

organization changed its name to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. New charters were written and national, state and local units were organized.

The progressive and successful PTA program at Miner did not just happen. It grew and developed into fine healthy stock because of the good root system established by capable leadership right from the beginning.

Our first PTA President, Mrs. William J. Hockett, is one of few people I shall elaborate on individually in this chapter. Her organizational and leadership abilities are cherished memories in local, state and national levels. We are so proud of her -- and rightly so. She lighted the candle of parent interest from the spark left by the Mother's Club and it is still burning brightly. Her personal achievement is an illustrious one and it began at Miner when she served as President for two years. (1924-1926)

Mrs. Hugo Schaefer had recently moved into the neighborhood and had just successfully completed the organization of a PTA at Washington School. At her recommendation and with a little persuasion from people who knew her, Mrs. Hockett agreed to help with the organization of a PTA at Miner. These two women and a well-known, respected citizen who was also a Miner patron laid the foundation for our association. The man was Harry W. Baals who was Fort Wayne's Postmaster from 1922 to 1931. He later was elected Mayor and served in that capacity for fourteen years. Mrs. Hockett and Mr. Baals are both deceased, but Mrs. Schaefer is still living and has attended our Founder's Day observances whenever possible.

Now, I'd like to mention here the official positions held by Mrs. Hockett following her initial endeavor at Miner. First, locally, and concurrently with her second term President at Miner, she served as President of the Fort Wayne Council. From 1928 to 1930 she was a member of the Board of Education. In 1930 she was elected Vice President of the Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, and after serving one year in this capacity she was elected President for two years. During her tenure in this office she was publisher of the first Indiana Parent Teacher bulletins. (Mrs. Hugo Schaefer presented a copy of the No. 1 issue of the IPT, which she treasured highly, to Miner School in 1954.) Mrs. Hockett was also President of the National Past Presidents Club which is made up of all the states having PTA organizations. On the national level she served both on the Board of Publication and Board of Membership.

When Mrs. Hockett died in 1944, an oak tree, which is the PTA symbol, was planted in Foster Park as a tribute to her untiring and noteworthy efforts in the field of education. This is truly a living testimonial to her accomplishments and we, at Miner, have a special right to be proud. However, I feel that the best tribute that could have been given anyone so diligent is the most obvious one of all--the continuing story of successful parent teacher work. And we all know that this is Miner's blue ribbon award!