

Historical Facts

The Johnson C. Smith University Story

Johnson C. Smith University was established in response to a definite need. The lack of educational opportunities for black students in this region was frustrating, and in 1867 two far-sighted ministers took command. At a meeting of the Catawba Presbytery in the old Charlotte Presbyterian Church, the Reverend S. C. Alexander and the Reverend W. L. Miller announced plans to create a school for North Carolina Freedmen. A pledge of \$1,400 from Mrs. Mary D.

Biddle of Philadelphia led to a campaign to name the school in honor of her late husband, Major Henry Biddle. And so, Biddle Memorial Institute, later to be known as Biddle University, was chartered by the state legislature. Eight acres of land donated by

Colonel W. R. Myers of Charlotte became the site of this new school for young men of all ages.

In 1921 and 1922, through the generosity of Mrs. Jane Berry Smith of Pittsburgh, the university experienced spectacular growth. Her donations built a theological dormitory, science hall, teachers' cottage, and memorial gate. She then established a major endowment in the name of her late husband. In recognition of these contributions the university, in 1923, amended its charter to reflect its new name: Johnson C. Smith University. Over the next five years, Mrs. Smith continued to donate funds, enabling the university to build five more buildings, including a campus church.

In 1929, Johnson C.

nized as a four-year college. The high school program had been eliminated; the curriculum had been limited to liberal arts and sciences and a theological department, and plans were laid to begin admitting women. Thirty years later, coinciding with the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee, Johnson C. Smith was a fully co-educational liberal arts institution.

The Duke Endowment, established by James B. Duke of New Jersey and Charlotte, the United Negro College Fund and various other sources funded major development on the campus between 1955 and 1968. Seven new buildings were erected, including the James B. Duke Memorial Library, the University Memorial Union,

and a new gymnasium. Dramatic advancement was also occurring in the curriculum, changes which were noted by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., when he spoke on the occasion of the University's Centennial Celebration.

Today, the tradition of progress continues at a heightened pace. Building goes on; plans for a Center for the Humanities and the Arts and a new health care facility are being finalized. Always remembering its past and its cause, that of providing educational opportunities in the context of a wholesome and supportive environment, Johnson C. Smith is now looking toward the future, and building upon its reputation as a center for academic excellence.

? QUESTIONS ?
 ..Are a part of everyday life.
 ANSWERS
 ? Are part of The Charlotte Post. Call 376-0496 to start your subscription today! ?

We Support The Bulls!

50% OFF

On Dry Cleaning Only
 Silk Not Included

DANDY CLEANERS AND LAUNDRY

2700 Freedom Drive - 399-5525
 2040 N. Graham St. - 334-4196
 1207 Parkwood Ave. - 334-4196

More than 24 years experience




Yolanda Goode, 18, a freshman from Burlington, was in the Golden Bull spirit Tuesday at the student pep rally.

GOOD LUCK BULLS!

From
Deese's Coiffures & Boutique

COME SEE OUR EXPERT STAFF
 CURLS, PERMS,
 CONDITIONERS, CUTS,
 SHAMPOO PRESS & CURL

597-7961
 4409 F-1 N. Tryon Street

Kmart®
 The Saving Place®

& UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND PRESENTS

"Just So" GEL ACTIVATORS



NOW
\$1.97
 Reg. \$2.95



NOW
\$5.97 ea.
 Reg. \$8.99

PURCHASE OF "JUST SO" GEL TO HELP BENEFIT UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND