

Coffee Break

By Adeline Daley

Several friends and relatives have been asking me who the "new" girl is we have living with us. In fact, one of the first to inquire was the child's own father who didn't recognize our daughter Patrice, now that she has had her bangs cut.

"Oh, for Goodness sake!" everybody exclaimed, "is that what she looks like? I didn't know she had blue eyes."

Due to the Beetle and English influence on our teens, it was no easy task to convince her that she ought to have them cut, by even as much as one-eighth of a side-rule inch. But I pursued, either the bangs get cut or get a seeing eye dog.

I do quite a bit of barbering in this household, especially on the younger ones, but I haven't been able to talk either my husband or son, Brian, into letting me "clip a little off the top and trim the sides a bit" with my new home hair-cutting kit, complete with electric clippers.

The instruction book that came with it didn't provide any snappy dialogue, but I thought I had developed quite a repertory of "Bon Mots To Cut Hair By," including every wrong strategic move made by the local baseball and football teams, all in one breath.

However, my investment wasn't completely lost, because it apparently forced Brian "Ringo" Daley into making a hurried trip to a professional barber in self-defense.

Actually, I could do a more workmanlike job if it wasn't that every pair of scissors we have in this house turns out to be about sharp enough to cut through a cube of melted butter. That's because they are used for such various operations as pruning shrubs and cutting rope and wire.

As a result, it's a never-ending task to see that both sides are even and the back doesn't have more ups and downs than an electrocardiogram. It matters not how long your hair is either. Once a "customer" is strait-jacketed (how else?) into my barbering chair, even a long-tressed Brigitte Bardot would come out with a Dutch Boy bob. (No, I was not responsible for Mia Farrow's haircut, in case you are curious.)

My hairdressing "talents," however, are not limited to haircuts. I also have given home permanents which seem to fall into two extremes. They either are "permanent" for about 48 hours or else you emerge from under the dryer with more ringlets than Shirley Temple had on her head in "The Little Colonel." Not that they didn't look fetching on little Miss Temple, but, unfortunately they don't on somebody my age. Next!

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