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Long Before the Hair Cuttery, Barber Lloyd Woody Help Set the Styles

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The crew cut came and went. The Beatles arrived. MTV ushered in new styles. And now, well, it's just a free-for-all.

For half a century, Lloyd A. Woody has seen it all from behind the barber chair. And - for Woody, his customers and friends - 50 years in business is reason to celebrate.

On July 12, the Williamsburg Barbershop reverted in time to 1956. Ice cream, cookies and egg rolls helped participants celebrate the shop's 50th anniversary.

Live music performed by Capital A Capella, a barbershop quartet, was a part of the festivities, and you could even get your hair cut for 75 cents, the price of a haircut when Woody first became a barber.

Woody mingled with those who attended, recalling stories of families that had remained faithful to him by always going to his barbershop for their haircuts.

"It's always been family and kids that have come in here," Woody said. A few people even brought in old photos of their son or daughter getting a haircut.

Some barbershops are fast becoming a thing of the past. Woody knows where to lay the blame.

"Long hair has done away with a lot of barbershops," Woody said. "I bet there is only 25 percent the amount of barbershops that there used to be," he added.

The disappearance of the barbershops that Woody was familiar with as a boy has not made him feel old.

"I get younger by the day," he said to a customer as she showed him a photo of him cutting her son's hair.

Woody noticed the clothes he was wearing in the old photo, smiled and said, "I wouldn't be caught wearing those pants today."

Woody got into the haircutting business when he was in school.

"My father recommended I do it for a part-time job, but it turned into a full-time one," he said. Woody stayed in the business for so long, he said, because "I'm making good money."

Karen Haines, the office manager at Fall Properties, which is next door to Woody's Barbershop, helped with the festivities. She enjoyed the crowd that came out to show their support and appreciation for Woody.

"We were hoping and expecting this many people to come," she said.

The people who were at the event represented the customers Woody had. "The people that get their hair cut by a barber are older, or they're little kids," Haines said.

During the gathering, Woody was presented with a plaque commemorating his 50 years of business, and, outside his shop, a board was filled with memorable pictures and thank-you notes from customers.



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, D-8th, stops by to congratulate Arlington barber Lloyd Woody on his 50 years of service to the community.