

Part 2 -- of PTA: Material Contributions to School

Miner patrons have traditionally been willing to walk the extra mile for adding just a little something special to the bare essentials provided by the school board. Many enjoyable features have been added to the school to enhance the children's classroom experiences. A number of office machines and like equipment to facilitate the work of the faculty has been installed. Also many facilities to enable us to enjoy the fellowship of a social hour have been provided by the PTA.

PTA is fundamentally a non-profit organization, so fund raising should never be of primary importance. However, we know that all organizations must have funds to provide the "wherewithal" for operating expenses. In the early years of PTA, the operating budgets were relatively small and fund raising projects few. Actually, this is not what I want to say at all. Even though the amount of money needed was relatively small, often it took many projects over the year to raise that amount. In recent years, however, the projects have been reduced to one or two big concentrated efforts with an all out approach. This has proved very successful. Family fun nights, or a carnival type endeavor, has been the one most used at Miner.

Over a thirty-five year span profits from these various fund raising events have varied from \$50 to over \$1,000 in recent years. In the depression years extra dimes for anything short of dire need were practically nil. During the war years with the high cost of living, everyone was urged to spend cautiously and to divert extra money into defense bonds. So during these periods it was most difficult to raise funds for school purposes. I mention this only to give a fair picture of the entire span of time covered by this history. The effort has always been commendable and the results were also, but the economic period must be considered to make the picture rational. For instance, the story of raising \$300 for the Foley Library is a very poignant example of this. You will remember the details of this as mentioned in a previous chapter. To get the \$300 in one short year was a mountainous task. In the last year or so we have been able to net \$1000 in one carnival event. Please do not misunderstand me, for I am not trying to minimize the efforts of anyone. The total picture is what I am aiming to present.

There has always been a deep concern by Miner patrons to furnish some of the things that would add to the usefulness of our school, when it was not possible for the school board to appropriate funds for these items. As one Principal put--"It simply meant the difference between whether we wanted the things now and were willing to provide the money for them; or, patiently wait until the Board could comply with our requests--knowing that some of them would never be considered."

I hesitate to compile a list of the things contributed to the school by PTA projects. In the first place I can't possibly itemize them all. Secondly, if I fail to mention some project for a particular year, the feeling might result that it was not consider-