

STRIVES TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT

By Tom Bryan

This is a woman's world, it appears—at least insofar as carrying out some civic improvement projects.

El Paso has several outstanding women, such as Mrs. C.J. Hatchett, who have made efforts to better the City.

Mrs. Hatchett, named to Who's Who of the American Association of University Women in 1953, is a past-chairman-director of the Women's Department of El Paso Chamber of Commerce, organizer of city-wide campaigns for "decent" literature, The El Paso Times 1954 Deck the Halls contest co-chairman and current first vice president of the local chapter of AAUW.

"I love people," she explained.

Making El Paso a better place to live in also is a "selfish" motive on her part. She has wanted to provide a healthy environment for her three children to grow up in.

"My hobbies involve trying to enjoy what my husband (El Paso Sheriff's Posse past president) likes to do—ride horses," she said.

She also included watching her sons, Jerry, 19, a Los Angeles Harbor College, San Pedro, Calif., student, and Joele, 12, play tennis as hobbies. Both are championship players.

Her daughter, Joy Dee—Mrs. Lewis Price Jr., of La Grange, Ga., who has three children of her 'own—is a former Texas Western College student, TWC cheerleader, Fabens Cotton Festival Queen, TWC Posture Queen and Summer School Queen, and was selected by motion picture producer Cecil B. DeMille as a TWC Flowsheet Queen.

Mrs. Hatchett is the former Isabel Abdou. She was born in Dallas, and came to El Paso with her

parents when she was an infant. Her father was a pioneer El Paso businessman, Salim Nicklis Abdou. Both parents were natives of Mt. Lebanon, Lebanon—then a part of Syria—and were childhood friends who met again in Texas where they married.



HAPPY HOME LIFE—Mrs. C.J. Hatchett of 3010 Gold Ave., one of El Paso's hardest working civic leaders, has dedicated her life to creating a healthy happy environment in her home and community for her family—including Bon Soir, a standard black French poodle who has won his share of honors in dog shows. Bon Soir is quite a ham—it was his idea to pose with Mrs. Hatchett for this photograph.—(Times Staff Photo)

She said she was a little girl when the late Gen. John J. Pershing came to El Paso for the dedication of Pershing Drive at the time the thoroughfare's name was changed from Bliss Street. She was standing on the corner of Pershing Drive and Raynor Street dressed in her little white outfit waiting for the parade honoring Gen. Pershing to go by, when some parade officials asked her to present a bouquet of roses to the general on behalf of the City.

FIRST GRADUATE

Isabel Abdou, the first girl to graduate from the Texas School of Mines-TWC—business admin-

istration department (in 1933), launched her career as a community leader at the college.

She composed and edited the first TWC new students handbook; assisted in editing the campus newspaper, "Prospector," assisted in editing the TWC yearbook, "Flow Sheet;" was head cheerleader, and was Coed Association president for three years.

When she graduated from the School of Mines, and editorial, "We Will Miss You, Izzy!" ran in the Prospector. During her senior year she was named the first "All Mines Girl."

Her work on behalf of the college continued after she graduated. She served without pay as Ex-Students Association secretary during five administrations and from 1934-42 worked in the college business office, as assistant to the registrar, and as secretary to the late deans John W. Kidd and C.A. Puckett.

In 1955 Mrs. Hatchett helped start the Chamber Women's Department Texas Western Committee to help raise scholarships, assist foreign students and promote campus beautification.

In 1954, she initiated El Paso's Litterbug Clean-Up Campaign, which was directed by the Chamber Women's Department.

Mrs. Hatchett was chairman-director of the Chamber of Commerce Women's Department 1959-60. The City of El Paso presented her an Award of Merit for her outstanding service during the term of office.

El Paso won a certificate of Achievement in the National Cleanest Town contest for a coordinated program involving 125 civic, social and service clubs, schools churches, city officials, area military installations and Juarez officials.

She initiated "Welcome to El Paso" highway signs, with TWC art students competing in a sign contest judged by the City Council.

Also during her administration the Women's Department of the Chamber of Commerce of Merit for its safety project, publicized a bro-

chure of "Dos and Don'ts" for children with strangers and organized the Woman's International Chamber of Commerce and Foreign Relations Committee—which have been merged into a Central Council for International Visitors.

Mrs. Hatchett was co-chairman of AAUW's "Comida Musicale" luncheon in Juarez which served 600 women to raise scholarship funds for "women of international scope." Through the AAUW she initiated the "Veranillo de San Martin," or "Indian Summer International Tour of Homes."

She has received recognition for her work in El Paso Community Concert Association. For three years she was a Teacher Appreciation essay contest judge for the Pilot club. She was the Project Alert of El Paso secretary and board member for three years.

Some of the fund drives she has lead are United Fund, TWC's first Alumni Fund Drive and the Women's Committee for today's Sun Bowl Stadium.

Other organizations she has served are Providence Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, El Paso Historical Society, Pleiades Chapter No. 620 of the Order of Eastern Star, El Paso County Humane Society, Delta Gamma Mothers Club, Cub Scouts as a den mother, Crockett School and Austin High School PTA, Home Council of the Booth Memorial Home of the Salvation Army, Manhattan Garden Club and the boards of directors of USO, El Paso County Tuberculosis Association, YWCA, Better Business Bureau and the Women's Auxiliary of TWC.

The Hatchetts are members of St. Clement's Episcopal Church, where she was a choir member for 10 years, and has served as Magazine Distribution chairman, Girls Friendly chairman and Kettler Guild member.

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Southwesterner In Focus

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