

on the Web site. When Bonny Oaks closed its doors as a children's home in 1985, its photo albums containing decades of pictures, newspaper articles, personal records and memorabilia were given to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library," said Ms. Haven, who resides in Arlington, Texas.

"As it is today, we must travel to see pictures of ourselves as children. For many, such a trip is not possible because of distance, health or means."

So it has become the goal of several Bonny Oaks alumni to see the library's archives of approximately 1,200 photos put on the Web site, making it accessible to all alumni.

"It is our prayer that one day we will be able to sit in our own homes with our own children and grandchildren surrounding us while we show them our 'family' albums," said Ms. Haven. "The Web site has obtained permission from the library to have its many photo albums copied onto a CD to be put on the Web."

Clara Swann, head of the library's local history and genealogy departments has been assisting Ms. Haven with this project.

"The scrapbooks in the library's Bonny Oaks collection have always held a lot of interest for alumni of Bonny Oaks. They are the part of the collection they always want to look at because it's them as children,



Dewane Kidwell sent this photo of dinner in the Bonny Oaks boys' dining hall to Christine Haven for the Web site. He was one of five brothers to live at the school during the 1930s and 1940s.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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pictures of activities they were in at the school, they can see their siblings," said Ms. Swann.

Both Ms. Swann and Ms. Haven agree that for some alumni, these photos are the only documentation of their childhoods. And as the Bonny Oaks alumni grow older, it becomes more imperative to update and save this collection before these individuals pass away.

Ms. Swann has made numerous phone calls on behalf of the Bonny Oaks alumni in search of a local, professional studio that would do the scanning. To protect against loss of the photos, the library will not allow the albums to leave the city. Currently, the plan is to have the albums photographed, the negatives given to the library for its records and the Web site retain the CD,

Ms. Haven said that in addition to donations for this project, they are still seeking photos from alumni to add to the Web site. Anyone wishing to contribute financially, should make checks to BonnyOaks.Com and send to Harry R. Jackson, P.O. Box 244, Chattanooga, TN 37412.

## On the Web

- **Site Address:** [www.bonnyoaks.com](http://www.bonnyoaks.com)
- **Linked to:** Hamilton County Tennessee Genealogical Society at [http://hctgts.org/schools\\_main.htm](http://hctgts.org/schools_main.htm). Also, with all major search engines and on the school reunion site [www.classmates.com](http://www.classmates.com).
- **Chartered:** The Web site has become chartered as BonnyOaks.Com, a nonprofit in the state of Tennessee with alumni registrations as membership. No dues or fees are charged for use.
- **For information:** Contact Christine Haven at [texas-bonny@msn.com](mailto:texas-bonny@msn.com)