

FBI's Top MAY 12 1972 Woman From Stanford SFChronicle

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Barbara Herwig, named yesterday to the highest FBI post ever held by a woman, was a 1967 graduate of Stanford University and obtained her law degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

She recalls attending a recruiting session held by the FBI when she was in law school. "After I was told they didn't accept women agents, well, I didn't expect to wind up here."

But yesterday, the young attorney was informed by L. Patrick Gray III that she will continue to be his special assistant as he moves into his new job as acting director of the FBI.

The move will mean that, at the age of 27, the former Californian will become the first woman to hold such a substantive role in an agency that has been male-

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BARBARA HERWIG
She prefers Ms.

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dominated since its birth half a century ago.

"It may take a bit of getting used to," she said, "but I try to act like a professional, and I hope I will be accepted as one."

She said, in a tough tone followed by a quick-laugh: "I'd better be."

A colleague of Gray's staff added, "If there are any die-hards in the FBI who think this shouldn't happen, I can only say that there couldn't be a better person for the job."

The qualities her friends cite are determination, perseverance and a quick mind, combined with a logical approach to problems and what one friend called "open-mindedness."

"She is really one of the few, really bright, intellectual type conservatives I know," said a friend who knew her in college.

PATH

For Miss Herwig — who prefers the title Ms. but would like better still something "more pronounceable" — the path from public school in California to FBI headquarters was as straight as an FBI special agent.

In November, of 1970, after an interview with a Justice Department recruiter who later went to the Supreme Court — William H. Rehnquist — she went to work for the civil division of the department here in the appellate section.

The following March, as she remembers, "I got a call and was asked if I'd like to be considered for the job of special assistant to Mr. Gray, and I said, "Of course."

Of the acting FBI director, she says, "he's a great man,

you learn a lot from him." He calls her, "an excellent appellate lawyer."

MOVEMENT

Regarding women's liberation, she "supports that part of the movement that is for equal employment and equal play, but I'm not in sympathy with that part of the movement that says men are bad, we should have a completely different society."

She uses the title "Ms." to address other women unless they do not prefer it, and also uses it herself. "It drives the airlines wild," she said.

A law school friend recalled that Miss Herwig was active in a law school women's movement at Berkeley that effectively campaigned against law firms with "sexist" leaning that recruited on the campus.

After graduation, the friend added, Miss Herwig "got to argue in court long before anybody else in our class that I can recall."

ELEVATOR

Miss Herwig conceded yesterday that she had little knowledge of the internal workings of the FBI. She did not know J. Edgar Hoover, although she "ran into him in the elevator a few times."

As for her future work, she would like to help recruit women agents for the bureau. Her work for Gray has consisted of undertaking "special projects of any kind," she said, but she is not sure of what her new responsibilities will entail.

Outside of the office, she described herself as a "book enthusiast" rather than a sports enthusiast. She lives alone in an apartment in the southwest section of the city, not far from the Justice Department.