

Woman in High Post at F.B.I.

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Barbara Lynn Herwig MAY 12 1972

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WASHINGTON, May 11—

Barbara Lynn Herwig recalls attending a recruiting session by the Federal Bureau of Investigation 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," she says. But today, the lawyer

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was informed by L. Patrick Gray 3d that she would continue to be his special assistant as he moves into his new job as acting director of the bureau. The move means that, at the age of 27 years, she will become the first woman to play a major role in an agency that has been male-dominated since its birth half a century ago.

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

Then, in a tough tone followed by a quick laugh, she added, "I'd better be."

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

Determination Is Cited

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

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

For Miss Herwig, who prefers the title Ms. but would like still better a "more pronounceable" title, the path from public school in California to F.B.I. headquarters



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Logical and open minded

was as straight as an F.B.I. special agent

She graduated from Stanford University in 1967 and obtained her law degree three years later from Boalt Hall

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

Backs Part of Movement

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 F.B.I. director, she says, "He's a great man, you learn a lot from him." Mr. Gray calls her "an excellent appellate lawyer."

As to women's liberation, she said that she supported "that part of the movement that is for equal employment

and equal pay, 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. "It drives the airlines wild," she said.

A law school friend recalled that Miss Herwig had been active in a women's movement at Berkeley that effectively campaigned against law firms with "sexist" leanings 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."

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

She said that she would like to help recruit women agents if Mr. Gray decided that the bureau should accept them. Her work for Mr. Gray has consisted of undertaking "special projects of any kind," she said, but she is not sure what her new responsibilities will entail.

Outside the office, as she described herself, she is 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.

She has no pets. "I'd love to raise a tiger cub," she said, "a pet that would go well with the image of an ardent women's lib advocate." But in the next breath she confessed that among her favorite pastimes were sewing and cooking, at which she is said to be very adept.