

The double classroom in the east wing of the first floor had folding doors to divide the area. For assemblies or special programs the doors were pushed back and the room converted to an auditorium. When needed, an improvised stage was set up at the west end of the room. There were no curtains, lights or other usual stage properties and it could not be left up any length of time because the space was needed for class room. Any detailed stage programs (such as the annual spring festival pageant) were put on at the West Creighton Avenue Church. Miner rented the auditorium for many performances.

The last major change in the structure of the building was made in 1922. An addition housing the boilers for a modern heating system was built on to the outside wall of the west wing. Steam heat radiators were installed in each classroom. Just when the pot-bellied stoves were replaced with a central heating plant (coal furnace) was not established; however, we know it was quite some time before the installation of the steam heat equipment.

#### Part 2--Other Changes

In the fall of 1924 Miner reverted to a six grade school. Seventh and eighth graders went to Hoagland for their junior high years. Apparently no major changes took place in the next five years. Conclusively, the usual school problems were met and school kept on.

Then came the stock market crash in 1929 and the next several years were devastating to school programs. Miner fathers, for the most part, had been the middle class working man--wage earners in skilled and unskilled labor. With factory shut-downs the income of the average Miner family was next to nothing. Food on the table came from the Welfare Department and there simply was no money to buy suitable school clothing, supplies, gym shoes or any other needs. Practically everyone was indigent; and, if you were a child at this time (and the writer was!) you hardly had any complex at all. All the other children were just like you-- with but few exceptions. School corporations suffered extremely heavy losses. Nothing was asked for and certainly nothing was granted that was not absolutely essential. Often the school served as a social center for the community. I believe it was during these most difficult times that the real HEART of Miner began to show through.

We were just inching our way back to solvency when war clouds began to threaten us with new problems and responsibilities. Finally, the threats became reality and the schools were called upon to assist in the mountainous tasks of food and gasoline rationing and registering young men under the Selective Service Act. Again, during this period very few school improvements were allowed. Materials were on a priority rated basis. However, it was in 1941 that we acquired our present stage with its bonafide curtains, backdrop and footlights.