

Chapter IV

REFLECTIONS OF MR. GRILE

Part I

My first personal association with Miner School began in the fall of 1948 when I became Principal of the South Wayne Elementary School, a neighbor school of Miner School. I shall always remember the fine spirit of cooperation which existed between the two schools and the two school communities. The extent of parent participation and cooperation in the Miner School district has always been, as it was then, an example held up as a desirable pattern for all the schools in our system. The decision to abandon the Miner School was not an easy one.

The Board of Education adopted a four-year building program in 1959 and identified three purposes of the program: (1) to upgrade our present facilities, either by replacement or rehabilitation; (2) to implement the 6-3-3 organizational pattern in the Fort Wayne School system by establishing separate Junior High Schools of grades 7, 8, and 9; (3) to provide housing for an increasing enrollment.

The Board of Education determined on the basis of recommendations of our architects, engineers, and the building committee of the Citizens' Education Council, and the administrative staff that the Miner School building should be abandoned. The age of the structure, the fact that the interior was entirely of wooden construction, and the lay out of the functional pattern in the building did not lend itself to rehabilitation except at most prohibitive costs and would result at the very best in a below standard facility. At the very beginning of the program planning, it was determined that the Miner School building would be abandoned. The question of how to house the elementary students at Miner was a problem of two years of rather intensive study of various alternates. The elementary school districts of Washington, Study, South Wayne, and the junior high of Hoagland School were all a part of the considerations. The plan as finally adopted provided for a new Junior High School of grades 7, 8, and 9 to be built on Fairfield Avenue which would house the 7th and 8th grade which had formerly gone to Hoagland School, and also all the 9th grade. This would provide a new educational facility for all the boys and girls of Hoagland and Miner so that each boy and girl would have this opportunity for a new junior high. It was the Board's feeling that the new Junior High School would provide a better facility than what could be done if Hoagland School had been converted. The Miner School district is to be divided in such a way that the majority of the boys and girls will be attending Hoagland School. A small number of the boys and girls will be attending Washington, a few to Study, and a number of the boys and girls to South Wayne School.

It is the Board's opinion, and that of the administration, that the educational program available to the boys and girls of this community will be best met through the proper elementary facilities at Washington, South Wayne, Hoagland, and Study, and all of them will