

Safety patrols have long since been in use to help youngsters learn safety precautions in crossing busy streets. However, in the last ten years with the increase of unbelievable proportions in the number of cars on the street, child safety patrols were certainly not adequate. Adult guards at these busy intersections at school arrival and dismissal times have become a must for the protection of our children. They are salaried at very nominal rates, but their worth according to the number of lives they protect can never be quoted in terms of dollars and cents.

The over-all face of the community has undergone vast changes in the last decade, and much to our sorrow not all of it is for the best either. The growth and expansion of our city has sort of bulls-eyed this community into the less desirable area often referred to as the downtown area. At any rate we must accept the fact that we live in one of the oldest residential areas of Fort Wayne. Many of our families, who, for two and possibly three generations, have been the back bone of an interested parent group have moved out of the area into better residential districts. They can now afford newer and better homes. The homes in this community--many of them forty or fifty years old--have now become rental properties to people in the low income brackets. Many of them, formerly one family dwellings, have been remodeled into apartments, and the occupancy turn-over is great. Children are enrolled in school for a short period and then the family moves again. There has been up to a 25% turn-over in enrollment in one year.

Divorce and separation in many of the families creates the need for mothers to go to work. This factor necessitates noon hour supervision for these children who must bring lunches. This was almost unheard of in pre-war days. Discipline problems have been on the increase and a lesser concern by parents to support school activities has been noticed.

Fortunately, at Miner, we have always had those among us who are willing to go to any lengths to maintain the standing that this school has earned in the community. And I think it is for this reason that many of us hate to see the name of Miner lost to posterity; but at the same time temper our feelings with the knowledge that we have served the community well and it is time now to look to bigger and better things. Who, among us, would want to see our grandchildren and great grandchildren attending a century-old school just for the sake of sentiment?