

Bohemian Schoolmarm Now Torrance Principal

In a school district that boasts 39 principals, Mrs. Charles H. Booz, principal of Fern-Greenwood School, bears the unique distinction of being the only schoolmarm in the group.

Soft-spoken Ellen Booz also bears a less obvious distinction—She can rightfully be called a Bohemian.

It's not that Mrs. Booz has a Beatnik bent. She doesn't drink Espresso coffee. And she neither reads avant-garde li-

terature, preaches Existentialism, nor wears t o r e a d o r pants. Ladylike in every sense of the word she is Bohemian by birth.

Eldest daughter of a Czechoslovakian minister, Mrs. Booz was steeped in the tradition of her forefathers from earliest childhood. When her family left her native Cleveland, they made their home in a Czechoslovakian section of Chicago where life centered around her father's

church. English was a foreign tongue in the neighborhood.

AT THE TIME young Ellen entered school she heard English spoken for the first time. The language was as new to her classmates as it was to her. Picking up the language readily, Ellen was appointed by her teacher to spend recesses tutoring her fellow-kindergartners in English. The experience was so rewarding that then and there

she decided that someday she would be a teacher—an English teacher.

Her familiarity with both cultures brought her both fortune and misfortune in her teens. On the lucky side of the ledger, she covered the Bohemian Club beat for the high school paper and as a result of these endeavors earned a summer scholarship to Czechoslovakia.

But when she decided to bring English into the church

and proceeded to teach a Sunday School class in English, her father was called on the carpet by the church higher-ups for defying tradition. He went to bat for Ellen's ideology and succeeded in convincing the old guard of the church that in America there was a place for English in the classroom, if not in the sanctuary.

HIS OLD world schooling would not permit him, how-

ever, to agree to his daughter attending a large metropolitan university. When Ellen was awarded a scholarship to the University of Chicago, he advised her to turn it down. Instead she went off to Illinois to study teaching at Carthage College, a small-town school which later moved to Kenosha, Wis. She came out with a bachelor's degree and a fiancé, Charles Booz.

plus a few unanticipated extras in the form of Latin, French and girls' physical education—in Arthur, Ill., for three years, Ellen married, moved to Chicago, and taught seven more years.

When her own daughter was born, she retired—permanently, she thought, keeping house in Evanston, Ill., was a full time job.

IT WAS AS a mother and PTA member that she next had contact with schools. Enrolling her four-year-old girl in a junior kindergarten class, she found herself involved in an accompanying PTA-sponsored parent education class

in pre-school child psychology. Teachers and pediatricians from the National College of Kindergartens of Northwestern University spoke to the mothers at weekly meetings on how to prepare their children for kindergarten. As a result, Ellen Booz found herself interested in what was to her a new phase of education—education of primary age children. She decided to go back to college and train herself along these lines. The Booz family moved to California in 1952 when Charles' insurance firm transferred him here.

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