

It seems that "worst enemies" sharing a desk caused less strife than "best friends" sitting together.

Again, crowded classrooms was the war cry of the day. Miss Gertrude Zook remembered with horror that she had sixty-four children in her 3AB class in the early 1900's. She further stated that it was a big task just to take care of such a large class, let alone provide educational experiences for them.

In 1912-13 extensive changes were made in the building. Demands had been growing for a departmentalized curriculum, but no action could be taken in this direction until an expansion program could be considered. The School Board voted such action to begin at the close of the 1912 school year. Vast changes were made in the structure at this time, and except for the addition of a modern heating plant at a later date, there have been only a few minor changes since that time.

The changes to the building in the 1912 program were: A large kindergarten room, office space and a double classroom (which also served as an auditorium) were added to the first floor. A large classroom was added to the second floor level directly above the kindergarten room, and on the east side another double classroom similar to the one on the first floor was added. These changes were accomplished by building wing additions both to the east and to the west of the original structure and extending the length of the original building back to the alley. Modern restrooms (by 1912 standards) were installed in the basement.

A large modern gymnasium (again, by 1912 standards) was built in the east wing of the basement level and sub-level. This was something really great! Prior to this expansion program, Miss Lillian Foster, one of the teachers at that time, told of taking her "physical culture" classes through their drills and exercises (we call them calisthenics) in the large center hall. In the spring and early fall, weather permitting, she would take them out of doors. Needless to say, the inclement weather always brought additional problems to the school day. Kids dropping dumb-bells and wands (reasonable facsimilies of bowling pins and sawed-off broom sticks) was often frustrating to the teachers having class in the near-by rooms.

After these extensive changes were completed the school offered seven grades of schooling until 1920 when it became a full eight grade school and offered a complete junior-high program. Departmentalized work was at its peak at Miner at this time. Art, domestic science and manual training all enjoyed a short but welcome stay at Miner. Interestingly enough, before manual training was taught here, boys wishing to take it were dismissed for such classes held at the Jefferson School. Few of them had bicycles so most of them had to walk the distance between the two schools. And, boys being boys, there was always much speculation as to how many of them would arrive for class.