

Part III -- Miss Celia Foley
by

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We have had many fine leaders and teachers in the Fort Wayne public schools. No single one ever was more devoted to the cause or more effective in leadership than Miss Foley. She served during a period of great need for the type of leadership she reflected and for the loyal purposes she so definitely served. She began teaching in the year 1888 and served as teacher and principal until June, 1936. She was principal of Miner School from 1903 to 1936.

I had many very fine associations with Miss Foley and each one was marked by a definite interest in the children and well being of the school.

I can mention two or three that were typical. She was ill at her home and I went to call and see if any need existed. She said, "I have wanted to see you, I know your interest in the youth who has ability but need for money for education. I have a few 'cats and dogs' that I want to convert to the cause". She was the soul of humor and this was her way of saying she wished to establish a number of scholarships for youth of families connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad. This was the beginning of the Foley Scholarships and the value ran close to \$150,000.00.

We now have a teacher who received this benefit in our schools, Miss June Elaine Shoner.

Many more have completed their education and many more than these will have this opportunity.

The Foley Scholarships will reflect to the thoughtfulness and interest of young people.

I had a call from Miss Foley at the close of the school year in 1936. She came for a conference which I felt sure was to voluntarily conclude her work. Neither of us mentioned this fact, and it was closed as an incident of interest in school endeavors and God-speed for a visit to England and Ireland. She had barely concluded her trip when she poured in beautiful quality of writing her resignation from London. It was not easy to think of her leaving our schools and leaving the Miner principalship where she had been so faithful, loyal and efficient. I loved her rich sense of humor. She invited a very prominent judge here to speak to her Boy Scouts. She immediately observed that in the home of the speaker and my own that only girls could be found among the children. She was firm, but just. She was understanding and kind beneath it all. She believed in high standards in the classroom and worked for them. We hope that her spirit will live in the hearts of her children and that her fine leadership will ever be a standard for each one of us.