

# Hairstyling in the Model A Era

By Jackie Brooks

Men of the business and social world were most often clean shaven, wore parted, short hair, often slicked down with pomade. Sideburns were usually short. Mustaches were small and less frequently seen. Hats were worn during Formal events, with business suits, and sporting activities, but removed when indoors.

Children's hair was often a copy of adults but usually a softer, more informal version.

Even before 1927, women had entered the working world, speakeasy's and rumble seats. Many women cut their

"Crowning glory" into short "Bob's" (hair worn short and close to the head). First seen as straight with bangs, it evolved to softer waved styles. They were achieved with a heated "Marcel iron", pin curls

"Miss Junior" Wave



Machine waves were also becoming popular (if you had an entire day to spend in the beauty salon) as they allowed the styles to last between washings.



Foreheads and cheekbones were usually softened by "Dips" (waves), or curls



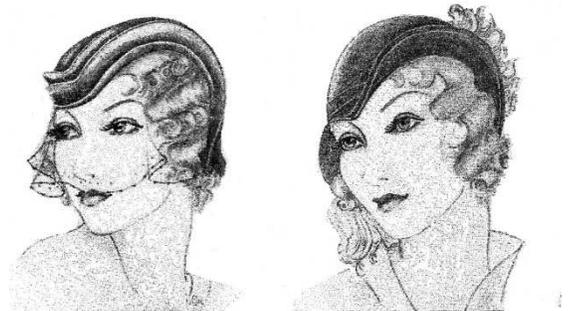
Longer hair was controlled at the nape of the neck in one or more soft rolls, a loose knot or a cluster of curls. Although loose hair was allowed on young girls, women were considered 'cheap' if they wore their hair this way.

Transformations (hairpieces and wigs) became necessary for ladies who were growing out their bob's uneven neckline, as well as a fashion statement by some celebrities wearing flashy colors and silver or gold wigs. They came in a variety of lengths, shapes and colors. They were mainly human hair.



To do your own hair you will need setting lotion or gel to set the wave. Try not to use too much as it takes a long time to dry. Practice with waved styles or simple 'spit curls' to find the styles that look best on you. Be sure your hair is thoroughly dry before brushing or all your waves may be lost. The simplest is the finger wave. They can be straight (parallel) or angled, whichever is the most flattering, narrower waves for more formal occasions and softer, wider waves for more casual events. You can achieve a wave with pin curls set in rows, each going in opposite directions. You will need to be sure to tuck the ends inside the curl. If left on the outside, they will be straight and not blend into the wave. If you are wearing a hat, a simple 'spit' curl that shows may be all you need to get the "Era" look.

Even though it didn't last long, one of the few dramatic changes to hairstyles came with the advent of the Empress Eugenie hat which was worn perched to the side and required an asymmetrical hairstyle, all those cute curls and waves showing on the side.



Pictures from *Modern Beauty shop* magazine 1928-30

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