

# ***Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden™***

## Share A Square Fad On A Roll

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Washington, D.C.

It started with laughter. Then the idea hit home. Sobering strategies rose. The virus crisis needed this innovation. “A must!” listeners affirmed. The creators brainstormed and brainstormed, again and again. A gofundme# site bloomed. Handheld, homemade signs received thumbs up. Grins all around, the toiletry soldiers, with giving hearts, strode out of the door to the highways and byways of a strained nation.

Due to the school, restaurant, public gathering, church and synagogue closures, a “hit hard” America has had a deflating American spirit. Fear has taken hold and gripped many of an otherwise humble heart. On top of all of this is the massive, uncoordinated, hoarding of dear toilet paper. One young man in Southern California is even standing in an intersection with a “Take one, give one” sign and a pile of the coveted, and oft needed, rolls of the papery stuff.

The “Share A Square” movement has a more tempered approach. Depending on the brand, there are anywhere from 350 to 500 sheets or squares of toilet paper on a single roll. Pretty amazing figures. As a battle-scarred nation proceeds against its will into selfish panic buying – some wonder who will end up with the last roll of toilet paper? The Share A Square organizers (SAS) think smaller. One square of TP at a time...smaller.

Clutchers of the soft tissue rolls only want what we all want, a clean bottom and er, for some, a clean elsewhere too. Included in the motivation is the pride of “providing for one’s family” or “one’s own.” But, is that thinking only muddying the water? (This cited metaphor is not to be confused with *toilet bowl water*). Volunteers are now going door-to-door, asking total strangers for the donation of one square, in hopes that this will kick-start the “giving spirit of America.” Honestly, who would turn down such a request? If someone balks, they must be experiencing diarrhea. Does anyone hear Tolkien’s Gollum croak “My Precious...”

But some criticize the SAS movement as “a little too little” gesture. Others see it as a mere placebo of the “true” giving spirit. The Girl Scouts are out in force with a copycat endeavor with a different goal in mind. They can earn a merit badge for having collected enough squares to re-make a sporting roll of toilet paper – using glue – end to end. The word “cockamamie” has been applied.

Since most people don’t purchase old-fashioned paper newspapers, needy bottoms cannot be wiped with the latest virus news. For some, that’s one more grumbly complaint of the ever encompassing, ever swallowing, Information Age.

The Internet is awash with anecdotal reports of people breaking into homes and at gunpoint demanding “All of your TP now!” Such lore only fuels more frenzied shopping for another comforting roll and the purchasing of stand up gun safes with biometric locks, for the purpose of protecting the cherished TP. Plus, agitated grandmothers are furiously knitting camouflage colored toilet paper cozies; keeping the coveted rolls in plain sight, but out of harm's way. (Such cozies are now available on Amazon – on back order from China).

If you have a roll in your vehicle and you see someone holding a “Share A Square” sign asking you to do the “Square thing” consider doing so, and do not fear the loss. You’ll feel better for the sacrifice and enjoy a butt wiped, and a clean heart feeling inside instead of only a clean sensation on the outside.