

Thru My Window:

Miss Betty Elmen: Kindergarten Director



WHEN Betty Elmen was in grade school, she decided to become a kindergarten teacher. Today, she's director of the Prescott school kindergarten and has been guiding five-year-olds thru their first year of formal education for a number of years.

When fresh scrubbed youngsters show up for their first day of school, Miss Elmen has observed, many of them lack self-confidence, are timid and retiring. At the end of the first couple of weeks, a marked change is apparent as the child's interest in group activity expands, literally before her eyes.

teacher, but more important, Miss Elmen feels, it's gratifying to the child: to be able to feel he's become a part of a community.

Miss Elmen likens a kindergarten teacher to a bus driver, steering a group of "passengers" down a difficult road, needing always to be alert for sudden curves and danger signs.

As Miss Elmen stands at her window and watches her charges—there are 71, split into morning and afternoon classes—trudge homeward, bundled against the cold, she feels a warm satisfaction; a satisfaction of helping little children to help themselves.