



—World-Herald Photo.

Mrs. Sterling (left), Rojuana, Jerome . . . with favorite teacher.

Early Pupil, Last Honor Teacher

It was something of a family affair when Mrs. Lula Jones, 70, closed her teaching career at Howard Kennedy School.

On hand for the occasion was Mrs. Esther Sterling, 2302 Charles Street, one of Mrs. Jones's first kindergarten pupils at Howard Kennedy.

Mrs. Sterling is an aunt of two members of Mrs. Jones's present and last class — Rojuana Washington, 2918 Erskine Street, and Jerome Daniels, 3472 Pratt Street.

Mrs. Jones said she well remembered Mrs. Sterling.

"Once Esther refused to sit down when I told her to and I gave her a swat where it counted," Mrs. Jones said.

The blow was not heavy enough to be classed as

corporal punishment. "But the results were wonderful," the teacher said. "Esther never caused me any trouble after that."

Mrs. Sterling held no grudge against her first instructor. "She was my favorite teacher," she said.

Rojuana and Jerome gave Mrs. Jones a similar vote of appreciation.

Mrs. Jones, who at 70 has reached the mandatory retirement age for Omaha Public School teachers, began at Howard Kennedy in January, 1944, as a substitute teacher.

Before coming to Howard Kennedy, Mrs. Jones's teaching experience had been in Iowa and was confined to the 1910-1915 period. She married in 1915. Her husband died in 1937.

Although she intended to teach at Howard Kennedy

"just for a while," she stayed on continuously. She taught for years as a "permanent substitute" until, by attending evening and summer classes at the University of Omaha, she earned a Bachelor's Degree at 66.

She has two sons—Leon Jones, certified public accountant at Seattle and Dr. Lloyd Jones, Professor of Speech at Chico State College, Chico, Cal.,—and five grandchildren.

Thursday was the last class day at Howard Kennedy. Mrs. Jones will return Friday to pass out report cards.

"I'm going to miss this wonderful school," she said, but then brightened: "Maybe they'll let me come back as a substitute once in a while."