

Today's Women



Southwest's "Early Risers" sing for the Corine Hachtman scholarship fund. Front row (from left) are: Rick Eccher; Bob Watson; Bob Sherwin; Back row (from left) Ron McMullen, Warren Leong, Ron Fear, Bob Gebhardt.



Washing cars to raise scholarship funds (from left) Sue Biederman, Evelyn Onwuachi, Judy O'Connell, Ann Sherwin. (Post-Dispatch Photographs by Louis Phillips)

A Teacher to Remember

By Connie Rosenbaum

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

THE PROTEST MOVEMENT is sifting down to the high school level and many students are participating in antiwar and anti-draft activities. But at Southwest High School students are organizing a positive movement. They are mobilizing for a memorial scholarship fund in honor of Miss Corine Hachtman.

Miss Hachtman, an English teacher who was a member of the original faculty at Southwest in 1937, had become a legend at the school. Totally involved in school activities and clubs, she devoted her life to her students and they returned her affections. A flurry of activity followed her death in March

kid feel important." "She encouraged us to be open minded and receptive," said Kathy Keaton. "Working to preserve her memory is a pleasure."

EVEN the more rebellious students responded to Miss Hachtman's kindness.

"When I first met Miss Hachtman," wrote one boy, "I couldn't believe that anyone was that good and loving. I thought she was putting up a front. But as I grew to know her more intimately I realized that she was always on the side of peace, love and gentility."

Alumni groups and other clubs have donated funds and the fund now has almost \$2000. Contributions can be sent to Miss Lee Meyer at Southwest.

The support for Miss Hachtman was no surprise to her co-workers. Miss Helen Skinner, her friend for the last 30 years, said, "She had so much confidence in these kids. She believed in them and was able to bring out the best they had to offer. Even though she never gave a grade below a B, she inspired them to achieve their top capacity. They really want her to be remembered."

MISS HACHTMAN attended Cleveland High School, Harris Teachers College and Washington University. She received a master's degree in education from Washington University. After graduation, she was appointed assistant director of the city playgrounds and directed children's dance programs. Later, she did substitute teaching at Clinton Peabody School before coming to Southwest.

For 32 years she served the school, working as many as 16 hours some days. She taught English, was head of the department, sponsored the senior class and the Student Council and directed operetta productions.

"The school was her life," said Mr. Close. "It's hard to find such devoted teachers today. Most are young and have families and other social obligations but Miss Hachtman was totally committed to Southwest."

Always eager to have the students express themselves clearly, Miss Hachtman worked with them on the literary magazine and on their compositions. Also, she coached oration. This year, under her direction, Craig Marks, Student Council president, won a state essay contest, David Jung won an oratorical award and Rick Eccher received a \$1780 college scholarship.

Music was her main outside interest. She saw every show at the theater and subscribed to the Municipal Opera. She was also intensely involved in operetta. She supervised more than 25 productions with Miss Lee Meyer, another teacher at Southwest, and produced playground pageants.

A DANCER herself, Miss Hachtman once was offered a job with the Rockettes. How-

ever, she seldom performed in public, preferring to encourage her students to display their talents.

In 1964 she wrote and co-ordinated the St. Louis schools' contribution to the Bicentennial, "The Story of a City." The pageant involved more than 4000 students at Kiel Auditorium. Working with Miss Meyer and Mrs. Helen Herminghaus, she directed and produced the extensive program for the in-service meeting of the teachers which traced the development of the city.

Amid shifting social values and standards, Miss Hachtman maintained a strong moral stance.

"Such total goodness is hard to find," said Robert M. Young, principal of the school, who was a member of the original faculty with Miss Hachtman. "She was the most humanistic person I have ever known."



Miss Hachtman coached David Jung in oratory the morning before she died. He said her aid helped him win the trophy.



Marilyn Popovich (left) and Liz Dubis sell tickets for the May Fair dance and carnival sponsored by the Student Council. Profits from the booths went to the scholarship fund.



Miss Corine Hachtman

from a blood disease. The Student Council sponsored a spring dance and carnival, May Fair, and donated more than \$400 from the booths to her fund. The girls in the athletic association held a Saturday car wash and so did the members of the Spanish Club.

Groups representing her two main interests, music and writing, also donated sizable sums to the fund. The concert choir pledged funds they received for entertaining and so did the Early Risers, an octet that practices before their 8 a.m. class. The Pioneer newspaper and the Roundup yearbook collected contributions from their staff members.

MISS HACHTMAN never married and she dedicated her life to Southwest and her students.

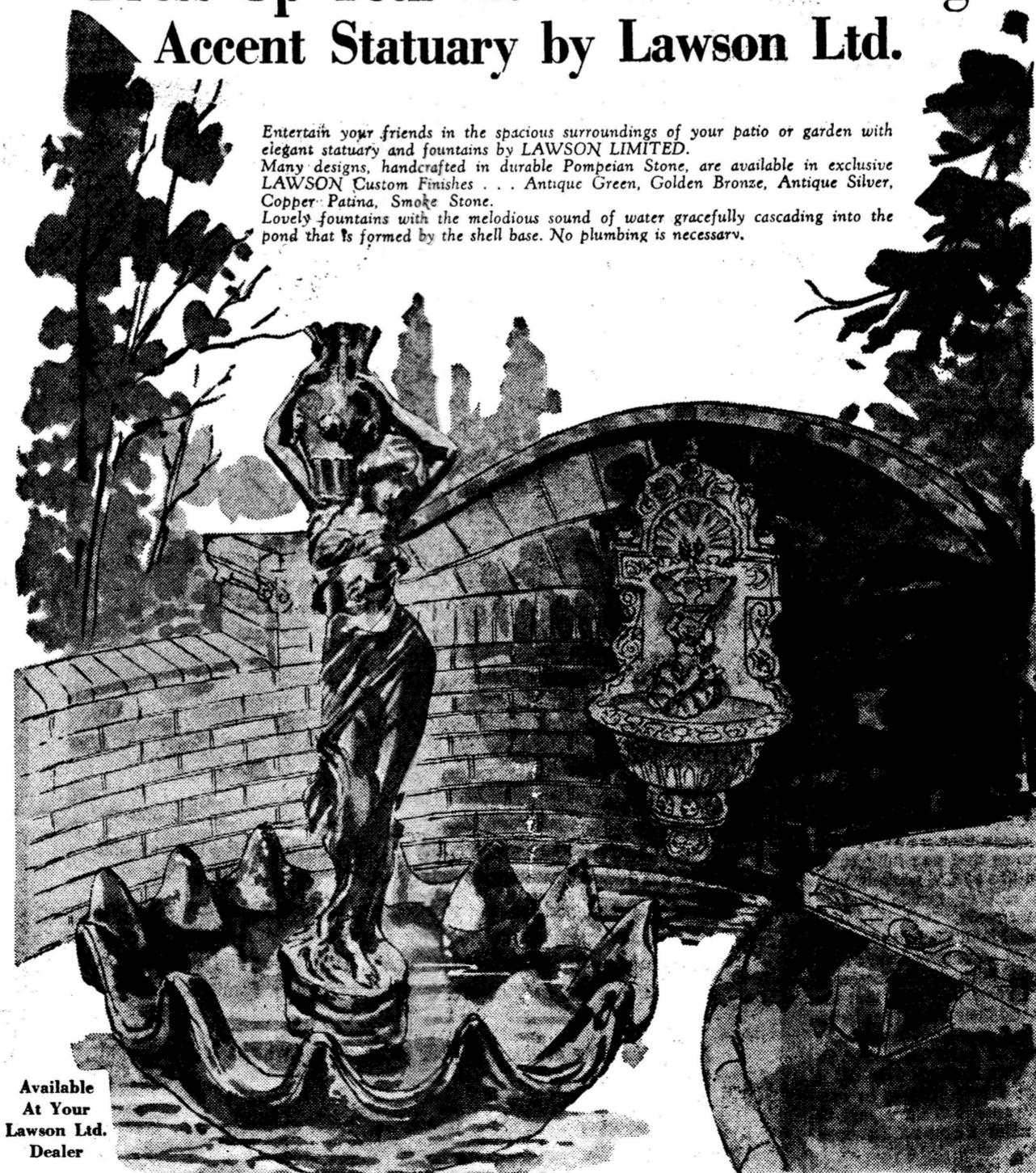
"All teachers can get to some students," said John Close, assistant principal, "but Miss Hachtman was able to touch everyone with whom she came in contact. She got an ovation every time her name was mentioned in the auditorium."

The students demonstrated their admiration for her in letters written in her class. They praised her and described her as kind, loving, near perfection, and always considerate.

"She was always willing to help a student," said one boy, "and she knew how to make a

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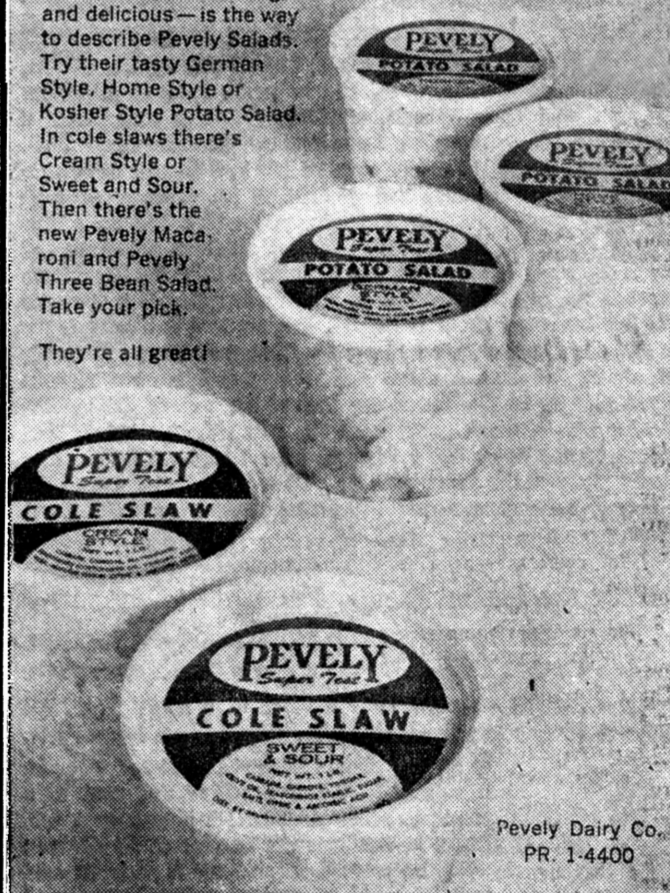
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POST-DISPATCH

Gardening Safety Tips

NEW YORK, May 23 (UPI) **WOMEN WHO GARDEN** need to take precautions if they want to keep their green thumbs—and all the rest of the hands—from turning rough and red.

"Gloves should be worn whenever possible," a pharmaceutical company producing a "Gardener's Hands" booklet notes.

Chapping is the first sign of damage. Hands chap faster than other parts of the body because there are fewer oil glands on the backs of hands.

When not wearing gloves, coat the hands with a lotion before and after gardening.

Other tips for the gardener who wants to avoid trouble:

Try to keep first aid supplies in the tool shed as well as in the house.

Put tools away after using.

Do not leave them around where they can be tripped over, especially if there are sharp edges.

Do not spray or dust chemicals on a windy day.

When not in use, keep container tops tightly closed, especially chemicals. It is preferable to put them under lock, out of reach of youngsters and pets.

If you are told to wear protective clothing or a face mask when using some chemical preparations, do so.

When using pesticides, even nonflammable ones, do not smoke. A pesticide can be carried from hand to mouth by a cigarette. Before smoking, eating or drinking after using the bug killers wash face and hands with soap and water.