

the last 40 years. A large kindergarten room, office and double classroom (which also served as auditorium space) was added to the first floor by building wing additions to the 8 room structure. The stairways to the upper floors were placed in these wings. On the second floor in the west wing there was a classroom added directly above the kindergarten. In the east wing another double classroom, similar to the one on the first floor, was added. Modern restrooms were placed in the basement of the building. A large modern gymnasium was built in the basement level of the east wing. Prior to this time gym classes (physical culture -- if you please) were held either out of doors (weather permitting) or in the large center halls. Miss Lillian Foster one of the teachers at the time of this expansion program, said she remembered well of taking classes through their exercise and drill routines in the hall. How many of you recall the dumb bells and the wands (or were they just sawed-off broom sticks to you?)

Just when the pot bellied stoves gave way to furnace heat has not been definitely established in my interviews, but it was the concensus of opinion that it was quite some time before this building program of 1912. Coal fired furnace heated the rooms until the modern boiler type steam heat was installed in 1922.

After these extensive changes were made, the school offered 7 grades of schooling until in 1920 when it became a full eight grade school and offered a complete junior-high program. Departmentalized work at Miner was at its peak at this time. Art, domestic science, manual training and other specialized fields enjoyed a short but welcome stay at Miner. Before manual training was taught at the school, boys taking such classes were dismissed in order to attend classes at the Jefferson school. Dismissal time for such classes caused many a headache for the teacher. Some boys had bicycles but most of them needed to walk the distance between the two school. There always was much speculation as to how many of the dismissed ones would arrive at the Jefferson School. Boys will be boys! Then and now too!

In 1921-22 there were 21 teachers on the faculty. As you must realize though, not all of them had his or her own classroom and not all of the teachers were in the building everyday. Some of the departmental teachers (sewing, art, etc) were at Miner just certain days each week and on interim days served other schools in a like capacity.

The double classroom in the corner of the east wing on the first floor had a partition of sliding doors which, when opened wide, offered auditorium space for assemblies, programs, meetings and the like. For many years an improvised stage was set up at the west end (opposite end from where the present stage is) for special functions. It was merely a platform with steps leading up from either or both sides as the occasion called for and there were no curtains or lights, and it could not be left up any length of time because this was occupied as a classroom. Our present built-in stage with draperies, backdrop, footlights