a long time. And then there was another one came out called the Machineless Wave, That was the English one called 'Gemal' that was a very popular one and it was wound - it was very similar in preparation to the Steam Wave. You still wound the hair in sections, about the same size sections, used a curling rod about the same size as the Steam Wave, but it was a solid one and you wound the hair up and instead of putting on those hot clips there was what we called a 'Sâĉhēĉ'. One side of it was tin-foil and the other one was like a wax paper and inside was a powder. After you'd wound the hair you would get this satchet, and we usually used to use a piece of thin flannel, we'd saturate that with water, put it on the paper side of the satchet and just roll that onto the curler which was already wound and

put a clip on it to hold it in place - the clip was not made hot - and after that had been on the wound head for a matter of seconds there would be a little vapour of steam come out of the end of it where the powder in the satchet becoming wet generated the heat to create the Perm. Well that was another one where the customer was not connected to a machine. I had an experience with that one - the Hairdresser's Union at that time used to be in the 8 hour Day Procession and it was always a very big 'Do' and the Hairdresser's Union used to have a Float in the Procession and they would go on with a bit of comedy on the Float. They may have a customer in a chair, with a Beard and a pigeon nesting underneath - and the pigeon would be flying out of his beard as they were going along the Street. (Laughter). And they came to me and said : " Gordon, we've had these Floats going for years, but the Ladies' Hairdressing has never been in it. We were wondering if you would join us and put on something a little different ? " So I said : " Yes, I can do that ". I put it to my Staff, I had a very good Staff and yes they would be in it. So I got a few heads together on ideas for the Float. My staff were all with me and one of my customers volunteered to come and sit on the Float as the customer and I thought it would be better if we had some activity on it. So I decided to do one of these Machineless Perms. Jo : Was this going down Hunter Street ? Gordon : Yes, I started in Bolton Street, along King Street, down Pacific Street, into Hunter Street, down as far as Steel Street, turned into Steel Street and to the Sportsground. And I said I would produce that Perm from the time we left, I think we joined the Float somewhere in front of the Herald Office and I started there too - I had a word with the Driver and I asked him to be careful with the driving, not to rock it too much and try to keep off on the Tramlines - he drove all the way on the tramlines all the way down to Steel Street. What I did to speed up this Perm using the cassettes. For the water to dampen them I took a thermos of real hot water (Laughter) to speed it up, see ? The funny part was - when I was stripping these silver cassettes off, I started throwing them out and they were hot and Kids were rushing to pick them up off the road, they thought they were lollies. (More laughter) . Jo : Oh no! You'd be up for littering these days. Gordon : I was never able to get a photo - that's the only time its ever been done.

Then, of course, after that we came into the Cold Wave. Well that was quite a big advance, especially for the comfort of the customer. Well that was what I called a chemical wave - see there was no heat. Then on top of that it brought the Permanent Wave into the homes - the Home Wave, people started to try their own. Jo : Oh yes, the Toni. Gordon : Yes, some of my best customers would come in and say they had been to a Perm Party - one of those where they would perm each other's hair. (Laughter) Jo : Then come to you to get it sorted out afterwards. Gordon : Yes, that's right they would often come to be corrected because there were traps. It would take experience to pick the head, or hair, which would take a good Perm, and one that wouldn't. If the hair was heavily bleached, especially with a hot wave you had to be very careful or you'd end up with a hair full of jelly. Then, of course, there were certain types of dye used on the hair and they were unresponsive to waving. Then there was another one, a metallic dye that people used to use at home and they'd come for a Perm and you'd ask them what they had been using on their hair, and some would say ' I never use anything on my hair ' but with experience you could tell.

Jo : Was this Henna ? Gordon : No, not Henna, a metallic base. Anyway you reached the stage that you could walk past a person and know they were using certain preparations. That comes with experience. Otherwise you could go ahead, especially if you were using a hot method on the hair. You'd go ahead and you would find the Perm did not take. Another thing might happen - the hair would adopt a horrible kakhi green sort of shade. (Jo Laughs) Oh yes, there were lots of traps. Jo : Oh dear, that was serious, my word! (More laughter) I hope you were insured against these things. Gordon : Well, yes there is a Public Liability. The Insurance Firms, there were only two Firms that would insure hairdressers and one of the conditions was that you had to give them all your other business - your Home Insurance and all. Then the apprentice wouldn't be insured, if the apprentice did the job it wouldn't be covered. Jo : Oh, that wasn't very fair.

Yes, well there were other things which came with experience. Before attempting to wave a customer's hair you would naturally examine the scalp to find any breaks in the scalp or any ailments, infection or anything like that, before you went ahead. I mean, if you had a break in the scalp the lotion could cause an infection. One of the common things, something the customer didn't know anything about very often was Alopecia, as you comb down the hair you might find a bald patch, it might be towards the back of the head or the top of the head or anywhere and the customer wouldn't know anything about it. You couldn't feel anything but the hairdresser would discover it - it might be the size of say a 5c piece or even a 20c piece, or bigger, and it's possible the customer wouldn't know anything about it. It might not be contagious, then you could go on with the Perm and point it out, just in case there was any chance of that patch breaking out somewhere else. It would be no fault of the hairdresser. They thought it was caused by stress or nervous system or something like that. Very often it would correct itself over a period of time. It might take a year or two years, people who were really under stress sometimes would get it and they would find that when they had been relieved and settled down, well then their hair would come back to its normal state. First of all on that bald patch you'd find a fine white down would come on the head, then eventually it would return and come back to normal. In other cases, if they were very unfortunate they would lose most of their hair, in that case it would be a matter of a Wig or a Hairpiece. And, of course, I'm getting off the track a bit - then it might be the case of a scalding, they might have had a scald on the scalp and that would cause a bald patch. And I've had lots of cases where, especially some of Doctors, had sent them to me to see about getting a hairpiece just to cover the patch. It might be a burn which caused the spot, it might be as big as the palm of your hand. Well, alright, I'd measure that up, make a pattern of the shape and size and then I would have to take a sample of the customer's hair to match it, the texture and the colour, perhaps a sprinkling of grey and then I'd make a pattern, course that would be a bit concave or convex or whatever you like to call it, the shape. I'd send that away and have the foundation made up and they would send it back to me to make sure it was the right fit on the patch on the head. Then the hair would be attached but I would also have to, on the pattern I'd made, put a few strokes along representing the hair explaining which way the hair had to go. Your hair does not stand up straight. Jo : No. That's right. Gordon : They had to know which way, it could

not go the opposite way to the rest of the hair. Jo : That would make it awkward to comb - wouldn't it ? Gordon : Yes, then , of course, if it came across where the natural parting was and the customer still wanted to keep the parting - have the natural parting - put it in. Yes, it had to look exactly the same as the skin. Jo : Gordon, this skill was that what you learnt originally or was this something you had updated along the way ? You said you were doing some work like that in your apprenticeship. Gordon : Not in my apprenticeship, that didn't come into it. That was when we call 'Board Work'. Jo : Which was different. Gordon : No. I was very friendly with a Wig-maker in Sydney but never theless it turned out I went to Branbury. I was doing a lot of business iwht Branbury Boskeys. Anyhow, it turned out this friend of mine in Sydney had learnt his trade or worked with this Branbury Boskeys and he said " " Oh, I couldn't do better than what you're doing ".. So I used to do all the ground work for these hair-pieces and I'd send them over there, they'd check them, the samples from here, and they'd probably send me three or four more samples back with the piece to make sure they had the right colour and everything and the customer would be satisfied. Well, I'd have to return it back to them, they'd send it back here with the hair much longer than would be required, then I would have to attach it to the bald patch, mainly with a double sided adhesive and then I'd have to cut and style it into the full head of hair. Jo : It became a fixture then ? Gordon : Oh, no. They could take it off whenever they liked. With perspiration of the head etc. it had to be cleaned, and it should always be cleaned with spirits.. That was one thing with the early wigs we used to supply, of course they were real wigs - a real Wig-makers art, they were made for the individual. Jo: But basically that measuring and all that you taught yourself ? Gordon : No, I got the groundwork from books. You know what ? I often think back on this, I used to get two books from America every month. It was the American Hairdresser and the other one was - I think - Beauty Salon. I used to get these two from America, and as well as those, I used to get GERman Books, English Books. Jo : So you were updating yourself all the time ? Gordon : Yes, that's what I meant - when you are in business - your apprenticeship is only groundwork. I studied books and all about it and whenever there was a demonstration I was there.

Well, one of the - of course - I learnt Blow-Waving in Switzerland, and the next Hairdressing Exhibition which was held in Sydney Town Hall, I walked in there - of course, in those days various Wholesalers, Hairdressing Wholesalers, used to have Stalls or Stands around the room of the Exhibition Area, showing their equipment. And I walked in and I will never forget this one in the Town Hall, as I walked in, of course I was well known there, especially by the Wholesalers, So I walked in and there was a chap up on a stand and they were going to give him a Blow-wave and this was a similar method to what I'd learnt and I walked in and this Mr. Mitchell, he was a bonzer chap and we were very friendly, and as soon as I walked in de said : " Gordon, " in front of all these Hairdressers, " you are just the man we want, come up here on the stand and show us how you do the Blow-wave. (Laughter) Jo : So you gave the demonstration ? Gordon : Alright, so I get up and I'm doing this and I thought : ' blow this, I didn't come here to work I: came down to have a look around and have a good time.' (More Laughter). Jo : It was a great compliment though ! Gordon : So, there was another Hairdresser, he was very

interested and he came up along side of me, on the stand, and he wanted to know ' do you turn it this way etc. and I said ' Look if you can do Marcelle waving you can do this '. And he said : " Oh, I can't do the Marcelle " and I said ' Look, you just have to do this and this (demonstrating) here you have a go now and try it, just comb it this way and away you go ', and I put the comb in his hand and what did I do ? left him there!

In the demonstrations and competitions held in Sydney - there was one big Hairdressing Exhibition on down there - and this is going back many years - and there were certain colours we just could not produce in the Salon. So this was quite an attraction. They had one model with green hair, beautiful green, and, of course, everybody - Jo : They wanted to be green. Gordon : Yes, this was on purpose - this hair was green, this was a colour we just could not produce and everybody was interested in it. I stayed back late, being very interested, and of course, in those days I was interested in Movie Film and I used to take movie film with me and anything of special interest I would take movie shots of it. I had floods lights and all, and on commission I could do anything and I'd take the film back to Newcastle - colour film - mainly to show my Staff the latest techniques and so forth. And of course that became very well known also. (Laughter) I took my Movie Camera every time. Anyhow this time there was this head of real green hair, real green it was and I was trying to find out all about it, but the only information I could get was the ingredients they used was used in Photography Studios. Jo : Why wouldn't they tell you ? Gordon : Oh, that was a secret. Jo : That was just from one particular Salon that was demonstrating. Gordon : Yes. So, anyway I hung around and the sequel to it was : this girl, the model, had to be at work somewhere at some Office in Sydney the next day and they had to remove this green because she was going to work and the story I got from them was they were still there till 2 a.m. in the morning trying to get the green out. (Much laughter). She just had to get rid of it. Jo : What then did they use it for ? Mainly for theatricals. Gordon : It was only for effect for the Show.

Then with regards Wigs - talking about Wigs, problems used to crop up - a person might have an expensive wig, something to be proud of, you could stand right over them and you couldn't tell they were wearing a wig. They weren't made for show, they were made for the person's own appearance. Anyhow this Lady she was fitted up with a full wig and it had cost her a lot of money and she was back about a month later and Oh! she was in a lot of trouble. She came to see if I could do anything with it and it was a MESS. Of course, with these wigs, they were real human hair, they weren't nylon or anything like that, and they had to be treated properly. What had appened : she and her husband had been to a Ball and they came home in the wee hours and she took the wig off and threw it on the lounge and went off to bed. They had two - what I call - 'Toy Dogs' and when she came out the next morning she couldn't find her wig. Eventually it was found under the lounge. The two dogs must have thought it was some sort of an animal. Jo : Oh, no! Gordon : They'd been having a game with it. Jo : Oh dear! (Laughter). Gordon : Oh, what a mess. Jo : The mind boggles. Gordon : Oh dear, I had some trouble getting that back in shape, it was terrible. Goodness knows what fun the dogs had with it.

Then there was another one - this was a Gent - with a Hairpiece, a very good hairpiece with a wave in it. He came back about a fortnight later and said 'it was nice, but there was something about it, he wasn't getting on real well with it.' Of course, everything he said was in privacy, screen around him etc. We had a special entrance. Jo : Yes, I remember. Gordon : Oh that's right you remember. Anyway this particular cove was wearing it back to front. Jo : Oh, no ! (Laughs) Gordon : And he hadn't twigged/ He had taken it off, you see, and just put it back on and he didn't realise it was back to front. You meet some characters ! Then there was another one, a Lady - of course, this is what used to happen, ~~the~~ wife would come in, she would be a regular customer, used the Salon for her own hairdressing and then her husband would be losing his hair and she's say : " Do you think you could do anything for him ?". ' No trouble, bring him in. ' " Oh, he wouldn't come in ". ' Oh well that's the only way.' We had a back entrance down the lane. Jo : Yes (Laughs). Gordon : And he'd use it every time, this chap, he would never come in the front Salon. I'd always have to go down and meet him round the back. Jo : And you had a special room out the back, Gordon ? Gordon : Oh yes, and I would always bring them into that. Jo : Wouldn't it be very embarrassing.

And then, of course, the local T.V.Station, when it was set up there was one of the well-known Announcers - course T.V. they are on Air, and I'll mention the name, it was Brian Newman, told this chap to do something about his appearance. He had receding hair. So righto, he was a friend of mine and he didn't want to lose his job, but he had receding hair and it didn't look good on Air. He didn't want to have it all clipped off, or anything. So I said what we can do is to take some of that outside hair and throw it over there and I'll make a hairpiece and attach it to your scalp and we'll bring your own hair over the top of it. You'll still have your own hair to cover up the thin bits. Still with being on Air, and in front of the public, as you are, it will still look as if you have a full head of hair. So right, that was a good idea. He was very happy with that and it suited the management, they were very pleased he did something about it. But there was a problem. Everywhere he would go for an engagement, after hours, because up there they had their own artists, make-up artists and assistants and that sort of thing, But there was an Opening of a Fair, or Fete, or something, and he had been nominated to come and make an appearance and he couldn't put the hairpiece on himself, he would always come to me. Jo : He didn't have to wear it all the time ? Gordon : No, he only wore it on Air. He didn't want to wear it all the time, he was happy the way he was. But in his job they told him to do something and he did it. But he always came to me, it might be 9 o'clock at night. (Laughs) I'd have to put it on for him - he'd take it off. He could have done it, he just felt he couldn't do it as well as a professional. That was one of the traps of the trade!

We also had quite a business in Theatrical Wigs. Our business was right up the top of Town and Theatrical Troupes coming into Newcastle such as Bartons' Follies, Sorlies and other Tent Shows, very often the people would be staying at The Esplanade, The Beaches or Greenhorn Jackson Hotel - up there in that area. Jo : Not one of those you mentioned are still there. Gordon : No, no, unfortunately.

Then there was Jenny Howard, she would always stay at The Esplanade and she was one of our favourites. Jo : I saw her. Gordon : She was a lovely lady! She would come in, she would walk in the door and the first thing she'd say " Hello Ducks - how are you Ducks " and she loved it because she could go down and sunbake on the beach. Just at that time, I think it was Peter's Ice Cream brought out an Ice Cream, a chocolate-coated Ice Cream called a Creme Between, and she'd come in, she'd be wearing a two-piece costume, and she'd come in and say " Gee, this is lovely sunshine, I'm a 'Creme Between' ". But what I am leading up to - there were various artists used to - now there were Dinks and Trixie and Dinks had a lot of Comic Wigs - oh! real Comic Wigs, lots of them and some of them were made of coconut fibre and all sorts of things and they'd be on a wire frame and they would lend me these wigs - because their better wigs they would bring to me to keep them in order - And I was able to put these wigs in the window. And it was a bit of an attraction, and it was different, to see these funny wigs. Then the George Sorlie Show there was Lee Sonia, he was one of the first real Female Impersonators. Jo : That was the one whose photo I saw earlier. Gordon : Yes, that's right. That one there (Points). He was killed in Sydney by a browned-out Tram during the War. He had beautiful wigs, he brought them out from England with him, and we had the job of looking after them. One of them was a beautiful looking blonde wig and he wanted it coloured and he mentioned he would like something different - perhaps a grey streak in it. So we decided he could have a blonde strip through it. But it was no problem because the wig was already blonde and all we had to do was just separate that part and not put colour on it. But anyhow he had some beautiful wigs but the point was - the wigs would be at our place during the day and electric trams were running down Hunter Street at the time I am speaking of - and we had an open basket and the thing was to get them down without disarranging them in any way. We had this open shopping basket, a cane basket. Jo : Like the old Baker's Basket ? Gordon : Yes, that's right. So we put them in that, and the Trams used to stop at Perkins Street and they also stopped down almost at the Civic and you'd get out there and take them along to Sorlies Tents. This evening we get in the Electric Tram with the basket and in the front of the Strand Theatre there was a Lady got in there - the wigs were on a block of head - and she gets in and she looks and says " Oh, you've got a head " (Much laughter) She must have thought - I don't know what ' but she got a terrible fright. She made quite a thing of it. Jo : Like that old Movie with Robert Montgomery. Gordon : 'Night must Fall' - the severed head in the hat box ! Yes, well.

Speaking of the Movies, there was a popular hairstyle, I was very proud of this - because I decided to feature it myself. This was from Ingrid Bergman in "For Whom the Bell Tolls" - some of the older people in Newcastle might remember it. Jo : Even people of my vintage. (Laughter) Gordon : I had advance photos of it, with this hairstyle featured in some magazines and I thought that's the ideal hairstyle. Jo : It's a lovely style. Gordon : It was short, about 3" long all over the head - that would be the longest part 3". Gracie Fields had a similar hairstyle too, I met up with her in London. Anyhow this one Ingrid Bergman was wearing, I thought ' now that would be ideal for here, good for swimming and that sort of thing. A short style and no trouble for people to run their fingers through. I'm going to feature this, I'll feature a style myself. ' So, anyhow, I decided the Steam Wave

because this was in the days before the Cold Wave - the Steam Wave. I decided that will be the one for it. Jo : Excuse me, Gordon, that year I can't remember the year that picture came out. It would be about the 1950's, wouldn't it? Gordon : That's right. Around about that year, I've got such a bad memory for dates now. Jo : I'm sure I saw the Film in Newcastle. Starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman. Gordon : I've still got the photos here. Anyhow I thought this would be ideal, it's a good short style and no trouble looking after it and the ideal Perm - it will need a Perm for the foundation of it, and the Steam Wave is the right one for it. So I featured it, I put photos of it in the paper, I've still got a copy of it, featured it and it was a winner. We did lots and lots of them - we called it the 'Maria' style. It was most popular, it was very good.

I'm getting off the track a bit but it's the theatrical in me (Laughs). Jo : You did so much with the Theatre - not just cutting and perming. Gordon : Oh no! There were only two branches of the Trade I - of course, I've still got my License there There was only two branches of the Trade I didn't do. I thought if you are employing labour in that sort of business, it is much better if you can do everything yourself, to know right from wrong, especially if you are applying for a License. The only two branches of the Hairdressing and Beauty Culture which I did not do was Manicuring and Eyebrows. Jo : Yes. (Laughing). Gordon : Apart from that I did everything. Jo : And of course, you were training apprentices too. Gordon : Yes. Jo : So you had to know. Gordon : Yes, three of my apprentices won 'Apprentice of the Year'. So that was something. Jo : By this time, too, there would have been a School of Hairdressing in Newcastle. Gordon : Yes, and how that came about, out of the blue, with no forewarning about it at all, one day I received a notice through the Mail about a Correspondence Class being organised for all apprentices, which meant they had to have, I forget now if it was one day or a half day off every week to study this correspondence. It must have been a full day, I think. One of the bad features, from the Employers point of view, was that it was the busiest time of the year, the end of November and the beginning of December that they would have to go to Sydney to, I think, it was the Tech for a fortnight's training there. We would naturally have to pay their accommodation and their Fees, but it was our busy time of the year with Summer coming. My girls, I called them my girls - when I explained this to them about this said : ' Oh, that will do us, we'll go down to the Beach.' Then, I thought, this correspondence business, blow that, as far as I was concerned they'd learn more at the Salon than they would from correspondence. Jo : ~~HAIRDRESSING~~ is a practical art, not something you learn from a book. Gordon : I didn't like this idea of a correspondence course, I didn't like it at all, so I became so agitated about it that I called a meeting of the Hairdressers. It was held and I had to get a centrally situated location for this meeting. I thought it wouldn't be right to hold it in a Salon, so it was held in Newcomen Street, a Hall in Newcomen Street - I forget the name of it. Up the hill from the Commonwealth Bank - that was the location of the meeting. It was quite a good roll up and at that meeting it was decided to form our own association here, or our own local Master Hairdresser's Association. Anyhow, I called the meeting and I explained what it was all about. It wasn't right to have a Correspondence Course, if we were going to have anything we should have a proper class - a practical course. So we formed the

Association that night and I was nominated - I was the reluctant President. (Laughter)
 Jo : You called the meeting ! Gordon : I called the meeting but I didn't want the job. Anyhow, Mr. Shymald, he was a Hairdresser in Hamilton, Sid Shymald, was nominated as Secretary. So we got together and we approached the Parliamentarians and also the Head of the Tech with the object of having a Class formed in Newcastle at the Technical College for Apprentice hairdressers. Jo : And what year was that, Gordon . Gordon : (Silence - the laughter) Isn't it awful !. Jo; Never mind. Gordon : We agitated, at least I remember one of the meetings over there, the Principal said to me, we were putting up arguments about it, you know, that it was much better to have the practical than to have this correspondence class and he said : " In other words Mr Edwards " - he called me Mr Edwards then, he usually called me Gordon, anyhow he said : " Mr Edwards, according to your argument you couldn't teach a man boxing by correspondence " I said : " That's just it ". Just like that. So that was the beginning and eventually the Class was established at the Tech here in Hunter Street. Also we had our own Association then. And a Mr. McGready, he had a lot to do with it, established the first Class. He was a Teacher from Sydney. I met him years and years ago at the Union when they were establishing the Tech in Sydney. Jo : Had he taught you ? Gordon : He was there at the night class. Jo : So he was one of your teachers ? Gordon, Yes, that's right. He used to come up from Sydney and when he would come up to see about this he'd come to my place and I'd take him around to Tatt's for lunch, and on a few occasions he nearly missed the Flyer back to Sydney, he was so interested. That's how it all came about. Jo : And he'd come up one day a week ? Gordon : Yes. just to get it going. Anyhow that's from the beginning on and we still had our, we formed our Association with the object of getting this Class at the Tech and that was established. Then, of course, we used to have our little meetings but there was not a great deal of activity and eventually we disbanded, because we had attained what we wanted. Jo : No need to keep it going. Gordon : My apprentices had to go down there for half a day each week. I was pretty tough on them, I used to give them a book and they would write down in the book what the subject was that they were doing and so on, what happened, perming or colouring. Yes, eventually the Association disbanded but now they have a very strong Association in Newcastle.

Of course what I am talking about is history. Jo : Yes, and it is un-recorded history too. I've been trying to get some background and I can't get anything. Gordon : I have been sorry ever since when I had to give up my business when my wife was very sick and the premises were sold and I just had to get out. Jo : It happened rather quickly, didn't it ? Gordon : Yes, and I'm very sorry that all that equipment, the old Electric Waving Machines and the Steam Waving Machines, there were even full kits of equipment never been used. I always prepared for the future and had equipment stowed away. And I've always been sorry that most of it went to the dump. I thought about a Museum but I don't suppose they are interested - but I have been sorry since. I would have liked to save it all. Jo : It would have been wonderful for future generations. I was thinking of the Power House Museum or even better for the Regional Museum. Gordon : Yes that would have been alright for the Regional Museum or that type of thing. But of course, the modern day hairdresser would never have used any of it, that type of equipment, you see. Jo : No, they wouldn't have the faintest idea would they. Gordon : Gee Whiz ! Pardon me saying Gee Whiz (Laughter) I could

go there and still - even though I'm over the hill and down the other side - I could still go there and so that old Electric Perming and the Steam - no trouble. It would be like riding a Push Bike. Jo : Once you've got it - you've got it ! Gordon : Yes, yes. Jo : As well as all the changes in Hairdressing Styles, look at the changes in Salons . Gordon : Yes, this is another thing. See in my day, when we first started out, it all had to be private, all cubicles, everything private. Then in 1950's I was on the French Riviera and I was amazed at Nice, Nice on the French Riviera - I'm going along there and there were these beautiful Salons but work was being done out the front of the Salon, out in the open, Men's and Ladies'. I thought to myself ' Gee, that's a good idea - that's good out in the open, of course atmospheric conditions would have a lot to do with it, also weather conditions. Yes, it would be nice, We used to have a Fernery or something and you could turn that into a Salon - much better than being locked up inside.' But anyhow, getting back to the point - it was all privacy and then the change was made. Men's hairdressing was always a bit open, some Salons would have a private cubicle. Jo : More for the Wig-making and then for Men's Perms, that would have been done in private. Gordon : Oh yes, in private and also something I didn't mention - in the old days, it was very rare this happened, men who had thick, big beards, when the simpler methods of perming came in, it would be nothing for them to have a few waves put in their beards. (Much laughter). Jo : A few crimps in it. Gordon : But everything was privacy, then it took a change and the open type Salon came in and it was all in the open - totally different. Jo : Did you start that open type when you came back from Overseas that time ? Gordon : Yes, I was a little reluctant to put it in but eventually I did, I had to keep up with change, modernise and all that sort of thing.

Most of our business was by appointment, you booked ahead all the time. Jo : Yes, I remember. It came to the stage that I just did not make one appointment when I had one cut, I'd make the next appointment or I couldn't be sure of getting in. Gordon : That's right. Another point was - our appointment books, we used to rule them up 3 months in advance. Days and dates and the staff would go through ruling it all up, putting dates in and if the customers, regular customers, as far as the book went ahead they would book their appointments up as far as the book went. Months ahead. Jo : Particularly around Christmas time, if you weren't booked in 3 months ahead your luck was out. Gordon : Yes, three months wait for an appointment. I had an experience, it was funny - I decided to advertise for an apprentice and on this occasion - and by the way, over the years I had people come to my parents wanting to know if I would take on their Juniors to be my apprentices. They offered to pay me. Yes, you'd never imagine it. Anyhow, on this occasion we wanted another apprentice. Alright we put an Ad in the paper. Our staff would always open up, they might get there at quarter to nine, or thereabouts, come by train, and then I would arrive later. This morning I turned around the corner at Scott Street and Pacific Street and (Laughs) I'll never forget this crowd of Girls outside the front of the Salon. (Laughter) Jo : What was the attraction ? Gordon : Oh dear! what am I going to do, this was quarter to nine and I've got appointments from 9 o'clock on. Jo : This is in answer to the Ad ? Gordon : Yes, they were answering the Ad see, and there were all these Girls and gosh I was so embarrassed. Oh! what am I going to do ? And I drove straight past the shop, down Hunter Street, round the block again

(Laughter) Oh golly! Anyway that was one of the traps of having to work to appointments. I hadn't expected anything like that. Well after these young ladies were interviewed out in the back room by my partner, their names were entered in a book, together with their particulars, then it wasn't until that night that I was able to go through the book and study some of them, their qualifications and remarks made by my partner and I got it down to about half a dozen. Then I was able to contact them and ask them to come in separately, for a later interview. That's the way I made the selection. Of course, we had certain qualifications - they had to be a certain height, and in those days we insisted they be right-handed. Now that might sound a bit odd but in winding Permanent Waves and things like that, if anything happens and you've got a left-hander working, and also the equipment and everything in the Salon is set up for right-handers - I don't mean things like Blowers and Dryers and things like that but it's the furnishings and all the tables and things are set up for right-hand working. And, if say, you had a left-hand operator doing a Perm, say winding a Perm and then something happened that she couldn't carry on that Perm, or went away to do something else, then a right-hand person took over there would be difficulties, little things that would be awkward. Jo : Why the height requirement ? Gordon : Well, the chairs were a certain height. If, for instance you were working on a customer, and you are short, this chair would be **right** for you, then a tall girl comes along and it might be too low for her and we only had one hydraulic chair in the Salon, we could adjust one chair. Then, of course, whoever we employed were expected to meet our requirements. In those days we insisted on their wearing white and the Ordinance stated that they had to have a clean washable uniform, and of course, we insisted that ours were white uniforms. Also hair had to be neat and tidy at all times. No smoking, no Chewing Gum on the premises anywhere. We had other certain regulations that we complied with and we expected them to do the same. And before they were employed, before we engaged them we explained to them that that's what we expected of them, otherwise, well don't come. Jo : That's fair enough. Gordon : Of course, this is years ago we did that sort of thing. That was our rules, you know, and we always had a very nice Staff, and there were seven of us working and you can see by the photo they were all nicely attired and well groomed. Jo : Yes, very. Gordon : And that's it. Jo : It makes a good impression when customers walk into the shop. Gordon : Well, we thought so and we proved it, we were recognised as a good business. So that was it. Jo : Gordon, I want to thank you, it has been most interesting, and I do promise to give you a transcript when it is finished. Gordon : Well, it has been my pleasure. (Laughs) As long as it is interesting. Jo : I have found it very interesting. Gordon : That's all I am worried about. Jo : It has been. Gordon : I hope so.