

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS



By Johnny Guillory/Master Stylist

Hair Relaxing History - Part I

An incredible concoction composed of red devil lye, boiled eggs, hog lard and water was one of the first attempts made to chemically relax hair. Known as "gassing," this crude and unsophisticated chemical brew actually straightened overcurly and kinky hair. While reversion was not a problem, severe scalp burns, hair damage and breakage could not be avoided. "Gassing" was primarily used by men, for the simple reason that if their hair broke off, they could wear a shorter style. A woman's vanity, however, would seldom permit her to risk losing her hair.

Earlier, during the days of slavery, Blacks tried to "control" their hair, at their masters' request, by applying hog lard, butter, resin from trees and even axle grease from the wheels of the plantation wagons. A thick layer of axle grease was laid on top of the hair, and the weight of the sticky grease stretched and smoothed the hair. Often stretched beyond its endurance, the hair would break off in bunches. A lye shampoo was the only means of removing the axle grease.

During the late 1800's, it was found that heat could temporarily relax hair. First, hog lard was massaged through the hair. Then a metal comb, heated in a tin can over a fire, was used to straighten the hair.

Next Week: "Hair Relaxing History - Part II."

Please address comments or suggestions to The FACTS Newspaper, 2765 East Cherry, Seattle, 98122, if I can be of any service in the beauty or fashion department. Your written expressions, "negative or positive" will all be answered in this column. Signature is not required.

Better Health Today

by Dr. Andrew H. Isaacs



Backache

Part I

This is a subject of much discussion and being a Chiropractor, I suppose it represents the highest percentage of conditions coming to my office. I intend to present this discussion comprehensively so as to include the entire general makeup of the common backache... anatomy, posture, pain and complications.

B-A-C-K-A-C-H-E spells trouble because backache, no matter how infrequent or fleeting is cause for serious consideration. If backache is frequent or of long duration, it is cause for deep concern and immediate action. In every instance backache means trouble. It means that you are suffering from one or more of these conditions: muscle pain, pinched spinal nerves, disease in another part of the body, or disease of the spine. And regardless of these conditions, generally the backache is associated with some misalignment of the vertebrae of the spine.

Next week, we'll continue with the general pain of the common backache. See you then.

THIRD WORLD

Gay & bisexual men's group every Friday 7-9 PM at Seattle Counseling Services, 1505 Broadway. Starts Jan 4. 329-8737.

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