

# Teacher Still Does at 80

## Retired, but Aids Foreign Born

BY JEAN KOTULAK

Miss Minnie Dunwell has been a retired teacher for 15 years, but sometimes, she forgets.

Altho the sprightly Miss Dunwell will celebrate her 80th birthday today, she has never quite broken her habit of teaching. Miss Dunwell, who lives at 811 Judson av., Evanston, retired in 1948 after a 43 year career as an educator.

### Now Is A Tutor

Three years were spent in Valparaiso, Ind., and the other 40 in Chicago, where Miss Dunwell taught at McKinley and Senn High schools. Since her retirement, Miss Dunwell has been tutoring students, many of them foreign-born, who have difficulty learning the English language.

Working with St. Mark Episcopal church in Evanston, which has a program for foreign students, Miss Dunwell has tutored Mexican and Greek youngsters. "My hardest job was trying to teach English to a Korean boy," Miss Dunwell said. "I had no Korean dictionary, and had to rely on pictures."

Former students, some of whom she met for the first time a half century ago, still correspond with the educator. Among her former pupils are judges, interior decorators, and many professional persons. She regularly receives letters from Wallace Deuel, who is with the Central Intelligence agency in Washington, D. C., and Milton Preves, who resigned from the Oak Park symphony in protest against segregation.

### Describes Her Profession

In a prize-winning letter to THE TRIBUNE in a "What I Like About Teaching" contest 10 years ago, Miss Dunwell defined teaching as "passing on the best that has been known and thought in the world."

Association with youth adds zest to living, she said. Teaching methods have changed thru the years and so have the students, Miss Dunwell said.



Miss Minnie Dunwell, 811 Judson av., Evanston, reads letter from form student who now is with Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D. C. Former Senn High school teacher has been retired for 15 years but still tutors. (TRIBUNE Staff Photo)

"In World War I, many Chicago neighborhoods had a large percentage of foreign-born residents," she said. "These youngsters made wonderful students—they seemed very responsible in their studies, and were extremely interested in the world around them."

"But during World War II, many of the youngsters came from homes where both parents worked. Some of these students held jobs themselves. They seemed to have too much money and too many material things at an early age. Naturally, as interest focused on different things, school fell a little behind in importance in their lives."

### Likes Young People

"But on the whole, I think our young people are the best in the world."

The educator doesn't like tests "which ask for a simple yes or no answer." The teacher profoundly influences a student's attitude toward the world,

and must help the student to think.

Miss Dunwell was born in Chicago on the west side. She received a degree and Phi Beta Kappa key from the University of Chicago.

Because she has no immediate family, she lives alone, does her own housework, and is active in church work. She has been on the board of the St. Mary's Children's home for 10 years.

When she isn't tutoring, the 80-year-old youngster works for her favorite charity — the children's home. "We are holding our annual benefit luncheon Tuesday in the Drake hotel," she said.

Miss Dunwell is pleased that her 80th birthday falls on Easter. "Several times, my birthday fell on Good Friday," she said.

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