

## What To Look For In A Fur?

# Sauber: A Fur Is No Better Than Its Skin

By Teresa Simmons  
Post Managing Editor

Now how does that song about furs go again? "Furs are a girl's best friend," "I'm a fur watcher," or is it "I'll never have a fur like this again?"

At any rate ask just about any lady how she feels about the luxury of furs and you are bound to get a "fur-brained" reply.

A quality full length fur coat may run you anywhere from three to nine thousand dollars. If your budget is a little more modest perhaps you would prefer a mink or fox jacket which could crease your money bag by two or three thousand dollars.

According to the manager of Anastasia Furs, located in the Charlotte Plaza, 230 S. College St., a fur is no better than its skin. This means that the care of a fur is extremely important. And that care Sue Sauber implies is "...very easy."

"For any fur," Ms. Sauber began, "it's an absolute must to put the coat in storage each year, sometime in April. You can clean it every two to three years depending upon the wear it gets."

What happens if the coat is not properly stored? If you own a fur coat you don't want to see the skin under the fur separate easily. "Storing fur properly protects the skin itself to keep it from drying out. Once the underside skin dries out the coat is virtually worthless and it is easily split," continued Ms. Sauber.

Because Anastasia Furs sells custom made furs, remodels and store furs, Ms. Sauber is familiar with furs that really aren't worth remodeling or repairing.

"I do tell people when it's not worth the money to remodel their coats and most people will not have it restyled."

But when there are others, like the lady with a fur coat worth \$50 who paid \$75 for repairs. Why? "She said she loved that coat," Ms. Sauber stated.

The custom made furs and remodeling are done either in Winston-Salem or in sister stores. The owner of Anastasia is Tom Papastavrou, a furrier for over 20 years. You can even take a photo of a fur you love and give it to Ms. Sauber. All she needs are your measurements and about six weeks and you'll have your fur.

If you are thinking about the benefits of a fur coat, besides the beauty of it, there are plenty. First,



Sue Sauber, manager of Anastasia Furs, loves furs so much that she pets her favorite ones as she enters the shop each morning. (Photo By Teresa Simmons)

think about the money spent on coats in a lifetime. Quality furs are made to last a lifetime with proper care. While a rabbit coat has an actual life span of five years (because of the shedding), foxes and furs have a life expectancy of at least 35 and 45 years, respectively, according to Ms. Sauber. There are other furs to consider including coyote and the American and Canadian lynx.

For the budget conscious lady who would like to purchase a quality fur, Ms. Sauber advises the following: "Learn what it is you are buying. Investigate everybody's furs. Remember that the dollar value or the quality is what you are buying. It is better to educate the budget conscious as opposed to buying something just because it is inexpensive."

If you are looking for preferred and popular brand names in furs try the Saga Fox. Minks are divided into group mink breeders. Examples of minks include Emba and the Black Glama or natural ranch mink.

There are fad styles in minks. According to Ms.

Sauber, the latest is the ¾ great coat. "This coat is found mainly in New York. It's a boxy ¾ length coat." It will be the coat of 1984 but more than likely the fad will be different in 1985.

A classic fur will stay in style forever, Ms. Sauber estimated. "Most of my customers go with the classic look instead of the fad. Fads may last four to five years."

But even with the classic look there is variety. "Anything goes with furs," Ms. Sauber continued.

"Foxes are big and oversized, minks either have the full look or the slim look and the padded shoulders are popular. Custom made coats also have blends of different types of furs." One of the latest in classic furs is the reversible mink. On one side is pure mink while the other side bears a raincoat trimmed in mink.

Naturally the question of whether water will injure the mink around the collar and sleeve came up. "No," was the reply. "In fact, a full length fur coat can get drenched in water." The procedure for drying, Ms. Sauber continued, is to lay the fur on the floor and let it air dry. But don't put the fur near heat - the heat will dry the moisture in the skin of the fur and the skin will begin to crack. After the coat has air dried shake it.

Now that the cold is dawning upon us it is time to wake up those furs that have been in storage since April. If you are lucky enough to own a fur you may have wondered about the proper places to wear it. Ms. Sauber answered that question with a single word and smile, "Anywhere!"



Lamont Norman thinks playing on a bench is as good a way as any to pass the time during a shopping trip to Outlet Square with his grandmother, Dorothy J. Norman. Three year old Lamont, who lives with his grandmother at 2431 Booker Ave., attends Oaklaw Avenue Head Start.

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