

Alumni Update: Dolly Yopp Grantham

As a third generation employee of Virginia Baptist Children's Home, I would like to share some memories with you. My Dad and Mom, George and Evalene Yopp and my grandparents, Earl and Ollie Lawrence worked at the Home. My uncle, Roy Yopp, worked for the Home as well.

Dad, Roy, Russell Stewart and Paul Farmer were responsible for keeping "The Farm" going for a number of years. They raised beef cattle, hogs, chickens, ran the dairy operation, and oversaw the garden. Dad was the farm manager but helped out wherever he was needed. I remember that on occasion he kept the heating plant going at night if the regular attendant did not show up for work.

My father was the butcher for the Home. He and mom used to have a group of girls work with them in the canning house. At Christmas, he made trips to pick up home-made cakes donated by various churches. Also, Sears made donations of toys and clothes at Christmas and Dad would go on Christmas Eve in the dump truck to pick up the donations and take them to the basement of the old Evans Cottage, we called it the 'Sewing Room', to be distributed to the cottages for the kids.

Dad retired with over 35 years of service, and although he lost his left hand in a farming accident in 1965, he never let that slow him down. After his retirement, he continued to help with cutting hay and other tasks. He was always happy to be on a tractor or in the garden. He continued to have a garden every year until he was 90 years old, always planting at least one hundred tomato

plants as well as all the other vegetables.

I have fond memories growing up with close connections to the Home. Some of my special memories include the Bell, the old swimming pool, the canning house, that terrific old barn and Chester the bull, playing on bales of hay with my cousins Ronnie and Valerie, the milk wagon transporting those big cans full of fresh

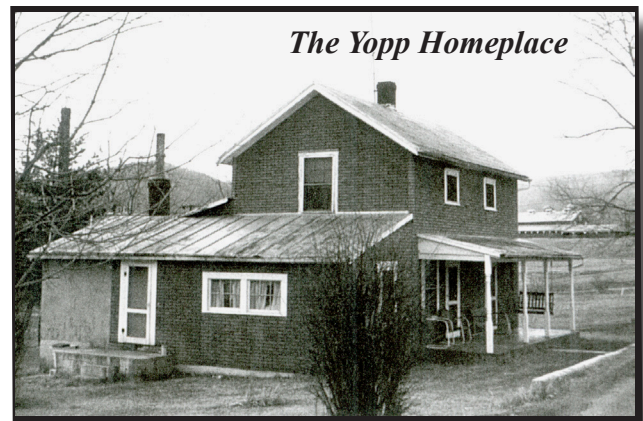
milk to the kitchen daily, the chicken house and baskets of fresh eggs, the old Main building (our castle), sleigh riding, roller skating on those old sidewalks and knowing all the rough spots.

It is a privilege to have grown up here and have all these wonderful memories. I am now working here part-time as afternoon receptionist. My folks didn't have it so easy, but I am proud of them and the contributions they made. I wish there was room to mention the friends I have made through the years and I am pleased to still keep in touch with many. I hope to see you at the reunion in June!



George Yopp

Dolly Yopp Grantham



The Yopp Homeplace

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7; NIV).

Sponsor a Child for Christmas

As a former resident of the Children's Home, you may have fond memories of visiting with families in the community during the Christmas Holiday season. These visits may have involved special times of holiday meals, opening gifts on Christmas morning, warm fellowship, and the sharing of God's word and Christ's birth.

Times have changed over the years, but the Home's goal of making Christmas special for our residents hasn't. Instead of visiting with families in the community, many of our children remain on our campus over the holidays. Even for children that are able to visit with family during the holidays, gifts from the Home may be the only gifts they receive. Our hope is to make Christmas special for all our residents. Christmas sponsorships are available for those willing to help us with this goal. If you would like to purchase gifts for one or more of our residents, please contact David Wilson at (540) 389-2112. Christmas items should arrive before December 19, 2005. Keep in mind that sponsorship is also an important means of supporting our residents throughout the year.



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Christmas has always been a magical time of year at the Children's Home. Residents dressed up in their best clothes for special banquets and eagerly anticipated opening presents on Christmas morning. The group in the photo at left posed for this Christmas snapshot in the early 1970's. With your support as a Christmas sponsor, our residents today will have as wonderful a Christmas experience as these young children did 30 years ago.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR
THE ALUMNI REUNION COMING UP
ON JUNE 24-25, 2006!**