

EL PASO HERALD-POST

Class

Texas Western's First Woman Electrical Engineering Graduate Gets Rocket Base Job

Martha Sue Schooler Is Now Employed Engineer in Secret Area of White Sands

By ANN POOLEY

Sue Schooler, 30, first woman electrical engineering graduate at Texas Western College, has a job at White Sands Proving Ground.

Although she has finished her work at the college, she will officially get her diploma at June Commencement.

Professor Gets Architects' Award

Architect's Week in El Paso will come to a close today when members of the El Paso Chapter of the American Institute of Architects present their annual Fine Arts Award.

Robert Massey, assistant professor of arts at Texas Western College, was named the winner of the award.

He and Mrs. Massey were to be honored guests at a banquet to be held in the Hilton Hotel today starting at 8:30 p. m.

Mr. Massey is perhaps best known for his recent works in mosaics, including the work he did with Paul Tetzner in designing and creating the large enamel mosaic at the State National Bank building. It is one of the largest such mosaics in the U. S.

He is also active in frescoes, carved reliefs, paintings, etchings and sculpture.

Mr. Massey has been a member of the staff at TWC for the past four years and recently completed work on the college seal at Texas Western College which was done in ceramic tile and is displayed at the administration building.

Architect's Week has also been highlighted by the presentation of the annual Craftsmanship Award earlier this week to a 69-year-old mason, Colley Hodges.

Harry Lane is general chairman of Architect's Week, while Clarence Higgins is president of the El Paso Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Pistol, Valuable Watch Are Stolen From Home

Charles C. Davis of 3911 Jefferson street reported a foreign-made automatic pistol, one woman's diamond wrist watch and one antique bowl stolen from his home.

He said he doesn't know when they were taken.

At White Sands Proving Ground, she is in the telemetry department. She is the only woman engineer working at the rocket base.

Nothing in Radio

Sue is unassuming about her achievement. She spent two semesters studying radio at TWC after she graduated from Austin High School in January, 1953.

She said, "Actually a boy talked me into going into electrical engineering. I wanted to be a radio engineer, but this was the closest thing to it. I found out after I got started that I didn't really care about radio after all."

She didn't mind the all male classes, Sue said, because she got to be "just another guy." She found her work difficult, but "liked it real well." She said a lot of her studying was done with the men students, and much of it by phone.

Sue's background helped to arouse interest in this "man's field" she has invaded. Her father, Lee W. Schooler, was a mechanic with Douglas Aircraft Co. in California. He suggested several modifications on the C-47 transport plane, and held a supervisory position with the company before his death in 1944.

She Looked Around

A year later Sue's mother died, and the nine-year-old girl went to Toyah, Texas, to live with her grandmother, Mrs. Ada M. Gaines. In 1950, Mrs. Gaines and Sue moved to El Paso, and Sue entered high school. They live at 605 Regan drive with Sue's aunt, Fannie Graham, and her cousin, Sharon.

When she finished her studies at Texas Western, Sue looked around briefly at jobs. One for which she applied would have taken her to the East Coast, but she decided she wanted to stay in El Paso.

"White Sands is the best place for an engineer to work around here," she said.

"I am still being investigated," she said. I have a card which allows me to get in and out of the 'tech area' where I work, but it is marked to show that I haven't



SUE SCHOOLER, Texas Western's first woman graduate in Electrical Engineering.

been cleared yet. I have to have an escort everywhere I go, even inside the building.

"Telemetry was new to me. I had never studied it. It is the process by which tape recorded signals from missiles during flight are converted into voltage, which in turn can be charted. We also use films and graphs."

Sue says the people she works

with "are half the job." She said, "They didn't expect me to know everything."

"I don't intend to be a career woman," Sue added. "But I'd like to continue a couple of years so I can say I have been independent."

She may study some more electronics in September in courses of

her profession is simply: "Why?"

She was so busy studying engineering courses in college, she said, that she didn't have time to do the reading she wanted to do. So she is now reading Shakespeare, and plans to continue with other classical books.

Sue says the most common reaction when people first learn of her profession is simply: "Why?"

Zoning Board Considers Car Racing Track

The Zoning Board of Adjustment took under advisement a request by Sam Marx yesterday that he be permitted to operate a race track in a residential zone. The

race track, now listed under a non-conforming use, is at 5100 Eagle lane, off Dyer street. It has been used for auto races.

The Board also denied a request

by Adalee Crutchfield for a special exemption to convert part of a non-conforming building into a day nursery at 2808 Grant avenue.

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