



LEWIS BARBER SHOP
427 MAIN STREET
KNOX, PA 16232

For November of 2015, lets swing the spotlight over to the "LEWIS BARBER SHOP" @ 427 Main Street. The Lewis Barber Shop has been a staple of our Main Street makeup in Knox for many years. It's been a fantastic longtime legacy Knox business that we all love having here. Everyone LOVES going to Larry's shop where you can count on getting a quality haircut at a fair price and have a great chat with the locals. It's LEGENDARY at LARRYS! Always a great cut in the friendly confines of the Lewis Barber Shop. It's so relaxing in there, sometimes I wished my hair grew faster!

HISTORY..... There has been a barber shop at this 427 main street location since the 1800's infact we found a picture of Knox in 1876 and the shop was there then! Larry certainly wasn't around in those days.

Larry Lewis grew up out on the Fern Road and attended both the Shipperville & Ashland grade schools, graduating from Keystone High School in 1968. Larry began working at Hess's Golf course when he was 12, knocking down a whopping 50 cents an hour that went on to finance his first car, a 1961 Ford Falcon. Larry continued to work at the golf course after high school and in the fall of 1968 he began barber school up in Erie on Parade street. The "ERIE BARBER SCHOOL" required 9 months of "in school" training and then 15 more months of "apprenticeship" on the job training required to get the state license.

After completing the 9 months portion at school, Larry approached local Knox barber GLENN HIWILLER to see if he could do the required 15 months of apprenticeship in Glenn's shop. Glenn Hiwiler began cutting hair at the shop in 1924 and was approaching retirement. Larry tells me at first, Glenn wasn't too keen on the idea. He remembers both Welton Austin & Blaine Elder were in the shop on this historic day, but Larry found later out it was a Keystone High school teacher who was instrumental in changing Glenn's mind on this apprenticeship idea.

FLORENCE CRISMAN played cards often together with Glenn & Louise in a group setting. It was Florence who (during one of these card games) talked Glenn into giving Larry the apprenticeship deal. Larry will tell you he owes it all to Florence Crisman, she got him the gig.....

Larry served out his apprenticeship with Glenn and they both cut hair together until the day Glenn retired. It was a "twin chair" shop back then, Glenn had worked with Ted McNutt (and other barbers) over those earlier years with that second chair.

The first official haircut Larry ever gave in Knox Pa was to IRA DUNKLE. Larry gave 7 haircuts on that first day at \$1.50 a piece. Over the past 46 years in the shop, Larry has cut hair for FIVE generations of both the "Vickers" family and the "Apel" family. When Larry changed over the shop name to "Lewis Barber Shop" in 1974, there were 2 other barber shops in Knox. Tom Kurtzhals had his shop down on the other end (same side) of main street, and Bob Corbett had a shop right across the street from Larrys. Both are long gone today.

Over those many years Larry tells me it did get a little slow during the "longhair" days of the 70's & 80's. Flat Top cuts came back into the fold and "designer" cuts became popular.

It's always a great experience getting a cut at the Lewis Barber Shop. Larry has his "Wall of Fame" in there displaying some of the many Keystone students who have exceled over the years. It's quite a sight to look over, many pictures on display including local "Medal of Honor" recipient Ross McGinnis. Lots to see at the Lewis Barber Shop, and I always learn something I didn't know when I get a cut at Larrys.

LONG LIVE the "Lewis Barber Shop in Knox Pa! I wish to say THANKS to Larry Lewis for being another one of the great Knox merchants we are blessed to have in our town. We all say THANKS Larry!