

# PURPOSE IS TOLD FOR BONNY OAKS

## Adamson Says Place Only for Dependent, Abandoned or Neglected Children

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Bonny Oaks School is only for dependent, neglected or abandoned children and has no facilities for the care of delinquents, Malcolm Adamson, superintendent, said on a television program here yesterday.

Adamson and Martin Ochs, vice chairman of the board of trustees, were guests on Point of View, a program presented jointly by the Adult Education Council and WDEF-TV. Leo Britt, director of juvenile court probation, and William Grossman, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Jewish Community Center, were the questioners. George Connor was the moderator.

Adamson pointed out that when the school was established in 1895, it was known as the Hamilton County Industrial and Reform School, but that since then its purpose has changed as well as its name.

Ochs said 157 children are now enrolled at the school. He said many improvements have been made in recent years, including a new dormitory, but that several of the buildings are old and need replacing. Some of them constitute a fire hazard because of their age, he said, although fire escapes and fire extinguishers have been placed at many points for safety.

Adamson pointed out that fire hydrants are now being placed on the campus.

### Classes Taught

The first six grades at the school are taught by regular county school teachers, Adamson said, while junior high and high school students attend nearby Tyner schools.

He said a year is considered a prolonged stay at the school for a child, although the average stay is from four to five years. Children are placed in the school through various social agencies, which return them to their homes when conditions warrant it, he said.

Adamson said only nine children at the school now are full orphans, while about 20 have lost one parent or the other.

The superintendent said he feels it is wrong for the children to have to stay at the school for an extended period because they tend to become overly dependent. He said this is caused largely by the necessary institutional routine "where they go to bed by a bell, get up by a bell and eat their meals by a bell."

Ochs said friends of the school—churches and civic organizations as well as individuals—assist many Bonny Oaks students in furthering their education. Many of them are able to attend colleges or professional schools, he said.

Adamson said the staff of the school has a great influence on the students, and he added that the "wonderful influence of Dr. and Mrs. Keese during their many years at the school would be like trying to measure the oceans."