

Part IV -- The Foley Library

"A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life. Give me a hour furnished with books rather than furniture". ----- Beecher

The above quotation is certainly appropo with this portion of the history. The Miner school has a library of which it can be very proud. Libraries in elementary schools are relatively new although they have been recognized as a must for high and junior high schools for some time. The fact that Miner was ready to meet the progressive ideals of possessing a library comes partly through the forethought and challenge which Miss Foley designed in Item 6 of her Last Will and Testament. This I shall quote for you verbatim after I mentioned briefly that it was her profound wish to give the school as a legacy something that would "live on". This coupled with her own personal love for books is probably the determining factor that she bequeath a sum of money to start a library in the school.

Item 6 of her will reads: (And this is an exact quote given personally by Mr. Donnelly P. McDonald of the Peoples Trust and Savings Company. He is the President of the banking institution which served as executor of her will.

"I will the School City of Fort Wayne the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the purpose of establishing in the Miner School a "school library" provided, however, that said School City of Fort Wayne, or the Parent Teacher Association of Miner School, or some other organization contribute a similar amount as a "sustaining fund" for the said library within one year after my death".

As I stated in another part of this chapter, it would have been financially possible for her to bequeath the sum total needed to start the library. It is my sincere belief however, that she wanted the school to have a working interest in the library so she challenged them to contribute a similar amount and within a year after her death in order to get them right at it. She knew the Miner P.T.A. !! She knew without question, I think, that the P.T.A. would accept the challenge and see the Library materialize. Of course, that is just what happened. It is the writer's belief that the "School City of Fort Wayne", as mentioned in Item 6 of the will was included as a back-log or safety-catch in case the school fell short of its quota. I further interpret the bequest in this manner: The Board of Education of the School City is bound to have recognized the value of the school's own library and would have voted to meet the terms of the will had not the school been able to do so on its own. Furthermore, anyone familiar with the school's progressiveness is well aware of the fact that the patrons maintain a vital interest in the school and work diligently at keeping pace with new and changing ideas. It is virtually impossible for the School City to serve two dozen schools and to keep them all supplied with the very latest equipment and material things to make them up to the minute modern in every desired detail or