

NEW BUILDINGS ARE DEDICATED AT BONNY OAKS

Cate, Speaker, Stresses the Proposition of Giving All Children Equal Chance

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Three new buildings on the campus of Bonny Oaks Industrial school were dedicated yesterday afternoon by George Cate, state commissioner of institutions and public welfare, "to the proposition of equal opportunity for all boys and girls."

Commissioner Cate was the main speaker on a program which included music by the Bonny Oaks band, chorus singing by the pupils of the school, and talks by members of the board of trustees, the architect, a representative of the Hamilton county court and several Chattanooga pastors.

The buildings, one to be used as a dormitory for older girls, one for older boys and the third for colored girls, were recently completed by the county with federal aid. The added space will practically double the capacity of the school.

The buildings were presented to the county by Architect T. G. Street and accepted by Squire Wilkes T. Thrasher, who represented County Judge Will Cummings. Squire Thrasher then presented the project to the board of trustees. Creed F. Bates, of the board, presided.

Ministers Assist

Dr. James A. Huff, pastor of First Baptist church, said the invocation following a band concert and the singing of an anthem by the school student body, directed by Mrs. W. S. Keese, wife of Supt. Keese. The Bonny Oaks chorus, directed by B. Cortez Tipton, sang Negro spirituals, and Miss Juanita Drew, of Bonny Oaks, first honor graduates at Tyler High school this spring, spoke of the school from the student's viewpoint. The prayer of dedication was delivered by Dr. James L. Fowle, pastor of First Presbyterian church, and Dr. Lin D. Cartwright, pastor of First Christian church, said the benediction.

After reviewing a bit of the school's forty-year history, Commissioner Cate said, in part:

"I am glad as a state official to be here and learn from you a lesson I can take to the rest of the state with the advice to 'go and do likewise.' This institution bespeaks the effort you have made to make Hamilton county a better place in which to live—the effort to defeat the scourges of poverty, disease and ignorance.

"How fortunate are these boys and girls who are permitted to sit under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Keese. (Dr. W. S. Keese is superintendent at Bonny Oaks.)

The Dedication

"I dedicate these beautiful new buildings to three propositions.

"First—That to have better children we must have better parents. Through our schools, libraries, churches and state institutions we are improving ourselves.

"Second—That every child has a right to live. When Bruno Hauptmann's mother was informed that he had lost his last chance for a reprieve and was to be electrocuted, she is said to have replied that 'he had no money—a child who has no money has no right to live.'

"Contrast this with the American viewpoint. I recall some years ago in Nashville the heroism of a mother who leaped backward from the second story of a burning building to protect her baby clasped in her arms.

Third—That every child has a right to live and develop in an atmosphere which will permit the highest development of Christian citizenship.

"Our forefathers dedicated this nation to the proposition that all men are equal, but we have learned this is not so. This institution we speak of today is one of our efforts to make it more nearly so by providing equal opportunity to all boys and girls."

After the benediction, Prof. Bates called for recognition by the large crowd of Mrs. Keese, who was escorted to the open-air platform by two of her sons, Des Keese, of Atlanta, and W. S. Keese, Jr., of Chattanooga. Mrs. Keese praised the other members of the faculty and staff of the school.

The audience of several hundred sat or stood in the shade of the large oak trees on the hill beside the little frame chapel which is expected soon to be replaced by a new memorial chapel.

On the platform were Drs. Cartwright, Fowle and Huff, Squires Thrasher, G. Russell Brown, Bruce Freeman and W. F. Langley, Lapsley G. Walker, L. W. Bates, John J. Lively, Supt. A. L. Rankin, John Early and Chancellor J. Lon Foust.