



The Demise Of The Easter Bonnet . .

By JUDITH BERNE

In your Easter bonnet?

Ever since the official ruling that hats were no longer required in church, Easter bonnets have been on the decline.

"We hardly carry any of what used to be considered the 'typical Easter hat' in our women's department, reports Mary Ann Senko, head of hats for the Crowley, Milner store on 12 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington.

Today, high school students and young adults are buying the hats, not older women. And they don't go for the frills, flowers and strawberries on hats of the past.

They want the stylized hat --the Great Gatsby look of the '20s, or the Godfather hat, according to Senko. They are not thinking about wearing them to church. They're just buying them because they like their look.

"Older women have not worn hats for so long that they are uncomfortable in them," Mrs. Senko believes. However, she feels that "hats may really come back now that skirts are a little longer, and boots are on the wane." The older woman may well follow the lead of her younger counterpart.

"Mothers-still-like-to-see-their-littlegirls in Easter hats," Richard Verriest, assistant branch manager of Crowley's, believes. He pointed to a large "hat tree" in the children's department and predicted that "those will sell."

Hats with flowers are still shown for little girls, although they have been joined and perhaps overtaken by "the turban look" --a variation on the traditional sailor hat.

"Bows are big in the children's department," Verriest added. Big, floppy bows in all pastel shades may be a nice compromise for the mother who doesn't buy her child a hat or for the child who will not wear one.

One thing's sure, "hats are back" can not be shouted this spring. But, luckily, especially for the hat manufacturer—there is always next year.



BEVERLY ABRAMS of Farmington wouldn't consider any one of the elaborate, old-fastrioned Easter hats to be "her look." However, this simple "Godfather hat" really turns her on.