

OBSERVATIONS

by

Merle J. Abbett

The Miner school is very historic in the annals of Fort Wayne in Public Education.

I shall not attempt the detail that includes great personages, services, and records. I would rather say that a school that has served youth since 1886 has made a great contribution in the lives of many of our citizens. The standards have always been high for teacher and pupil. The leadership has been very effective and the supervision of excellent character. The parents have been of the fine character that wished their youth to be disciplined, directed, and taught. One can always find earmarks of a neglect, a disregard, or lack of ambition if it exists. The fathers and mothers were never of that type or kind. The school never made a call without receiving a willing and ready response. They wished their children to have the best possible teaching and guidance.

The outer garment did not have to be expensive and extravagant so long as the inner school was warm, inviting, and favorable for good, wholesome learning.

The youth that went on to higher learning did so in high proportion. They are fine citizens today with good homes, ambitions for their children, and in full support of our schools and education. Many from humble station have made very honorable records.

The contribution of the Miner school is one worthy of our highest approval and has it.

Part 2 -- Message from J. Wilbur Haley

Mr. J. W. Haley served as principal of Miner School eight years. He was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Miss Foley in 1936 and continued to serve in this capacity until 1944 when he was appointed principal of Washington School. He is now principal of Central High School. Mr. Haley writes

"During the last week of August, 1936, Miss Celia Foley, Principal of Miner School, surprised the school, community and city by her letter of resignation mailed from somewhere in Europe.

Miss Foley had served her school and community with distinction for thirty-three consecutive years.

I was appointed as her successor, September 1, 1936, I served as principal of Miner School until, August 15, 1943. This was my first experience in administrative work.