

# Owning One Nice Thing

By ART BUCHWALD  
PARIS — Every woman likes to own "one nice thing." It may be a dress, it may be a suit, it may be a coat, but it gives her a certain amount of happiness to know she's been extravagant about one item in her wardrobe.



**Buchwald** My wife is no different from any other woman in this respect, and last spring she decided to buy her "one nice thing" at Chanel's. It was a cream-colored wool suit with a trim of gold on the jacket pockets and sleeves. She paid somewhere in the neighborhood of three figures for the suit, but she felt it was worth it.

"It was," she said, "the only nice suit I've seen in the collections."

A few weeks later we were dining at the Tour D'Argent when a woman came in wearing the same Chanel suit.

"THAT LADY has the same suit on as you have," I said. My wife seemed a little annoyed, but all she said was, "I recognize her as a Chanel customer. I suppose she has as much right to the suit as I have."

Several days went by and we were taking tea at the George V. Two women walked in, EACH wearing the suit.

I nudged my wife in a friendly fashion. "Don't look now, but those two women are wearing your suit. They look to me like twins."

My wife was so angry she refused to eat her chocolate eclair, so I ate it for her.

**FOR A MONTH** nothing happened. My wife wore her suit and I almost forgot about what it had cost, when one day I was passing a shop in the Lido Arcade, and there in the window was my wife's suit.

I rushed home to tell my wife the good news. She wouldn't believe me, so I insisted on taking her down to the Lido Arcade to see for herself. Sure enough, there it was in the window and selling for about \$90 in francs.

"I think yours is better made," I said, trying to think of something nice to say. But my wife is a very emotional woman and all she kept doing was bite her lips and dab her eyes.

The suit in the Lido Arcade should have been the tip-off for her, but she said: "Maybe the ordinary shop girl won't appreciate the simple design."

How wrong she was! The following week I saw dozens of girls wearing copies of the suit. Some had red fringe, others had black fringe, some were blue, some were green, but the design was the same.

**AT THE END** of each day I came home to report to my wife on how many copies of her suit I had seen that day. I thought on the days she didn't get out that she would like to know. But she seemed very surly when I told her, and once she ran out of the room when I said, "should I

count it as YOUR suit if instead of wool, it's made of orlon with dacron fringe?"

Twelve days later I accidentally saw in a New York paper a full-page ad. Ohr-

bach's was having a sale on my wife's suit. I got so excited I called her immediately.

"Guess what?" I said. "Ohrbach's is having a sale

on my suit," she said. "How did you know?" I asked.

"Why else would you call me at 2 o'clock in the afternoon?" and she hung up.

## Face of San Antonio

By Bob Dale



A city has many faces, the faces of its people, and behind each face is a story. Here is a profile in drawing and words, one of a series through which you may meet interesting individuals. Their features, together with yours, make up the face of San Antonio.

**S.P. STEVENS**, owner of Stevens Outdoor Advertising Co., 239 Windsor St., owns probably one of the most historical antique rifles in existence.

Stevens' fire muzzle-loading weapon was made by Abraham Williams of Oswego, N.Y., who was a contract target rifle maker for snipers of the Union Army during the Civil War.

The late Col. Charles Winthrop Sawyer, World War I arms and ammunition expert said of the rifle now owned by Stevens: "this is a scientist's instrument rather than a mere rifle."

Ned H. Roberts, writing "The Muzzle Loading Cap Lock Rifle," published in 1940, quotes Col. Sawyer further:

"War Department records at Washington show that during the civil war, Capt. John Metcalf, III, of the U.S. Army engineer corps, using this extremely heavy super accurate machine rest rifle, which was shot from a camouflage blind on the top of a high hill, picked off a confederate general at a range of one mile, 187 feet with the first shot. This range had, of course, been ascertained by triangulation by our engineers before the shot was fired, and the angle of elevation was found to be 87 degrees, 57 minutes, 8½ seconds. Deflection and retardation of the bullet by wind and atmosphere over that very

range had, of course, to be very carefully estimated."

The bullet took almost five seconds to reach its target, according to Col. Sawyer who also wrote: "No one really knows the important effects of that one shot on the future events of the war."

Roberts says in his book that a full account of the above incident may be found in Col. Sawyer's book, "Our Rifles" published in 1920.

A few years ago Warner Bros. Studios produced a television film titled "Mile-Long Shot to Kill" for General Electric's "True" series which was narrated by Jack Webb.

The film story of the 37-pound rifle and its incredible one-mile plus shot is identical to that of Col. Sawyer and author Roberts, according to Stevens.

"Little George Lainhart," as his maker dubbed the rifle, has been displayed at national gun shows throughout the country Stevens proudly says, and has never failed to cop an award as the outstanding individual weapon.

Stevens occasionally fires the huge weapon. Seating a .68 caliber conical bullet on 160 grains of black powder, he is able to shoot—at 300 yards—groups of five shots measuring from 5 to 1¾ inches.

Stevens and wife, Elizabeth, have one son, Larry, 18, soon-to-be chemistry major at San Antonio College.