

The HOME NEWS

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



Vol. 3, Issue 2, No. 5

September 1998

Branson Reunion a Success

The "1998 Mid-America Reunion of Layne's Hospitality Home for Servicemen" was a resounding success, with 32 people from 11 states in attendance. A great time was had by all, as we visited, laughed, ate, sang and prayed together.

Dusty & Gwen **Coover** and their son, Brian Coover, all of Repton, Alabama; Clarence & Gena **English** of Clinton, Arkansas; Leo & Geri **Gaston** of Crowley, Texas; Russ & Viola **Gerrard** of Phoenix, Arizona; **Marguerite Hall** of Columbus, Nebraska; John & Betty **Knighton** of Phenix City, Alabama;

Mariana **Langwell** and her son, Jeffrey Hall, of Springfield, Missouri; Charles & Roberta **Lingerfelt** of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; Angel **Marcial** of Massapequa, New York; Howard & Marge **Marshall** of Kansas City, Kansas; Anthony & Betty **Palma** of Springfield, Missouri;

Dale & Charlotte **Peterson** of Rifle, Colorado; J. Ernest "Arkie" & Donna **Radford** of Grandview, Missouri; Paul & Joy **Raymond** of Redding, California; Dennis & Elaine **Terrell** of Hutchinson, Kansas; W. Dave **Thomas** of Harrison, Arkansas; and Jerry & Donna **Turner** of Edmond, Oklahoma.

God may not have any grandchildren, but the Rattans do. This somewhat facetious thought came to me (Marge) after we talked about our children during the reunion. As you see in the above list, two of the Rattans' grandchildren attended, Brian Coover and Jeffrey Hall. Both young men obviously enjoyed being there, because they had heard so much about the Hospitality Home through the years. (They were helpful as well, because they courteously manned the still and video cameras during the group photo-taking sessions.) During my financial report, I mentioned that our current mailing list is at 180 and that if we can get to 200 or more, we'll be eligible for a bulk-mailing permit which will make our funds go farther. Before long the suggestion surfaced that interested grandchildren be added -- and everyone there agreed that it is a **great** idea! **Call your children** -- do they want to be on *The Home News* mailing list? If the answer is "Yes," contact us by E-mail, regular mail, or phone call and we'll be more than pleased to add them. Thanks!

THE BEST OF THE HOLY LAND

Two of Rattans' grandchildren, Janna Hall Knowles and Jeffrey Hall, are going on the *Layne's Hospitality Home 1999 Holy Land Tour* March 8-17. They're the children of Mariana Hall Langwell and the late Delbert Glen Hall. As Janna said in a recent E-mail, "I am soooo excited about the reunion trip/tour of the Holy Land. This is all so new to me - Jeffrey and Mother and Papa (Sam Langwell)

have been in contact with all of you through the years, but I have been grown and married and on my own (so to speak) for 20 years now. I can't wait to meet everyone and get a chance to know all of you. You mentioned in your E-mail letter that we were "grandchildren" of the Rattans because of Daddy (Delbert) - but we are grandchildren "twice" because Mother married Papa after Daddy died and both of them went through the Rattans' Hospitality Home. ...Looking forward to March - and many more years of friendship." When asked if she wanted to be on the *Home News* mailing list, she responded, "Yes, I would love to hear about my 'family' that I never knew. This is almost as good as doing the family-tree research that I love so much (only this family will last through eternity)."

I haven't met Janna Knowles yet, but I sense she may have inherited some of Del Hall's famous enthusiasm! She touched upon the reason I think will be shared by "the grandchildren" as they learn about the family they never knew. They've heard about the Home from their parents, so they're aware that it contributed to their own (continued on following page; see *Spiritual heritage*)

The Home News. Vol. 3, Issue 2, No. 5
Published by the Marshalls
1044 S. 74th St., Kansas City, KS 66111
(913) 788-8637

Publisher: Howard W. Marshall
Editor/Writer: Marge Marshall
howard@spaciousskies.us
Internet e-mail: mmarshal@spaciousskies.us
Our Web page: www.spaciousskies.us/home/

Hospitality Home page:
www.spaciousskies.us/HospHome/

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, 1941-1975.

"Earnestly contending for the faith...." Jude 3 KJV

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- ✕ John C. Shirk, the librarian at North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, left June 25 for a 27-month Peace Corps assignment in Morocco; he will work with the University library system.
- ✕ Sharon Blalock Hanna E-mailed us that her mother, Thelma Blalock Bennett died July 5. "Mom and myself and my sister, Joyce Blalock Hernandez all went to the Home for several years. Mom enjoyed receiving your newsletter so much, and now that she is gone, I want to pick up the banner and run, so please add me to your list. Thank you."
- ✕ Roger "Phil" and Lily Reynolds are involved with RV MAPS projects since 1992. They weren't able to come to the Branson Reunion because they were working at the Carlinville, Illinois District Campgrounds, installing 70 more RV parking pads. Earlier this year, they worked in Wickenburg, Arizona on a new church building.
- ✕ Dusty Coover located Dave Thomas awhile back. Seems he was driving along and spotted Dave cruising down the highway, so Dusty chased him down -- we hear it took a while because Dave's pickup is apparently not a slow-poke, as an old saying goes.
- ✕ Larry & Bernice Hudlow live in North Bend OR near their daughter and family, Rosalie & Larry Hyatt. Their son and family, Eugene & Susan Hudlow, are missionaries to El Salvador. Larry was the one who in 1940 drove Mother Layne to San Diego to see the house at 1268 22nd Street which eventually became the Hospitality Home.

- ✕ Marge's brother, Norman Seaton, and his wife, Sharon, head the Texas Accordion Assn. If you're an accordion enthusiast, contact Norm at NatlAccordion@sbcGlobal.net.

~*~*~*~*

(Spiritual heritage, continued from previous page)
spiritual heritage. John Jollie expressed it thus: "It's so great to hear from someone involved with the Home. I talk present tense because it's still very much alive in the hearts and lives of those that have been touched by its ministry, and Mom and Dad's dedication. May God richly bless you for revitalizing such an important part of our lives. Their lives continue to challenge, and bless."

~*~*~*~*

- ✓ If you or your children are interested in joining the Holy Land tour, please contact Gena Linzey English.

The Best of the Holy Land

This 10-day pilgrimage of Israel and the Holy Land is provided by Educational Travel Services, Inc. in Lakeland, Florida. It will be escorted by Clarence and Gena English of the Hospitality Home family. Included: round-trip air flights via El Al Israel Airlines from NY; Israel-licensed tour guides and driver; deluxe air-conditioned motorcoaches; all transfers; superior first-class hotel accommodations and a full Israeli breakfast and dinner daily. The cost for the March 8, 1999 Holy Land Tour is \$1798 per person, plus \$112 for taxes and tips. Cost is based on double-occupancy and departure from JFK. Requirement: a \$200 per person Registration and Deposit.

"Nothing is too good for our boys
in the service."



Rev. Irvin L. "Dad" Rattan, 1893-1968
Bertha M. Rattan, 1897-1989

Sermon Notes

Virginia Gonzales Hayden recently found some notes she had taken while Dad Rattan preached, so she sent them to me as a resource for the book I'm writing about the Home. But rather than wait that long, I want to share some with you now. In his sermon, Dad Rattan was teaching from Hebrews 4:15. Here are Virginia's notes.

...Walt Whitman once said "I never ask a wounded man how he feels. I myself become the wounded person." Can we find better words to describe the power of our God to deliver us in the time of trouble, and the source of that power? He loves us in a way that does not ask us how we feel; our feelings are His own. He Himself has been wounded for us and with us. He suffers in all our afflictions.

...There is no Calvary to which a man (or woman) is driven, upon which God has not suffered. There is no lonely hour through which you will ever live or in which you will ever die that God has not known.

...Every wound inflicted upon our body, mind or soul, has wounded God, and so out of His boundless compassion, He lays hold upon us in the dark hours.

Hospitality Home people now in Gloryland "Gone But Not Forgotten"

M. E. Layne; Mrs. M.E. (Bertha) Lane; Irvin L. "Dad" Rattan; Bertha M. "Mom" Rattan.

Glen Atkinson; Loretta Atkinson; Thelma Blalock Bennett; Troy Blair; Mrs. J. C. Bolin; Mable Adney Britt; Kenny Cain; George Gregg; Delbert Glen Hall; Inez Hiebert; Marvin Johnson; Mildred Johnson; Sam Langwell; Betty Marin; Henry Marin; Bro. Pease; Sis. Pease; Nellie Shriver Porter; Russell Quackenbush; Eunice Radford; Bill Robinson; Ed Strong.

If you know of other Home-related people who have gone to their heavenly reward, please let us know.

~*~*~*~*

FYI This may be the first issue of *The Home News* you've received, so you'll probably be interested to learn that the newsletter began in 1996 as the method to raise funds for the marker for Mom Rattan's grave. Everyone responded so generously that the stone was in place by Memorial Day 1997.

By the time the funds were raised, we realized the newsletter was providing the opportunity for Home Folks to know about each other, so we're still publishing it. We still have enough in *The Home News* bank account for several issues. When we run low, we'll let you know...!

A small note for your consideration -- at the Branson Reunion, we asked for their opinion of the size of our print, which sometimes gets pretty small, as you may have noticed. We do this so as to fit in more news, while keeping the size of the newsletter small enough that only one stamp is necessary. The "Branson Consensus" was that they'd rather purchase a magnifying glass and have more news in each issue. Thought you'd want to know.

Thank You! At the Branson Reunion, I mentioned that the next issue of *The Home News* would go out in November,

upon our return from Alaska. But then Mariana Langwell and Jeffrey Hall volunteered to do the copying if I would send them the original pages, mailing labels, etc. So that's why you're getting this issue in September. Thank you, Mariana and Jeffrey!

The News from the Yukon Delta

What a summer this has been! The Yupik Eskimo people have welcomed us and we'll be leaving a part of our hearts here on September 29. They sometimes sing in Yupik, and it's beautiful.

We break for a MAPS commercial here: If you're a retired minister and want to travel and work for the Lord too, west central Alaska is the place to go. Just have good knees, Marge says! The land is flat and tends to flood when the ice breaks up (late in May) so the houses are built on stilts, and to get from one village to another, you climb into boats or into small planes. Contact Jim Schulz at the Alaska District Office if you're interested.

We had quite a workout during camping season at Agaiutim Nune (the place of God), being the "go-between" for workers, supplies and campers arriving and leaving from Emmonak. We also handled the UHS radio, E-mails and phone calls. By the end of July everything was packed away until next year, here in Emmo. That sounds much simpler than it is, because all transportation to and from the camp is by boat. Director Schulz made 37 round-trips to Camp A.N., a total of 1,480 miles. In addition, several families from the three churches (Alakanuk, Emmonak & Kotlik) used their own boats.

Adjustments? Yep! Like the sun setting IN THE NORTH at 1:00 a.m. and coming up again at 4:30; during the day, it shines in the SOUTH windows as the globe turns. A crash, bang, and thump when one flushes the vacuum toilet (no secret as to where you are!) High prices: oranges, 85¢; fresh medium tomatoes, \$1.50 each; and bread up to \$5.50 a loaf, prompting Howard to seek the donation of a bread-making machine, which was generously given by 1st Assembly of God in Anchorage. Umm good!

Little did we realize, when we were married in Lyons, Kansas on June 23, 1952 that we would be here in Alaska 46 years later. It was cold and rainy, so for our celebration, we put on our mudboots and heavy coats and slogged the half-mile to Family Restaurant and shared a good steak. There are 3 stores, all grocery and mercantile. AC Variety Store (Alaska Commercial) even has an ATM, to our amazement, so that's how we get along without banks here in the Bush.

Kotlik is a village of about 400, with nothing but boardwalks -- no roads!! Boardwalks wide enough for their ATVs to travel on, because the tundra is too wet to build roads on. It was a 20-minute flight each way, in a 4-seater plane. Once the left wheel got stuck in a mudhole, so the manager came out and gave the wing a little push, and we finished preparing for takeoff.

A word from the publisher: It's fun to go "home" because we generally see people we haven't seen for a period of time. Result? Reunion of friends and family. Branson, Missouri became "Home" for 32 former service personnel, their companions and a couple of children, for the weekend of April 25-27, 1998. Some had not seen each other in over 40 years -- that's a long time, folks! Lots of fond memories were shared, and if you weren't able to be there, your ears may have been burning that day, because we probably were talking about you -- in nice ways, of course!

We want to express our great appreciation to Pastor Howard Boyd and his wife, Kathy, who welcomed us to the fine facilities Branson Hills Assembly of God; to the Women's Ministries group of the church, who catered our Monday noon and evening meals; and last, but not least, Gena & Clarence English, who arranged condominium lodging and visiting space for a number of people.

Now, get your boots on and get ready for another Reunion!! Where? To the Holy Land in March of 1999, should Jesus tarry His return. Gena is making the arrangements, so contact her ASAP!

Here's a glimpse of the effects of the resurrection of Jesus in Matthew 28. (1) The Message v. 6 (2) The Messenger v. 5 (3) The Messiah v. 9.

Just let me brag on Marge a little: I appreciate her love, her hard work on *The Home News*, and for helping to coordinate the '98 Reunion. Thanks, Marge.

Blessings on you all -- you are a blessing to us!

—Howard



CHOW DOWN!

For a taste of Alaska, try *Pastor Ho's Salmon Dip or Spread*

2 pints cooked, boned salmon
8 oz. mayonnaise
8 oz. cream cheese
1 medium onion, chopped
8 oz. sour cream
4 oz. dill relish or ground dill pickles
4 oz. chopped chilies
Black pepper
Seasonings, to your taste: Garlic powder; Mrs. Dash;
Cavender's Greek Seasoning; ground-up
Jalapeno peppers

Use hand mixer to mix together. Spread on crackers, chips, bread, or Pilot Bread (a large cracker popular in Alaska).

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, which was located at 1268 22nd Street, San Diego, California.

By the time it closed in 1975, more than 650,000 service men and women had gone through the "Home Away From Home."

Note from the Marshalls: Our memories aren't perfect by any means, so if we've printed some inaccuracies, just let us know and we'll be pleased to correct them.

MISSING PERSONS UPDATE

We really appreciate those who have helped us find some "missing persons"! Others are still missing, and we've added even more. So please check through the list and send us any addresses you have. Thanks!

Lawson & Lorri Adams; Don Baker; Dvane Bassett; Joan Benzon; Bobby & Diane Bice; Clark Branch (Marines); George Cameron; Raymond Chandler; Tommy Chontz; Art & Janis Clark; Joel Clark; James Daily; Paul Davis; Kennedy Ellsworth; Bob & Janie Enders; Jack Frost; James & Sandra Games.

L.E. Halvorson; Michael Harrington; Alpha Henson; Robert Hudson. Bill Kemner; Dale Lawrence; Cliff Lawrence; Esther Leining; Irv & Valores Lence; Dennis Markley; Bob Mathis; Don & Marguerite McCrosson; Henry McKee; Oather & Peggy Morper; Viola Morrison.

Van Neilson; Reggie Nelson; Jim Pavey; Monty Payne (Navy); Dee Pease; Tom & Janice Plumb; Bob Poland; Jack Poland; Ralph Proffitt; Frank Roberts; Vera Roberts; Henry Rozier; Dorothy Sanders; Larry Shaw; Rose Ann Stafford; Donald E. Stawkey; Jimmie Joe & Georgia Stepp; Bob & Judy Stover; Charles & Linda Underwood; Darwin White; Jerry Wolfe.