

school year consists of 187½ school days. The same complaints are heard now as was heard then -- school starts too early in the fall and lasts too late in the spring. However, the child is in school approximately one half of the total number of days in the year. Surely this is not too much of a burden considering the preparation that needs to be made for adulthood. The length of the school day has changed but very little too. Most of those interviewed gave the time of the school day as from 8:30 to 3:30 with an hour and a half at noon. This may have varied a bit during the 66 years of existence at Miner, but for the most part it remained within the approximate limits. One man I remember emphatically recalled that school started at 9:00 o'clock but I found no one else who remembered likewise.

The grading system has undergone many changes and with the newer trends in education it is the writer's opinion that another change is in the offing -- say in the next five or ten years. Late in the 19th century and early in the 20th century grading systems were numerical. Grades of 90%, 75%, 80%, 100% etc. were given twice a semester. Just when the term was divided into B and A semesters (for example -- 2B -- 2A, 3B-- 3A etc.) I am not sure although believe it must have been before 1900. Many of those to whom I talked about this history attended Miner during the first or second decades of the century and they assured me that they had B and A semesters then.

During the third decade when I attended Miner and for some years previous, letter grades were given instead of percentages. I remember them well -- A- admirable, E- excellent, VG- very good G - good, F- fair, P- poor, and NP - not passing. Sometime later this grading system gave way to a simpler letter grading which still is in use today. A - excellent, B - good, C - fair, D - poor, and F - failure, to meet minimum requirements of grade. However on these cards are various statements of fact regarding habits and attitudes and citizenship that can be checked by the teacher at each grading period and tells at a glance what the child needs help with or is doing satisfactorily with. The letters S and U are sometimes used as grades for physical education, music, band, art, etc. and designates either satisfactory or unsatisfactory work. Usually though one of the other grades (A, B, C, D, E, ) is given for the semester grade.

" deportment" grades are gleefully talked about by people who went to school early in the 1900's and previously to that. This term finally gave way to "conduct" grades and now the grade cards have no special listing for this. However, many teachers will write in a separate "citizenship" grade. Grades for "effort" have been eliminated also as a separate listing although the modern teacher gives due consideration to this with the other grades.

And now just a word about why I think grade cards are due for another change. Present day teaching methods emphasize the development of individual personality and ability. The personal growth of each child through appreciation, recognition, achievements, understanding and capabilities is considered according