

Bonny Oaks Plans First Homecoming

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After 78 years of caring for homeless children at the same location on Bonny Oaks Drive, Tennessee's oldest county-operated child care home will welcome back former students and staff at the First Annual Bonny Oaks School Homecoming Sunday June 11.

The alumni gathering, complete with a picnic lunch and a concert by the Scenic City Band, will also give former school members and friends a chance to view new developments at the 323-acre school property.

Now caring for 96 Black and White children aged 6 to 16, the Bonny Oaks School got its start in 1894 when a group of four distinguished Chattanooga citizens urged the county government to support a home for indigent children.

The founders were J.W. Bachman, city chaplain and pastor of the First Presbyterian Church; Squire L.W. Bates, father of Col. Creed Bates who is now a school board member; Charles D. McGuffey, nephew of the author of the famous McGuffey's Reader, and J.W. Bell.

Through the years the Bonny Oaks School has expanded its operations and now the school employs 28 staff members and has 35 acres developed as campus and playground area.

Facilities include two swimming pools, a skating rink, a gymnasium, a lighted ball park, a chapel a clinic and an office building.

The school also carries out a farm program that includes eight farm buildings, two herds of cattle, and a herd of swine.

Children at Bonny Oaks School attend nine different off-campus schools and also at-

tend the church of their choice.

Friends of the school have contributed many gifts, including a bus by the Chattanooga Civitan Club, a U.S. flag that once flew over the nation's capitol from Rep. LaMar Baker, a Tennessee flag donated by Gov. Winfield Dunn, and a dozen Japanese cherry trees given by Dr. W.M. Myers.

Malcolm M. Adamson is the school superintendent and members of the board of directors are Cartter Patten, Marvin Gross, Col. Bates, W.C. Hudlow Sr. and Chester L. Frost.