

MINNIE BELL BOOTH

Minnie Bell Booth was the first recipient of the J. W. Norwood Distinguished Alumni Award in 1983. She came from a long line of early Burleson settlers and she had the opportunity to be a student of pioneer Burleson educator, J. W. Norwood.

She taught mathematics for 58 years, many of them at Burleson High School. She was very active as a sponsor for numerous clubs and organizations at Burleson High including the camera club and the yearbook staff. She wrote the words and music to the Burleson High School song. In 1983, she was instrumental in the creation of scholarships for Burleson Seniors through the Burleson Exes Organization.

Ms. Booth graduated from Burleson High School in 1938 then graduated from Texas Wesleyan College (TWC) in 1941 with degrees in Social Science and Mathematics. For her post graduate work, she returned to TWC and received her Master's Degree in 1962. Later she attended the University of Wyoming, Boston College and Texas Christian University on a National Science Foundation scholarship. She was a life-long student and took classes at many other colleges and universities. She was an early advocate of computers and wrote much of the operating software for the TRS-80, a desktop microcomputer developed by Tandy Corporation in 1977.

REMEMBRANCES:

From Jean Clark BHS 1946

Many do not know that Minnie Bell was a Magician. She traveled all over Johnson County doing Magic Shows, mostly for Church's Youth Groups. She was pretty good at this but did not like for anyone to question her about a trick. She also was the High School Girls Basketball Coach for a good while. It would have been around 1944-45-46. She volunteered each year to be a Chaperon for the Junior and Senior Hunt. You might not be familiar with this as they probably don't do this now. It was a big event then and the students really looked forward to it. The Seniors would go and hide

somewhere in town and when the big school bell rang, the Juniors would take off and try to find the Seniors. Minnie Bell was instrumental in finding and arranging approval for the hiding places, such as the old Railroad Depot, First Baptist Church and the Locker Plant and more. Then afterwards she would arrange for both classes to eat in the Gym. This was so much fun. She always drove a new car and she named all of them BUELAH. We all had so much fun with that. She was so good to pick up and take kids to special events, even out of town. She taught Typing and Bookkeeping to me. She was active in the Interscholastic League and would carry us to Cleburne each year for the State Finals. I probably could go on and on, but I feel blessed to have known her and have her for a teacher and friend. Hope this is a little bit of info you might like.

From Brooks Hunt BHS 1967

I've many fond memories of Minnie Bell. She used to take her nephew Harold Booth and me anywhere we wanted to go, including scary Hitchcock movies. I'd forgotten the many new "Beulah" cars that she would let Harold and I drive at age 12!!!! I miss her to this day.