

# Making a Pressman's Hat Is Easy if You Know How

Making a pressman's hat out of a folded sheet of newspaper is rapidly becoming a lost art.

"I haven't seen one in years," said one newspaper production director.

"The older hands know how to make them, but the younger ones don't," said a second.

Why this dwindling of a newspaper tradition?

The consensus seems to be that, thanks to offset, pressrooms aren't as dirty as they used to be. Hence there's not as much need to wear a

protective covering on one's head.

An informal survey by Newsprint Facts turned up some other explanations.

One pressroom chief cited the employment of women in pressrooms, along with longer hair styles for men.

"There's no room for all that hair in old pressman's hat," he said. "Snoods and hair nets, that's what I see around here."

Another supervisor said shorter page widths at his daily made it difficult to make a hat big enough for

the average adult.

The St. Petersburg Times has one graybeard who occasionally turns out a paper hat. Everyone else wears company-furnished baseball caps emblazoned with the Times' logo.

No one knows when or where the custom began.

In the 1950s, a printing trade publication sought its readers' help in tracing the origin of the headgear. The request prompted an unresolved debate that went on for years in the magazine's columns.

Drawings from Benjamin Franklin's time show printers wearing folded, square paper caps.

Old editorial cartoons often showed Labor wearing a square hat and Capital a silk top hat.

An old engraving found in the British Museum depicts a workman wearing a square hat in the shop of William Caxton, who introduced printing to England in 1476. It may not have been made of paper, however, since square hats were commonly worn by other craftsmen in medieval times.

## How To Make A Pressman's Hat.



1 Take a double page of a standard-sized newspaper. Lay it on a flat surface with the fold facing away from you.



2 Fold the upper corners in so that they meet at the center of the page, forming two triangles. Crease.



5 Turn the paper over with the point facing away from you.



10 Now comes the tricky part.

Turn the hat on edge. With your right hand, grasp the brim at the point where you just folded in the triangular section. With your left hand, grasp the brim directly opposite.



Now pull the hat open and push the brims down and in so that you end up with a hat piece of folded paper the shape of a baseball diamond.



3 Take the top sheet of the edge facing you and fold it up one inch. Crease.



6 Fold the outside edges toward the center so that they just meet or overlap slightly. (The greater the overlap, the smaller the hat will be.) Crease.



11 Tuck the top point into the band.



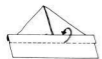
4 Fold the entire top flap down as far as it will go. Crease.



7 Fold the lower corners up to the bottom of the band. Crease.



12 Tuck the bottom point into the band.



5 Fold the bottom piece up across the band. Crease. Tuck the end in to form the brim of the hat.



9 Fold the triangular section down and tuck it into the brim. Crease.



13 Open up, square off, and there's your pressman's hat... We hope.

## Suburban Ad Revenues Up

Combined advertising revenues of suburban newspapers in the western U.S. were up nine percent in 1981, while in the East they were up 6.7 percent.

Midwest suburbans didn't fare as well. Their combined ad reve-

nuces increased only 2.2 percent, according to a business trend survey conducted by Suburban Newspapers of America.

By category, the percentages were:

National—East, up 33.8; West, up 29.2; Midwest, up 11.4. Classified—East, up 27.1; West, up 2.0; Midwest, down 1.5. Retail—East, up 5.4; West, up 8.2; Midwest, up 6.7.

## We've Moved

The Newsprint Information Committee has moved to new offices at 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

All correspondence with the Committee or with Newsprint Facts should be sent to that address.

The telephone number remains the same: (212) 697-5600.