"Hello, Dolly"

It's hard to believe, but a whole generation has approached the threshold of senior citizenship (over-30) in complete ignorance about hats.

There is a thinning in the ranks of those who can recall places where hats were de rigueur and of those who actually lived in a time when hats made the wearers feel "dressed up" and no one would be seen in public without a hat and gloves.

A few recent movies like "Mame," "Funny Girl" and "Hello, Dolly" have kept the image of the hat glamorous, but not particularly contemporary.

But after all, who could forget Barbara Steisand as Dolly in those glorious feathered creations.

The names Dache, Victor and Mr. John might be a rock group for the "now" generation who are seeing a revival of headgear and don't know how to cope with it.

When and where do you wear a hat?

With the change of heart within the Roman Catholic Church, the last bastion of the "hats-must-beworn" commandment fell.

There is no place left in the United States where hats must be worn. It is left to the taste of the wearer and her personal feelings about the hat's becomingness to her and its role in completing the attractiveness of her outfit.

There are still a few places where hats are not worn.

Hats may be worn to the theater but, depending on their size, should be removed when the wearer is seated. This is a question of thoughtfulness.

Hats are not worn when one is entertained informally in a friend's home—at luncheon, dinner or for an evening of cards or conversation.

Guests at large home cocktail parties, receptions or post-ceremony parties, such as christening parties, may leave their hats on or remove them. The hostess at a home party of some formality such as a wedding reception usually leaves her hat on while receiving guests in a formal receiving line. Here again, it's a matter of personal choice.

Hats are left on at all daytime gatherings in public places such as business luncheons or organization meetings, or for lunching or dining in public restaurants or clubs, even if the party is only for two.

If a vogue for tiny evening hats blossoms, then such hats will be worn at evening functions of all types. This is matter for the faddists to decide.



The veiled pale hat is a definite look for spring

