

City Schools To Open Eight War Nurseries

The Record 7/9/10

City school authorities are planning to open eight nursery schools for children of working mothers in Columbia on Monday, J. M. Payne, assistant superintendent of city schools, announced today.

Nursery schools to open for white children are: Logan School, Gonzales Garden School, and Hamrick School. For Negroes: Gilbert Nursery school, Carver School, Howard School, Waverly School, and a Benedict College Nursery School are to be opened.

Mr. Payne said that the city school officials had intended opening the nursery departments last Monday but had been forced to postpone the opening because of a lack of material and equipment. He said that it was hoped that all the required equipment could be obtained by Monday.

The nursery units will be housed in the various city school buildings for the summer, but, with the exception of the Logan School Nursery, will be moved when school sessions open in the fall. Plans for this change in September have not been completed, and Mr. Payne said that the question of where to put the nurseries upon school openings was one of the school authorities' biggest problems.

Aids Mill Workers

The Hamrick Nursery, Mr. Payne said, will provide day care for children whose mothers are working in Pacific mills. The project is considered a great benefit for the Pacific Mills community, he said.

The nursery to be opened at Benedict College will operate in cooperation with the institution's training school for teachers who intend to go into that phase of teaching.

Mr. Payne said that small fees would be charged at the nurseries, the amount of fee adjusted to meet 50 per cent of the operating cost in each unit. Individual fees will be adjusted on the basis of the mother's income.

Meals and sleeping quarters will be provided in the eight nurseries, with hours approximately from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. However, Mr. Payne said that these hours are to be adjusted to fit the need of the working mother. Children will be under care of the nursery staffs at different times depending on the hours which the mother works, and the mothers are expected to leave children at nurseries only during those hours while they cannot take care of them at home. In this way, it is hoped, most of the working homes can be reached.

Three in Operation

Only three of the eight nurseries have been in operation before, Logan, Gonzales Garden, and Gilbert Schools having been opened for care of children until a month ago when they were closed for a short time.

The opening of the eight nursery schools is a part of the federal government's war program, and was made possible through the recent passage of the Lanham Act, an act providing funds to be used in instituting nursery care for the children of mothers engaged in vital industries or war work.