

In 1945 one of the original four rooms on the first floor was designated as the appropriate place for the Foley Library. Celia Foley had been Principal at Miner for 33 years. When she died she bequeathed the school a sum of \$300.00 for the purpose of establishing a library with the stipulation that the School City of Fort Wayne, or the Miner PTA, furnish an amount equal to her bequest within one year after her death. The terms of her will were met and the library was officially dedicated on June 7, 1948.

In 1946 we became the proud owners of a kitchenette. A stove and refrigerator were furnished by the PTA and cupboards were installed by the School City. It was in an area comprising about one-fourth of the library room. The combination of a kitchen with a library was certainly not one of propriety or choice, but rather, of limited space available.

Actually, the last decade has seen but few building changes. In 1951 fluorescent lighting was installed in all the rooms. At the same time the interior of the building was redecorated in its entirety. The gravel playground was replaced with an asphalt surface. In 1954 a new roof was required and a few years later the brick face of the school was cleaned by the process of sand blasting. Mortar fractures were tuck pointed and, for an old building, it sure looked good.

But no matter how good a building looks on the outside, if facilities are out-dated and inadequate, if overcrowded conditions exist that cannot be remedied, if educational opportunities are hampered by a make-it-do approach, then false economy exists.

In the fall of 1957 the library was needed for a classroom. The shelves and books were moved to the auditorium. To the writer, this move seemed to result in the loss of some of the significance of the library; but, there simply was nothing else to do. With the walls bursting at the seams with children and projected enrollments increasing by leaps and bounds, classroom space was at a premium.

When the library converted to a classroom, the kitchenette remained where it was. There simply was no place else to put it. Its serviceability became limited but Miner Mothers adapted well-- as they always have.

The School Board recognized the situation of Miner, which was not unlike the problems of several other schools, most of them in the early residential areas of the city. Early in 1959 they launched a long range program which included the construction of several new schools in the outlying areas and included plans for a new Miner possibly by 1961. However, we know now that these plans have been altered and the people in this district will be integrated into the other elementary schools in this area. Our present school Superintendent, Mr. Lester Grile will elaborate on this in a later chapter.

And so 1962 will witness the demise of a fine old landmark in the city of Fort Wayne, but its intangible HEART will live on for a long time.

"If you would see his monument, Look around."

(Inscription on the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren at St. Paul's in London.)

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