



Joe Eckhout, Pressroom Foreman

## Getting Ready To Roll 'Em

An offset press as complicated as that at Observer Newspapers involves a lot of planning and preliminary work to run efficiently.

Before anything happens, a press production schedule has to be made out, setting forth the times the press will be run, the products it will produce, and the needs for paper, ink, and manpower.

Plates are delivered from the platemaking department to the pressroom according to a carefully planned schedule. Their position on the press is outlined in a detailed diagram by Joe Eckhout, pressroom foreman, before the plates are carefully locked into place on the plate cylinder.

THEN THE big sheets of newsprint stretching 60 inches wide must be brought up from rolls of paper in the reel room below the press deck, through the printing units, over and around the appropriate compensator rollers, and into the folder. The highly skilled Observer press crew then makes all necessary adjustments in ink flow and control settings even before the press is started up.

At first when the papers start coming off the folder there is much work and adjustment to do. Ink must be darkened here, water reduced there; the folder must be adjusted, and the image moved to the right spot on the page. Color density may need changing, and the pictures must be registered perfectly to make sure they are sharp and clear.

**ONLY AFTER** the most careful scrutiny and checking does the press crew signal the mail room that the product is perfect and the run is ready to begin.

Then the man in charge moves to the control console, punches the buttons starting up the press, and the hammering drive of a press running at full bore sings out over the hum of the drive motors.

Roll 'em!

