

the edge
LIFESTYLES



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT STONE

CUT LOOSE: Laura Penna, left, helps parents Gina and Nick Penna celebrate four decades of hairdressing at Salon Capri in Hyde Park.

LOCK STARS

SALON CAPRI MARKS 40 YEARS IN THE HAIR BIZ

By **LAUREN BECKHAM FALCONE**

Gina Penna has been battling bad hair days for decades.

She and her husband, Nick, opened Salon Capri in Hyde Park 40 years ago and have been combing, cutting and curling tresses for thousands of loyal customers ever since. And Salon Capri has grown into a family affair — their son Nick Jr. and daughter Laura have run Salon Capri in Newton for more than 10 years. Both locations have garnered numerous awards. We caught up with the style maven as she celebrated four decades of success at a recent Newton party.

How does it feel celebrating 40 years?

"The parties were great, a wonderful turnout. ... By the end of the night, the kids partied and had fun and danced. I said if we give up hairdressing, we can always run a disco."

What lured you into hairdressing?

"It was something I always thought about doing, even as a young child. When I was 14, I

wanted to go to hairdressing school and that's very young to start, so I worked at a local salon in Hyde Park after school and Saturdays for a year, then started hairdressing school, and when I was 17 I started doing hair. I never thought about doing anything else."

How did you meet your husband?

"We met when I was 17. I was going to hairdressing school and he was, too. We met up for lunch. He worked in Boston and Newton as a colorist and I was at the Beauty-Rama in Hyde Park. We got married in July and opened our salon together in December."

Have you ever been afraid to tackle a trendy hairstyle?

"I'm never afraid. I did a lot of demo work in school; I don't worry about taking chances. And I love makeovers. That's my thing."

What were your favorite styles over the years?

"I think the shag made a statement. And the Dorothy Hamill was unbelievably popular. The Vidal Sassoon asymmetrical cut was fun. You

have to like change in this business. You have to embrace it so you don't get left behind."

Any styles you hated?

"I think perms were a pain back in the day only because of the odor."

Anyone ever cry in your chair?

"I don't think so. If they were crying, they were happy."

If you could have any hairstyle forever, what would it be?

"I would say a bob, because it's been in style ever since it came onto the scene and you can get so many different looks from a bob."

What's the biggest mistake people make when it comes to their hair?

"They don't stick with a stylist. A stylist should understand you and know you, your lifestyle. People jump around and run to the newest and greatest. But you get better results when you have a long-term relationship."