

# THE HOME NEWS.

*Echoes from Layne's Hospitality Home  
for Servicemen, 1941-1975*

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 1996



Time has flown since the days we were directly influenced by Dad and Mom Rattan at Mother Layne's Hospitality Home at 1228 22nd Street, San Diego, California. But indirectly, their teachings linger on.

We have a couple of reasons for sending you this newsletter. (1) A project and (2) we want to find out who, if anyone, is interested in sharing with others who were also influenced by the Home. The project is to place a marker on Mom Rattan's grave. Dad's reads, BELOVED HUSBAND: REV. IRVIN L. RATTAN, 1893-1968; DIRECTOR, LAYNE'S HOSPITALITY HOME "HOME AWAY FROM HOME" FOR SERVICEMEN, but there is nothing on Mom Rattan's. **We need \$1,000 for one that will be a companion to Dad Rattan's.** That sounds like a lot, but if many of us can give \$10-\$25, we'll be able to do it, without making it hard for anyone. The Rattans are buried in El Camino Memorial Park in San Diego.

If more funds come in than are needed for the marker, we will set aside some for postage and copying future issues of *The Home News* (if there is enough interest in continuing it), and the rest will be sent to Southern California Assemblies of God Bible College in Costa Mesa as a donation in the names of Irvin L. and Bertha Rattan. If you want to participate, please send your check to Howard and Marge Marshall, 1044 S. 74th Street, Kansas City, KS 66111. Make it payable to **The Home News**. If you're interested in having the newsletter continued, please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and send it along too. Our daughter, Janet Marshall, will forward it to us if we're still in Alaska. [If you're in San Diego and have any questions, you may reach Lloyd and Leona Dailey at (619) 443-3269.]



## RETIREMENT IS GREAT!

As many of you already know, retirement is cool, in the words of our grandchildren. The Marshalls now agree; we are recent retirees and are having a great time! In June, we stopped by San Diego as we were driving to southeast Alaska to spend the summer with our son David and his family (phone us at (907) 285-3270). We were able to visit with several of our Home friends and wish we could have had time to see everyone.

A few of us had a mini-reunion Monday evening, June 3, at the home of Floyd and Eleanor French. There were 10 of us there, in addition to them: Bobby French, Lloyd & Leona Dailey, Virginia Hayden, Earl & Pat (Vickers) Stokes, Sid & Mildred (Lightner) Griffin, and

Howard & Marge Marshall. A day or so later, there was another mini-reunion in Hot Springs, Arkansas: J.W. & Betty Knighton and J. Ernest "Arkie" Radford visited Ollen and Flora Hardin.

Tuesday, June 4, the Daileys, the Marshalls, and Virginia Hayden stopped by to fellowship with Lucile Cox in San Diego. Lucile is still going strong at age 92--she was born 4/4/4. She said she rarely plays her guitar and her marimba was at her church, so she asked for some music while she prepared refreshments. With Leona at the piano and Marge on the organ, we played "The Haven of Rest," "I Was Once a Sinner," and "I Care Not What Church You Belong To." Loud. We wondered what the neighbors thought!

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of *The Home News* is first to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, second, to provide a current connecting link among the people who were affected by the Layne Hospitality Home for Servicemen in San Diego, California, during its period of ministry, 1941-1975.

*"Earnestly contending for the faith...."*

Jude 3 KJV

A NOTE OF THANKS

*Many of us weren't able to be around in Mom Rattan's later years, and we "children" are grateful to those friends and family members who helped her so much then and during her final illness in 1989. Blessings on you -- and you know who you are! We'd appreciate hearing from you about those years.*

*We know you were ministering as unto the Lord, but we want you to know that we all appreciate it too!*

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Others beside the Laynes and the Rattans have gone on to be with the Lord. Some we are aware of: Troy Blair, Mrs. J.C. Bolin, George Gregg, Delbert (Glen) Hall, Sam Langwell, Rev. Marin, Russell Quackenbush, and Eunice Radford.

PASS THE WORD.... We only have about 100 addresses on our mailing list, and we want more. So when you receive this newsletter, please feel free to contact everyone *you* know who was connected to the Home, and ask them if they have received *The Home News*. If they haven't, tell them to contact the Marshalls, and we'll send them a copy and add them to the list.

NEW "OLD FRIENDS"

We had a pleasantly surprising experience Saturday June 8 in Modesto, California. We arrived at Airport Assembly of God, where Charles "Chuck" Vermillion pastors, in time to enjoy supper during their evening gospel singing service. Just before we returned to the sanctuary for the last portion of the music, a man we had just met turned to Chuck and said, "You look familiar--were you ever at Mother Layne's Hospitality Home in San Diego?"

It turns out that Bobby Bice, who attends the Assembly of God in Riverbank, Calif., came to the Home in 1954 and 1955. He had been invited there by Chuck, who was in the Navy at the time! Bobby came from Oklahoma, and was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier, Philippine Seas. Also, Bobby's wife, Diane, was born in Kansas City, KS--where we live--although she's been in California since she was young. We told the Bices that we are adding them to our mailing list.

IN APPRECIATION

In May 1990, we had a great reunion in San Diego. Thanks for all the efforts of the ones who organized it. Shall we try for another in the year 2000? Who wants to host it? Where should it be?

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Patience is a quality you admire in the driver behind you, but scorn in the one ahead. Eccl. 7:8-9  
--from *God's Little Instruction Book*

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SHASTA, CA--Paul and Joy Raymond recently retired in Shasta, just west of Redding, where their daughter, Carol, lives with her family. They took the Marshalls on a morning's tour to get close to Mt. Lassen, which erupted in 1915. The countryside is beautiful. In another direction, one can see Mt. Shasta, which is another cone-shaped mountain. Paul has learned quite a bit about geology, and plans to do some panning for gold.

## HOME FOLKS

**Marguerite Hall**, who cooked at the Home, is now retired and lives in a nice complex in Columbus, Nebraska. The Marshalls visited her this past Labor Day. In the Columbus park is an interesting collection of old church bells. Each spring Marguerite comes to Kansas City to visit her brother, Paul, and his wife, Carol. So we in the Kansas City area get to see her then.

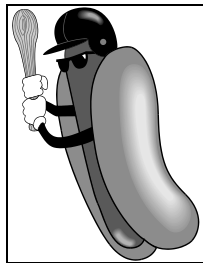
### CHOW DOWN!

If you're like us, one of your favorite memories of the Home is of the food. After church on Sunday evening, Marguerite would have delicious beans ready. She says she made five times this recipe:

1 lb. pinto beans	1 Tbsp. mustard
1/2 c. bacon ends	chopped celery and onion
1 c. catsup	salt
1/2 c. brown sugar	pepper

Cover with water. Cook (with lid on) on stove or in oven for a couple of hours. Then add onion, celery, catsup, mustard, and salt and pepper to taste. Cook until done. Chow down!

Remember those barbeques? Hot dogs, chips, and fellowship. When we look at those photos, we think, "Were we ever THAT young?!!"



**J. Ernest "Arkie" Radford** pastors Friendly Assembly of God in Kansas City, Missouri. The congregation is in a new building in the "Old Northeast" area.

Several years ago, while the Marshalls were visiting Friendly, one of the members, Reba Meyers, remarked that someone should write a book about the Hospitality Home, because she'd heard about so many interesting people. Arkie in turn nominated Marge Marshall, and we got excited about the idea, so that's what I'm doing.

The book, currently in its 6th draft, is entitled *Home Away From Home*. So anything we hear from you should be considered "fair game" for the book! Seriously, please write out your testimony of being at the home, any ministries you're participated in through the years, and what you're doing now, and send it to us. It doesn't necessarily have to be elegantly done, but it can be if you want to, of course.

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A Christian is always on duty.  
Christian living is living Christ.

--Henrietta C. Mears

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**Lloyd and Leona Dailey** live in Lakeside, Calif., in the El Cajon area. Lloyd pastors Emmanuel Community Church. Their two sons and families live nearby, as does **Virginia Gonzales Hayden**. Lloyd and Leona were our hosts while we were there. One morning while we were talking with Leona, we heard a turkey gobbling--from their neighbor's yard. Her china cabinet acted as a mirror and Mr. Turkey wanted to visit with us...there's got to be a pun there somewhere!

**E-mail** is the "in" thing now. If you have such an address, let us know and we'll pass it on. The Marshalls are still enjoying the audio tape sent to us by **Bill Seaberg** in 1990. His group at Northwest Church in Fresno CA was known at The Figs. The sound engineering was by Ric Seaberg, Bill and Marilyn's son.

**John Shirk** lives in Minneapolis, Minn. He is librarian at North Central Bible College.

**George "Red" Davis**, wife, Jacqueline, and family live in Salt Lake City. Red is a trucker and drives through Kansas City occasionally. We've enjoyed visiting with him.

## MORE ABOUT THE HOME FOLKS

**Pat (Vickers) Stokes** works part-time for the music ministry at San Diego's First Assembly of God, formerly known as "6th and Fir," but now known as "Phyllis Place." The new building was plagued by swallows this spring. We suggested that they should put up a sign saying, "San Juan Capistrano is *that* way." But someone else decided that maybe the birds have converted from Catholic to Pentecostal!

Pat's husband, Earl Stokes, is a Navy veteran; they met at Youth for Christ in San Diego, where he sang with the Thurlow Spurr singing group.



**Lucile Cox**, at 92, just renewed her driver's license. She said she'd love to be able to get out on the freeway and check out the new 75 mph speed limit. Watch out, San Diego! She confessed that when she was young, as she drove for her parents who were evangelists, she kept to the speed limit while they were awake. But when they fell asleep, she'd "put the pedal to the metal"!

## MEMORIES

The way the Layne's Hospitality Home for Servicemen interacted with the local Assemblies of God churches was to send car-loads to a given church for Sunday School and morning worship. Then the next Sunday, folks from that church would come to the home to participate in the afternoon service, followed by feasting on cakes brought by the church ladies, along with coffee and Jell-o provided by the Home where needed.

In the evening, the Home group provided the service at that church. Mom Rattan would guide the servicemen in leading the service, singing specials, and so on. Then Dad Rattan would preach, usually giving only the heart of his planned sermon, because the young men would get carried away, and their testimonies would

turn into mini-sermons.

How did Mom guide the servicemen? Paul Raymond told me that during one evening service at East San Diego A/G, he was about to lead the servicemen off the platform, before the sermon, when he felt "Mother's Eyes" burning a hole into him. He had no idea what he was doing wrong, but he FROZE -- and the ladies left the platform first, then the gentlemen. It was Mom's manner of teaching etiquette.

## HOW'S YOUR MEMORY?

Can you remember some of the churches who worked with the Home? Or were you one who went to one of the churches and came to the Home for the Sunday afternoon services? Whichever one fits you, you probably remember some of the churches in the San Diego, Los Angeles, and Imperial Valley areas.

As we talked to friends in San Diego, we tried to come up with as many as we could. We learned that some churches, like Bostonia, are gone, and others are in new buildings.

Here are the ones we recalled:

Bostonia	Chula Vista
Coachella	East San Diego
El Cajon	El Centro
Holtville	La Jolla
La Mesa	National City
Ocean Beach	Point Loma
San Ysidro	South Bay
and the Italian Church (Full Gospel Tabernacle)	

Were there more?

## VIETNAM VETERANS

There is a Christian outreach program for Vietnam Veterans -- Point Man Int'l Ministries (II Cor. 1:8-10). Skip and Cora Edlund, friends of ours here in Alaska, are with Point Man; Skip was in Vietnam. They are now RVers and travel around the country helping where needed. If you are affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and you want further information, go to this page on the Internet: [www.spaciouskies.us/IBETXT/Vietnam.html](http://www.spaciouskies.us/IBETXT/Vietnam.html).

# TIME FOR A LITTLE FUN

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine...." Proverbs 17:22

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## A Young Wife's Story

*He didn't like my pudding  
And he didn't like my cake.  
My biscuits were too hard,  
Not like his mother used to bake.*

*I didn't perk the coffee  
And I didn't make the stew,  
I didn't mend his socks  
Like his mother used to do.*

*As I pondered for an answer,  
I was looking for a clue.  
So I turned and boxed his ears,  
Like his mother used to do.*  
--From the Dear Abby column



Jeanne Calment is the oldest living human whose age can be verified. On her 120th birthday, she was asked to describe her vision for the future. "Very brief," she replied.

Another woman was asked the benefits of living to the age of 102. After a pause, she answered, "No peer pressure!"



Mark Twain said, "Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out, and your dog would go in."



Buffalo Bills offensive lineman Glenn Parker speculated as to why linemen are generally cheerful: "There are not a lot of well-paying jobs for 300-pounders. We found one, and we're happy about it."



Sign on a department store dressing room mirror: OBJECTS IN MIRROR MAY APPEAR BIGGER THAN THEY ACTUALLY ARE.

After an elderly maiden lady died, her family found her request that no male pallbearers be used. She had written, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."



"Get me a one-handed economist!" President Truman once demanded. "All my economists say, 'on the one hand ... but on the other hand.'"



**Middle age is when you're faced with two temptations and you choose the one that will get you home at 9 o'clock.**



Heard in western Kansas: "Well, the wind blew the ranch plumb into Nebraska, but we ain't lost everything. We get to keep the mortgage."



The husband went out with the guys one evening and, before he realized it, the morning of the next day had dawned. He hesitated to call home and talk to his wife. Finally, he hit upon an idea. He telephoned and when his wife answered, he shouted, "Don't pay the ransom, Honey. I escaped."



The Sunday School teacher was ending her class with a review. "What do we learn from the story of Jonah?" The class wit answered, "Take the plane next time."

## LEST WE FORGET

“Mother Layne’s Hospitality Home for Servicemen” was founded by Mrs. M.E. Layne, whose given name was Bertha. She was the widow of Mahlon E. Layne, who developed a special water pump, and became a wealthy man. Before M.E.’s death in 1927, he set up a charitable foundation, which provided Mother Layne with the funds to start the servicemen’s work in 1941.

To assist her in the work, she found Irvin L. and Bertha Rattan. After Mother Layne’s death in 1944, they became known as Dad and Mom Rattan. The Layne Foundation continued to underwrite the Home.

By the time the Home closed in 1975, more than 650,000 servicemen and women had gone through the Home.

Note from Howard & Marge Marshall: Our memories aren’t perfect by any means, so if we’ve printed some inaccuracies, just let us know and we’ll correct them. Thanks!

Practical theology:

*Mercy* is not getting what you deserve, while *grace* is getting what you don’t deserve.

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## FALLING DOWN DOESN'T MAKE YOU A FAILURE, BUT STAYING DOWN DOES.

For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again.... Proverbs 24:16a

From *God's Little Instruction Book*

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## WHAT'S WORSE?

The object I hid  
So safely away  
Wouldn't you know  
On a future day  
I wouldn't remember  
Where I hid it  
And more provoking,  
Forget that I did it?

--May Richstone

Questionnaire responses will determine when *The Home News* will be published again. Please mail yours as soon as possible to the Marshalls' address in Kansas City.

Nothing is too good for our boys in the service.

*Rev. Irvin L. "Dad" Rattan*