

Local School To Reopen As North End Kindergarten

Ada Jenkins School in Davidson, closed at the end of the 1966 school term last summer, will reopen in February as a kindergarten designed to prepare 150 five-year-old children for the first grade. There will be eight classes of approximately 20 children each, with a trained teacher and an assistant teacher in charge of each group. Mrs. Jay H. Ostwalt will be director of the new school.

Children from Davidson, Cornelius, Long Creek and Huntersville, who will not be six years old before Oct. 16, 1967, are eligible to attend the kindergarten. Transportation will be by school bus, and tuition is free. According to Mrs. Ostwalt, instruction for application will be issued as soon as possible.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, under whose auspices the Davidson kindergarten is being establish-

ed, hopes this school will serve as a pilot project for eventual public kindergartens in this area. The North Mecklenburg pre-school center will be financed with a portion of the \$1 million fund which has been made available to the school system for educational programs under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

One of the principal purposes of the kindergarten project is to give children from deprived homes some of the social, physical and intellectual background which they need to compete in the public schools. Planners of the local facility are hopeful the kindergarten will serve children from both races and from a variety of backgrounds. An article in a Charlotte daily newspaper incorrectly stated, earlier this week, that the families of children attending the local kindergarten must have an income of less than \$2,000 a year. This is not the case—the kindergarten is open to all children in this area who can meet the age requirements.

Kindergarten children will arrive at school each morning at 8:30 a.m. and leave at 3 p.m.

The term of the school will extend through August. The kindergarten schedule will include a morning snack, a hot meal at noon and a nap. During the day a number of activities which will enrich the children's learning experience will be provided. Local educators have been unanimous in their praise of the summer program, Head Start, which pioneered many of the features to be used in the local kindergarten program.

Mrs. Ostwalt, who was supervisor of the weekly school at
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Davidson Woman Wills \$1 Million To Church Agencies

Miss Mary Erwin Young, a resident of Davidson prior to her Jan. 3 death, bequeathed close to a million dollars to agencies of the Presbyterian Church. Details of Miss Young's will were revealed over the weekend by the executor of her estate, Clarence Klutz of Salisbury.

The bulk of Miss Young's

Dr. Cunningham Receives Award

Dr. John R. Cunningham, president of Davidson College for 16 years, was presented the Ben Franklin Award last night by the Charlotte unit of the

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Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte for eleven years, has a rich background of teaching. She has taught first grade in school systems in Raymond and Vicksburg, Miss. and in Richmond, Va. She was a teacher last year at Ada Jenkins and will leave the faculty of Davidson School to accept her new post. She received her BS degree at Belhaven College, Jackson, Miss. and her master of religious education degree at Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Va. She has completed additional work in early Childhood Education at UNC-C, Davidson and Appalachian.

Mrs. Ostwalt is cooperating in the selection of teachers and other personnel for the school. Aside from teaching personnel, there will be a social worker and a nurse on the staff. Kindergarten children will receive medical care and psychiatric counseling will be available to them. According to a spokesman for the school, a close relationship will be maintained between the school staff and the homes represented.

According to James T. Burch, director of ESEA, one of the principal reasons why a kindergarten program is being initiated in Davidson is due to the quality of community interest and support which has been shown in this area. The availability of a sound building in the general area also was a contributing factor in the school board decision to open Ada Jenkins as a pre school preparation center.

The initial request for a community development center, including a kindergarten, at Ada Jenkins, was submitted to the school board on May 14, 1966. The proposal was sponsored by Davidson Mayor F. L. Jackson's Committee on Community Relations, which H. Burling Narmore serves as chairman.

The Davidson kindergarten program is expected to cost about \$200,000.