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Once, in the 1960's, and in the presence of several others, Rachel approached her daughter-in-law, Sandy, towards whom she had always behaved coolly, never having approved of Sandy as the second wife of her younger son. On this occasion, Rachel handed Sandy a small package, announcing, with a broad smile, "I have a present for you." Sandy was overjoyed. At last, she thought, she was finally winning her mother-in-law's favor. In front of everyone, Sandy opened the package with anticipation. Imagine her dismay when she found that it contained a tube of depilatory cream. Rachel brightly announced to everyone that, now, Sandy would be able to rid her legs of excessive hair, thanks to Rachel's inspired gift.

Two incidents, both of which occurred decades later, serve well to illustrate how frugal Rachel was. Once, in the 1940's, when José and Josy were visiting Vancouver, in Washington State, where Laib and Rachel now lived, they accompanied the family to a company picnic given by the lumber company where Laib now worked. After a large meal, Rachel kept urging everyone to help themselves to more ice cream, even though they had all already had second helpings.

"Eat it! Eat more!" she kept pressing, though everyone was full. "It's all free! We don't have to pay for it!"

On another visit to Vancouver in the early 1980's, José wanted to treat Rachel to dinner in a fancy restaurant. He also wanted to invite the Ernie Weinberg family. (Ernie had been a post-doctoral fellow for José years earlier and, after recently settling as a practicing dentist in Vancouver, he had been exceptionally attentive and kind to Rachel.) José got Rachel to the restaurant in the only way he knew how. He arranged for Ernie Weinberg do the actual inviting and specify that the meal would be his treat. Then, later, privately and out of Rachel's hearing, José returned the cost of everyone's meal to Ernie, as had been previously agreed upon. Afterwards, José asked Rachel, "Well, what did you think of the dinner?"

Rachel replied, "Of course, I could have cooked it much better myself. But, since he was the one paying, and not you, it was not bad!"

Once, years later, on a visit that she made to visit José and Josy in Philadelphia, Rachel received a package from Laib back home in Vancouver. It was tied with a piece of coarse yellow rope and, after unwrapping the bundle, Rachel refused to throw the rope away. When asked about this, she replied, "Don't throw it out! It can be used. Take your fingers, spread out the rope, and flatten it as much as you can. Then you have a scouring pad to scrub dirty pots and pans."

Re Gavarron:

José even managed to get, from the University of Pennsylvania, for Federico the title of "Visiting Professor of Biochemistry", and he also included Federico's name with his own in three of the research papers that José was writing at the time.

Re Pepe Alvarez:

Through most of his life, Pepe remained an atheist. However, when he was almost eighty years old, and shortly before he died (of a stroke, one which followed several others over a period of some twenty-years), his wife, Coca, who loved him deeply and who often referred to him as "a leader among men", at last convinced him to take the vows of Catholicism.

It was at the home of Pepe and Coca that José, sometimes by himself, and sometimes with Josy accompanying him, would stay when he later returned to Mexico for visits. There was one room in the house which Coca always referred to as "José's room". It had its own private bathroom and, although small, it was beautifully furnished and tastefully decorated in varying shades of brown. Its style followed a Mexican Indian motif, with pottery displayed on the small table there, and well-placed archeological relics hanging from the walls, enhancing this theme. The room had a couch that could open into a comfortable double bed and, along one wall, there was a wide series of cabinets and closets, some of which were always kept available for José's belongings whenever he would come to visit.

On his first trip back to Mexico, in 1955, after having been away for fifteen years, José registered at the Alameda Hotel in center city, close to the conference headquarters where he was due to present a paper and attend meetings. On his second day there, José returned to his hotel room after a session, to find that all of his belongings were gone. Rushing down to the registration desk in the lobby, he was told by the clerk there, "A distinguished gentleman, a Dr. Alvarez de Villar came by earlier today. He took all of your things with him, and he said to tell you that your place in Mexico City is at his home, not in a hotel room! He also said that if you want your things back, you'd better come to his house immediately. It's in the Tlacopac area near the famous San Angel Inn! You know, that beautiful old section of the city, where the pavements are cobblestone, and all the houses are in the colonial style!" From that time on, and for years to come, it was at Pepe's and Coca's home in San Angel-Tlacopac where José came to stay, almost every time that he visited Mexico City.

In 1971, Pepe had the first of a long series of strokes that gradually weakened him, and eventually left him crippled and confined to a wheel chair. During the last ten or fifteen years of their marriage, Coca continued to remain ever more devoted to him, constantly encouraging him, and attending to him with

the help of a male nurse named Señor Mendieta. This man lived in the house twenty-four hours a day, slept in the bed beside Pepe's, and became Pepe's companion, almost a brother to him. Coca, despite her full-time job at Petroleos, which was very demanding, continued to attend to Pepe's physical, spiritual, and intellectual needs as if he were her child. She saw to it that he was taken (in his wheelchair) to concerts, ballets, lectures, and theater performances and, in this way, she helped to keep his spirits up, and his mind alert. Coca also made parties, and encouraged a constant stream of visitors to come to the house. She remained a most devoted wife, and her ideas in enriching Pepe's life during these difficult times, were truly inspired. Theirs was an exemplary life of intense devotion for one another.