

The AOIP Family & Community Reading Newspaper

THE ADVANCER

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 14

Start At The Top

LINDA was practicing the steps for the dance at the **cotillion**. She also was looking at the lovely hat Carmen, her teacher, was wearing. Every week when Linda came to dance practice, she always was excited to see what kind of hat Carmen would be wearing.

This week when it was break time, Linda decided to ask Carmen a very important question: "Carmen, how can I become a hat designer?"

Carmen was all smiles. In her **charming** way, she said to Linda, "So, you want to become a milliner!"

"What's a milliner?" asked Linda.

"That's what a person is called who designs, makes, or sells women's hats," Carmen replied.

"Yes, I want to be a milliner," Linda exclaimed. "What do I have to do?"

"I'll tell you in a moment," said Carmen, "but first, would you like to hear an interesting story about the word *milliner*?"

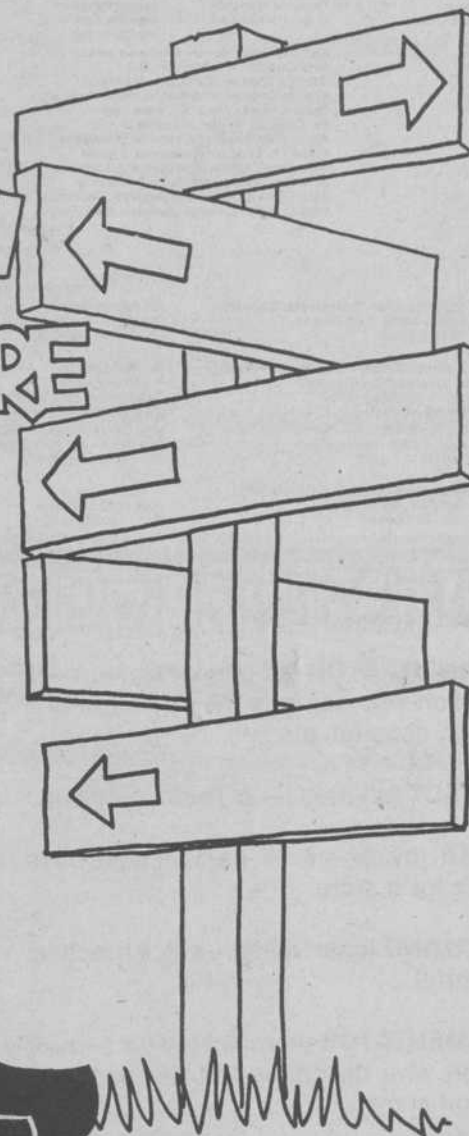
"Oh, yes!" Linda said.

"In the old days in England, a person who sold ribbons, bonnets and gloves from Milan, Italy was called a *Milaner*. The people of Milan are called Milaners, too. After a while the spelling changed and *milliner* came to mean anyone who sells women's hats."

"That is a nice story, Carmen. Now tell me what I have to do to become a milliner," Linda said.

"You must finish high school first. Then you'll need to go to a fashion school. There are some very good fashion schools all over the country. You also will have to learn some things about drawing and sewing," Carmen said.

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"Why are those things so important? I just want to make hats," said Linda.

"Well, first you have to know how to draw the hats you are going to make. You also have to know how to measure the material. You should know something about the shapes of people's faces, so that your hats will make them look pretty. If you open a business, you will have to design hats that suit the customers' faces. The hat business is an all year

round business. Hats are made with different materials for the four seasons," Carmen explained.

"Go on, tell me more," Linda exclaimed.

"During the months of December and January, the spring designs are being made for fashion shows in February or even earlier. There are hats for all occa-

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