

Finger Waving of the 30's

By Patti Jones

(Taken from the October 1930 Delineator Magazine)

Thumbing through some of my Delineator magazines, I came across an interesting article describing hair styles of the Model A era:

The first thing my particular barber looks at is your height—not the bone structure of your head but the physical build of you. The hair must be balanced; there must be perfect balance. If you look at a person and you have a feeling of unease—the head is out of balance. So, balance is the first thing. Next, what is it you do most? Are you a person of the night—dining out every night, dancing, the opera, all that? Then the hair should be cut for the night rather than for the day—chic but soft for evening clothes. Or are you of the day—business woman, or an athlete, or a mother devoted to your family more than you are a person yourself? Then you suit the hair-cut to the life. It is like all other things, haircutting—no fast rules, nothing fixed, running, changing, an inspiration of the moment, a flash of insight. This is the kind of pleasant time you have when you hunt up a bobber who is up above the crowd.

From the above excerpt, I get the feeling that most women want men barbers or bobbers as they were sometimes called. It also left me with the impression that the barber did his thing whether you like it or not. Can you imagine that today? If you are blessed, like I am, with naturally wavy hair, it is quite easy to do an era hair style. Notice that all the styles have no bangs, all have a part and are finger waved. Figure 3 show how long hair is worn, tied in a knot at the neckline. Note how low it is. If your present style has bangs or is short in the front, using styling gel will help set in waves on the forehead and the cheeks. It is best to get someone else to help set in the waves because it is difficult to do it yourself. In fashion judging, when no hat is required, you get the same amount of points wearing your hair in era style as if you had a hat on. Most daytime outfits, unless wearing a house dress, would require a hat when going out. At evening, an evening hat could be worn, but most illustrations show no hats. Instead, they often wore hairclips in their hair right at a wave.

