



SHEAR TERROR has Michael Tillinghast in tears as veteran Birmingham barber Marcena Ewell clips the finishing touches on Mike's first haircut. Michael's twin brother, Timmy, already shorn, is nonchalant and Ewell, who gave haircuts to the twins' great great grandfather some 47 years ago, doesn't mind the tears.

Five Generations Sheared by Birmingham Barber

By Press Staff Service

BIRMINGHAM, Aug. 13—If and when Birmingham barber Marcena Ewell retires, the Tillinghasts of nearby Berlin Heights will have to wear their hair in home-styled bobs.

Ewell, a bright blue-eyed 65, has been cutting hair for 50 years, and for all of that time he's had Tillinghast hair to cut.

It started back in 1903 when Ewell, with three years of mug, brush and shears already behind him, cropped old farmer Charles Tillinghast's snowy mane. Charles had a 220-acre farm in Berlin Heights. His ancestors have held the farm ever since, trooping over weekly to Ewell's shop for shearing.

The parade of heirs, Edward, Raymond and Terrence all Tillinghasts, reached a double climax this week when 2½-year-old twins Michael and Timothy, old Charles' great-great-grandsons, traveled reluctantly to Ewell's shop here for their first haircuts.

For Ewell the identical haircuts brought his 50-year total to 125,000, give or take a few either way. He still works 12 hours daily and remembers that when he began haircuts cost only 15 cents, a shave a dime.

"It took a man an hour and a half to earn the price of a haircut in those days," he recalls and shudders at what might happen if barbers once more would charge what a man might

earn in that time.

"Men would probably all go around with long hair," he says.

Even now that threat is facing the Tillinghast twins, Ewell, hale, hearty and troubled only by bothersome feet, expects to be around for a while and has no retirement plans.

If he makes any, however, the Tillinghasts will go barberless: there are no Ewell heirs who will be barbers. Ewell does have a daughter.

"That's all, though," he says a little regretfully. "Barbers don't raise large families. At 12 hours a day they just don't have time."