

#### Part 4 -- Parent Education Groups

The Parent Education Group -- at first a single unit -- was organized in 1932 when Mrs. Ora Goff was PTA President. In the foundation laid by careful planning and diligent work, she had invaluable assistance from Miss Mable Holland, Elementary Education Supervisor, in the public schools for many years. Originally the group sought to aid parents who had youngsters in school to better understand and more ably solve their problems. Miner was one of the early groups to recognize the value of discussion therapy. It was not long, however, before it became clear that discussion group aid for parents of pre-school children was vitally needed. So in the fall of 1933 the Pre-school group became a separate unit. Although it was not the first comparable group in the city, nevertheless it has the distinction of being one of the early groups. Both Study Group and Pre-school have enjoyed active memberships and have achieved much in their aims to improve parenthood responsibilities.

Before reviewing a brief resume of each of the two study groups, I'd like to mention here that the death of Miss Holland in the spring of this year (1962) was mourned by many of her friends of long standing at Miner. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Rice both having served as Principals at Miner were two of the active pallbearers for her final rites. She had retired from her position with the public school system several years ago but remained a strong advocate and friend of education. She served for awhile as Supervisor of Student Teaching at Saint Francis College, following her retirement from the Fort Wayne Community Schools.

She was a very close friend of Miss Foley's and furnished much of the information about Miss Foley's personal life and philanthropic interests which are written about in the first history of Miner School. Miss Holland's deep interest in Miner was without restraint. She loved the youngsters in the school and enjoyed working with the parent group. She often mentioned the school as a pet of hers because of the willingness of the people to try new ideas and share in their experiences. It seems a bit ironic that the demise of Miner follows so closely the death of this beloved friend.

Both Parent-Education Groups have rich and colorful histories. As might be expected, with but few exceptions, the back-bone of PTA supplied the membership for these groups. More often than not those belonging to Pre-school also became a member of study group after their children entered school. We cannot detail much of their experiences but we shall differentiate between the two organizations purposes and service areas. And, too, we would like to name the people who held the leadership positions, but emphasizing the fact again that the leaders were always first to declare that success of group activity was due to total cooperative effort and friendly views.