



WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

I'm a hat girl. For years and years I never wore hats. I quite simply never even thought about wearing them. I do not recall being around other boys or girls who wore hats either, but that fact changed when I met my country-boy hubby in the summer of 1980.

I was in line for a ride at Six Flags Over Texas when this sexy young man wearing a cowboy hat started up a conversation with me. I became hooked on hats and my husband from that moment on.

My darling man mostly wears cowboy hats and trucker caps. It has to be a really cold winter day for him to settle for a stocking hat. And me? I like variety so I own a lot of different styles and colors appropriate for every season and occasion.

Some women think of hats as an elusive accessory that may or may not fit their face, attitude or personal style. Some women believe wearing them requires confidence.

Whether or not I put on one of my hats is typically dependent on my mood or how big my hair is that day. Indeed, there are some windy, humid Texas days where my wearing a hat is all about hair control.

I have a lot of hair, and of course, there also are some days when my face must have as much shade as possible from the hot Texas sunshine. Then, there are all the other days when I wear a hat to feel sassy, bold or mysterious.

Perhaps you have never been a hat girl and not sure what style would be best for you. There is no shortage of types available to choose from including cowboy hats, of course, panama hats, fedoras, beanies, newsboy caps, floppy sun hats, bucket hats, berets. The list is quite lengthy.

You will find many articles offering suggestions and tips. Honestly, I have never relied on anyone's advice about what type I should wear or not wear.

I mostly rely on how I feel when I look in the mirror wearing a new hat. I will know at that moment whether or not it is coming home with me.

I do have my favorites that I wear more than others. These days one of my latest fa-



Annette Bridges and her family in their hats, along with her 'newsboy' hat and 'trucker hat.' (Photos courtesy Annette Bridges)

vorites is a cowboy hat I recently bought on a mother-daughter shopping trip. In fact, we both bought new hats. I guess you could say we are a hat family.

Still not so sure hat wearing is for you? Of course, that is okay, just do not let anyone else

tell you that you cannot or should not wear them. Wearing a hat can be quite magical. Come to think of it, I do not think wearing a hat requires confidence, rather wearing a hat can make a gal feel confident and in control of her life. 🌟