

Chapter VII

THE PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS

Part 1 - P.T.A. Objects and Personnel

First, a word of explanation about the content of this chapter. It has not been an easy task to condense volumes of people and their corresponding achievements to a few short pages. There are hundreds of interested parents over the years that have given generously of their time and talents in the name of Miner School. They have all worked with the same unity of purpose in mind: a good school in a good community. It would be utterly impossible to name even a small portion of all these devoted and loyal people. In a like manner it is impossible to enumerate all the material things furnished the school by these people. Therefore, I am asking your forbearance in the manner in which I have chosen to pay tribute to each and everyone of them - collectively.

For the majority of these people, I believe it is relatively unimportant to them to see in print what they did specifically in the year, or years, they were active. The very fact that they were in there pitching every step of the way--whether the lean years or the prosperous ones--is the important factor. This quality of belonging--a part of the whole--is the meaningful thing, and it is this quality that I like to refer to as HEART. Likewise, it is this HEART that has made Miner's PTA an exemplary parent organization in the State. Consequently, as I write this portion of the history, I shall think of it always as a representative group of interested people--not as individuals who accomplished much, or little, according to the economic period in which they served.

Someone has said, "If you want something done, get a busy person to do it." I do not know whom to give credit for those words, but whoever said it must have been acquainted with a Miner School mother belonging to the PTA.

Our PTA has a rich and colorful history. It had its beginning in February of 1912, so you can see that on Founder's Day of this year we observed a fiftieth birthday - a Golden Jubilee. During this same year we observed a 75th anniversary of the school's life, so no wonder we are proud of our achievements as an organization. For two-thirds of the life span of the school it has had the cooperative concern of the parents behind it.

In February of 1912, a Mother's Club was formed which later (in May) became affiliated with the Fort Wayne Women's League, now known as the Fort Wayne Women's Club. By fall of that year it was noted that the best way to reach mothers was through the schools. So in November of 1912 the Mother's Club became affiliated with the National Congress of Mothers and Teachers. In 1924 this