

## QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

When South Side High School opened in the fall of 1922, about half of Fort Wayne High School's staff and student body went to the new school. Fort Wayne High School began in a 3 story house on Wayne Street in 1865 and moved to a new building on Barr Street in 1904. After 1922 Fort Wayne High School became known as Central High School. Robert Harris, a physics teacher at the former Fort Wayne High School, became the first principal of South Side.

Harris led a forty-member faculty, eighteen of whom were teachers at the former Fort Wayne High School. South Side High school opened its doors on September 11, 1922. Twenty-five years later, in 1947, sixteen of the original staff members were still at South Side, nine of whom were from the former Fort Wayne High School. It was decided to honor these sixteen faculty members as charter members of "The Quarter Century Club". Each year thereafter when a staff member reached the 25 years milestone, he/she was added to the club at a banquet or luncheon where present club members and visitors attend the ceremony. After eating, a soloist or the SSHS choir, would sing "Only a Rose" from The Desert Song. Then each Quarter Century member would receive a rose. New members were "roasted" by a present member before being voted into the club. The new member gave a short speech which was usually in good taste and received a QC pin to wear. That was followed by the singing of the South Side Alma Mater written by music teacher Jack Wainwright, back in 1940.

The total membership now exceeds 100 members including many honorary staff people who fell a little bit short of the 25 years.

# CHARTER MEMBERS

Elizabeth Damaree\* . . . . . Earl Murch\*

Adelaide Fiedler\* . . . . . Maurice Murphy\*

Ward O. Gilbert\* . . . . . Benjamin Null\*

Elna Gould\* . . . . . Delvin Parks\*

Roena Harvey . . . . . Martha Pittenger\*

Louie Hull\* . . . . . Beulah Rinehart

Hazel Miller . . . . . Mable Thorne

Crissie Mott \* . . . . . Lloyd Whelan

\*Came from Fort Wayne High School