



Volume 17, Number 10

March 9---Jamie Timbes
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Todays subject is hats—Very few Kiwanians now wear hats as a general habit—Taft Little and former Kiwanian Demon Ashcraft (now living in exile near Jackson, Ms) and local businessman, mortician and man-about-town Bill McPeters are a few remaining people who usually have something on their heads. Taft's reasoning is that since he is a little shy of hair, he wears a hat or cap for protection of the elements. Delmon has a full set of hair, albeit gray, and I don't know his reasoning. Bill McPeters usually has a matching hat for his ensemble of clothing. The rest of us just wear hats or caps on rare occasions. I guess they have just gone out of style. The lists below is just for historical reference since I recently stole it off the 'net.

The Rules.

There are two degrees of politeness demonstrated by a gentleman wearing a hat:

1. Lifting or tipping it, which you generally do for strangers.
 2. Taking it off, which you generally do for friends (or in some cases, as a sign of patriotism or reverence).
- Both are done as a sign of respect toward the other and dignity toward oneself.

Tipping your hat is a conventional gesture, done by barely lifting it off your head with your right hand (or the left hand if the right hand is occupied): By the crown of a soft hat, or the brim of a stiff one. Your cigarette, pipe or cigar should always be taken out of your mouth before removing or tipping your hat. This is a subtle gesture that should not be confused with bowing. (*Just swallow your snuff*)

A man takes off his hat outdoors (and indoors):

- (1) when he is being introduced to someone, or when saying goodbye to a woman, elder, friend or;
- (2) as a greeting when passing someone he knows, particularly a lady, on the street (In some cases, tipping or lifting a hat and bowing slightly may be used as a substitute for removing a hat, as a passing gesture);
- (3) while talking, particularly with a woman, an older man, or a clergyman;
- (4) while the National Anthem is being played, or the American Flag is passing;
- (5) at a funeral or in the presence of a passing funeral procession,
- (6) when speaking to another of a virtuous woman or a dearly departed loved one.

A man tips or lifts his hat:

- (1) when walking with a friend who passes a woman only the friend knows;
- (2) any time a lady who is a stranger thanks you for some service or assistance;
- (3) any time you excuse yourself to a woman stranger, such as if you accidentally disturb or jostle her in a crowd, or when you ask for pardon when passing in a tight space or when forced to walk between two people that are conversing, particularly if one is a woman;
- (4) any time a stranger shows courtesy to a woman you are accompanying, such as when a man or woman picks up something she has dropped, or a man opens a door for her or gives her his seat;
- (5) when you ask a woman (or an elderly man) for directions.

Indoors, a man should always remove his hat, (particularly in a home, church, courtroom or restaurant) except:

- (1) in some public buildings or public places such as railroad stations or post offices;
- (2) in the main parlor area of a saloon or general store;
- (3) or while seated at the "lunch counter" of a diner or cafe;
- (4) in entrance halls and corridors of office buildings, or hotels;
- (5) in elevators of public or office buildings, unless a woman is present;
- (6) if carrying packages, parcels or bags and both hands are occupied upon entry.
- (7) If the man is an actor or performer and the hat is being worn as a part of a costume or performance.

If in doubt, it is best for a gentleman to remove his hat indoors as soon as practical.

It is considered a sign of contempt and/or disrespect to leave your hat on when it would be proper to remove it. It is surprising how many people do not remove their hats for the National Anthem or a passing funeral procession. A shame really.

The Rules for Women.

By and large, women are generally exempt from all of the preceding rules, particularly if their hat is fastened (pinned or clipped) to their hair and difficult to remove easily. Therefore, women are and were allowed to wear a hat in a church, a courtroom or at a funeral. Pretty much anywhere a man would not wear a hat, even today. Naturally, if a woman is dressed in men's style clothing (jeans, slacks, etc.) and is wearing a man's style hat or cap, it would be considered good manners for them to remove their hat for the National Anthem or a passing funeral procession, but they are basically exempt from all of the other rules and have the option of removing their hat indoors.

Note for the rules for women—Would someone please contact Emily Post to get a ruling on the above since ladies are now members of the club if they act like gentlemen.