

## Chapter IX

### An Evaluation of Seventy-five Years: A Tribute and A Challenge

Common people, walking on common ground and interested in a common cause, inspired the writing of a school history back in 1952. The people lived in this community. They were neither rich nor poor--a middle-class dominated in everything. The school was Miner--sixty-five years old, unpretentious and considered by some an eyesore to the community because of its leaning smokestack. The common cause was working for a friendly school with a good educational program. Somehow, the physical defects of the building were so obscured by a living, breathing quality it possessed that the decline of the structure was relatively unnoticed. That quality was HEART.

The school was widely known for its friendliness; not just in the community but throughout the city and even the state. It was an exemplary unit of parent-participation programs. The teacher-parent-child relationship was good. There was a sharing of ideas, interests, needs and achievements that was more than a little unique. Cooperation had been the key word to success for many years. The willingness to walk that extra mile to achieve that which we felt important seemed almost contagious to our people. The whole atmosphere seemed to inspire the recording of things that were near and dear to our hearts. And so, in 1952, "ON COMMON GROUND" was written. It was established at that time that the school was in fairly good repair and would probably continue to serve the community for many years to come. We know now that her days are numbered; consequently, we are again concerned with preserving some of our rich and colorful background and recent endeavors.

Ten years and approximately 4000 children after the previous history was written, we still cherish the existing HEART of the school; but we are taking a different view of the old building. Many of its inadequacies are shouting loud and clear--heating and ventilation problems, lighting, plumbing and sanitation needs and numerous problems that cannot be regarded as even tolerable in this age of improved standards of living. Even the most sentimental of us must face the fact that Miner has outlived its usefulness as a school.

A new and critical view of schools, both as to the physical plant and the educational opportunities offered, is the outgrowth of some world-shaking events that have occurred in the last ten years. These historical events, pioneering the space age of the world, had a profound effect on school systems throughout the nation. The results merit more than a passing glance at the future.

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\* The last ten years has given us an average enrollment of 390 pupils. The highest enrollment in the life of the school was registered this past year at 439.