



The HOME NEWS

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

Issue N° 8

December 2003

"Season's Greetings in the precious name of Jesus"

Thank you for not "giving up" on the next Home newsletter. We have been rather busy over the past two years since our last one. Marge is "letting me" do some of the information (subject to her editing) in this edition. (Smile) This issue will not have the entire address list, but we encourage you to contact all your friends by phone, letter or e-mail. Don't just wait and look in the obituary column!!! Please contact us if you need a particular phone number or mailing address.

We've received notes, letters, pictures and some financial gifts from many of you expressing your appreciation for the "Home News." As long as Marge and I are able, we will keep doing it. We both retired in 1996 years ago and in March of 1999 I came out of retirement to pastor Prince of Peace Assembly of God here in Klawock, Alaska. However, "retirement" is sounding better all the time. Quite possibly within this next year, and probably to Belen NM, thirty miles south of Albuquerque, where our older son, Larry, lives. ~Howard

The Chaplain Writes Another Book

Have you read Chaplain Linzey's recent book? He sent a copy to us and it is a must-read. It brings back some of the early day Pentecostal experiences, and is refreshing to read. The title is *"The Holy Spirit in the Third Millennium: A Guide to the Spirit Within"* by Stanford E. Linzey, Jr. Briefly, the book deals with "issues surrounding the manifestation of the Spirit in prayer from theological and practical points of view." You are able to order it by calling 1-866-909-2665 or visit www.XulonPress.com for ordering and pricing information. You may reach Chp. Linzey in Escondido, CA at (619) 743-3913.



Do you remember this old Packard limousine? It is a 1932 model 904 DeLuxe Eight. "The number "904" in Packard terminology is pronounced as "nine-oh-four." This series was built on a 147 inch wheelbase chassis and had an in-line eight cylinder engine of 384 cubic inch displacement. They were big cars that drove beautifully despite their size and were well received by the public. Several of the type still exist in CA in the hands of collectors." -James Pearsall, Zarephath NJ. Mr. Pearsall sent us an e-mail, after he found this picture on our Internet site. He'd hoped we had an original photo, but we don't.



Remember Those Days?

This picture was taken March 28, 1953 aboard the USS Piedmont, AD-17, in San Diego. Howard had just arrived home from Korea. A gang from the Home was there to meet him, including Marge. It was a great day for lots of other wives and children too!

We were married in 1952, and celebrated 50 years in 2002, with a renewal of vows

before all of our family (in Kansas City), then a week's trip to England to meet Marge's penpal, Kath Green. We have been writing to each other since 1947. Kath and her husband, Norm, a retired Brigadier General, live in Camberley, Surrey, and were wonderful hosts and tour guides. We even got to tour Windsor Castle. See www.spaciousskies.us/England/.

The Layne Family

Mother Layne's great-grand-daughter, Willa Layne Parks Lowe, wrote inquiring for more information about the Hospitality Home. We've added her to our mailing list. What a blessing Mr. & Mrs. Mahlon E. Layne were to untold thousands of military men and women. Praise the Lord for M.E. Layne's vision in setting up the Layne Foundation in 1929, and Mother Layne's vision when she invited Mom and Dad Rattan to become directors back in 1941!

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

Rev. Irvin L. "Dad" Rattan, 1893-1968

Bertha M. Rattan, 1897-1989

The Home News. Issue 1, No. 8

December 2003

Published by the Marshalls

P. O. Box 432, Klawock, Alaska 99925

(907) 755-2151

Publisher: Howard W. Marshall

Editor/Writer: Marge Marshall

mmarshal@spaciousskies.us

pastorh@aptalaska.net

Our Web page: www.apalaska.net/~pastorh

The Hospitality Home on the Internet:

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

E-mail Directory

Barnett, Arnold, abarnett39@msn.com
Branch, Clark/Ruth, CBBRANCH@webtv.net
Campbell-Gaston, Becky,
RudolphCampbell@aol.com
Crowder, Linfield, DocCrowder@aol.com
Curnutt, Elton, eecurnutt@earthlink.net
Davis, George (Red), tre_555@hotmail.com
English Clarence/Gena, clargena@hotmail.com
Foster, Judy_Jim, judithfoster@juno.com
Gaston, Geri, gerigaston@yahoo.com
Gaston, Joshua, samtherus@hotmail.com
Gaston, Paul, tex_45@yahoo.com
Hall, Jeffrey M, jhall@coin.org
Hanna, Sharon/Richard, hanna58@cox.net
Hiebert, Leon & Sharon, theons@juno.com
Knowles, BJ (Del Hall's grandson),
sucker105@hotmail.com
Knowles, Janna Hall, knowles007@yahoo.com
Lawrence, Cliff/Betty, Happygrma@aol.com
Linzey, Chp Stanford, slinzey@juno.com
Lowe, Willa Layne, WillaPC@aol.com
Marshall, Howard, pastorh@aptalaska.net
Monta, George & Adaire, gamonta@blueridge.net
Palermo, Sylvia, SylChet@aol.com
Palma, Anthony & Betty,
adpalma@compuserve.com
Reiber, Henry/Yong, henry142@ak.net
Reynolds, Phil & Lily, RPR5011@aol.com
Schwartz, Emanuel, plato26@juno.com
Skiles, Odell, OdellSkiles@wmconnect.com
Soule, Lyla, lfsoule@msn.com
Stokes, Earl/Pat, epstokes@juno.com
Turner, Jerry/Donna, jerrybrass@skyq.com
Turner, Johnny/Gail, ticotiger14@cox.net

Wallace, Patricia, PatWallace1@juno.com
Warner, Wayne, Wwarner@ag.org
Webber, Dalton & Martha
dewebber@cox-internet.com
Webber, Wayne/Vivian, wwebber@grantspass.com

If you are not on our e-mail address list, please send Marge an e-mail and I will add you! Thanks.

Appreciate Your Freedom

In the Presence of My Enemies by Gracia Burnham with Dean Merrill is "A gripping account of the kidnaping of American missionaries and their year of terror in the Philippine jungle." Gracia and her husband Martin were held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic terrorist group from May 27, 2001 to June 7, 2002. Gracia's account has certainly made us more grateful than ever before that our freedom, purchased with the lives of so many military people, is a precious blessing from God! The book is from Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL, and is available at local bookstores and at www.amazon.com. Gracia is a friend of a friend of ours!

Here are just a few of those we have heard from since our last HOME NEWS: Emanuel Schwartz; Odell Skiles; Paul Raymond; Ernest "Arkie" & Adelle Radford; Lloyd & Leona Dailey; Virginia Hayden; Louise Anderson; Gene Eazer; Gladys Olson and Audrey Click; Martha Schwartz; Mariana Hall Langwell; Elton Curnutt; George Monta; Chuck Parks; Marguerite Hall; Geri Gaston; Jerry Turner; Pat & Earl Stokes; Johnny Turner; Johnny & Betty Knighton; Cliff & Betty Lawrence; Sylvia Palermo; Clarence & Gena English; Willa Layne Parks Lowe; Chaplain & Mrs. Stanford E. Linzey. Reading down this list will probably take most of you down "Memory Lane."

Pat (Vickers) and her husband Earl live in San Diego, and have traveled to Lima, Peru on missions trips the past two years. She says, "Earl and I go with the teams and do whatever we can to help. We help get things ready before we go...we usually take a lot to the missionaries (it's very expensive to ship, and there's no guarantee they will arrive) so we help to coordinate that sort of thing." Pat also got to spend some time with a couple of the missionary wives she has become good friends with, via e-mail.

Just wanted to say how much we (Janna, Jeffrey and I) enjoyed the 2001 Home Reunion in Kansas City. In September 2001, Jeffrey and I went to Calif (Vacaville) for his 20th high school reunion and to visit Langwell and Hall families. **I was recently asked about the sailor that went to the Home and did magic tricks. Can someone give me a name or other information?**
--Mariana (Hall) Langwell

A note from the publisher

Marge and I consider it a privilege to keep information coming your way about those who spent time at the Home during the war years, or have memories of those who did.

We can't turn back now because we have gone too far! Dad Rattan did not teach us to be "quitters"... so, let's keep our hands to the plow and not look back (Luke 9:62). Keep looking unto the Author and Finisher of our Faith, the Lord Jesus Himself! (Hebrews 12:2)

The "password" for entering the club room at the Home concludes my remarks to each of you: *"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."* Jude 3 KJV

Howard W. Marshall, USN, 1950-54

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

Heaven is sounding sweeter all the time, in that we have had several of our Home friends make that final move since our last issue, Roger Anderson; Petey Barnett; Joy Raymond; Dalton Porter; Lola Cain; Julius Harlow; Kitty Parker; Florence Buckel; and Lois Curnutt. I can almost hear Mom & Dad Rattan and Mother Layne say, "Welcome home."

All the deaths of which we're aware:

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

Roger Anderson; Glen Atkinson; Loretta Atkinson; Veneder "Petey" Barnett; Thelma Blalock Bennett; Troy Blair; Ruth Brooks; Mrs. J. C. Bolin; Mable Adney Britt; Dick Bucey; Florence Buckel; Kenny Cain; Lola Cain; Lucile Cox; Gwen Coover; Lois Curnutt; Sherryll Adney Dickenson; Milton Fountain; Leo Gaston; Francis Gregg; George Gregg; Delbert Glen Hall; L. E. Halvorson; Julius Harlow; Ernest Hiebert; Inez Hiebert; Betty Higgins; Larry Hudlow; Marvin Johnson; Mildred Johnson; Sam Langwell; Darnelle Linzey Lemons; Betty Marin; Henry Marin; Gene Martin; James McPherson; Minnie McPherson; Lydia McWhinney; Mrs. Dallas Miller; Kitty Parker; Bill Mincey; Chester Palermo; Gerald Parsley; Bro. Pease; Sis. Pease; Dalton Porter; Nellie Shriver Porter; Russell Quackenbush; Eunice Radford; Joy Raymond; Bill Robinson; Ed Strang; and Jack Wallace.

If you know of other Home-related people who have gone to their heavenly reward, please let us know. Sing with us in your hearts, "when we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!"

Please forgive the small type – but this way, more news can be crammed in. ~Marge & Howard

Precious Memories. Lois and I first met in 1944 at the Hospitality Home while cleaning dishes following an evening service. She had come with a youth group from First A of G Church. Being an excellent song leader, Lois led the singing; then assisted in serving refreshments. We talked during the clean-up. After several months, we began dating, lasting for only a brief time until I departed for Okinawa. Upon my return in 1946; we dated, then married, 8-9-46. So, we had a long span together. Three children: Jeannie, 56 yrs, teacher and administrator in a private school in PA; Mel, 52 yrs, heavy construction safety engineer in TX; David, 48 yrs, printer & truck driver with me here in CO. My second career in the military - Army Chaplaincy, 1954 to 1971, saw us in many places. Lois became an elementary teacher with a career of 25 yrs. The family was active in various phases of ministry in all of the locations and assignments. God blessed in many ways.

Losing Lois after 56+ yrs is difficult but God provides much help through family, friends, and neighbors. Our auto accident, 1-5-03, happened as we returned from a funeral in OK. Lois died instantly. I was air lifted to Amarillo hospital with neck (three vertebrae damaged, collarbone broken, abrasions to head, arm & leg. Recuperation has been long & difficult - much therapy and exercise; doing well, now !! Keep the family in your prayers, please. ~Elton Curnutt, 7475 Raintree Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80925 (719) 382-6444.

My Beloved husband Roger went to be with the Lord Jan. 28th 2003 after a week in the Mayo Hospital here in Phoenix, AZ. The beautiful memorial service was held at Westgate Chapel Feb. 21st, with over 400 in attendance. He would have been pleased at the speakers & wonderful songs sung & a delicious luncheon served for all guests at the church we pioneered & pastored for 14 years till he had a throat accident & upon Doc's orders had to stop preaching a while.

In his honor--the church raised 3 flag-poles--one for a Liberian flag(where we served as Missionaries), another for Uruguay, S. A. where we had purchased property for our Missionaries who labor there, plus the U.S. flag in the middle and then a stone Memorial especially for Roger, stating that he was the Founding Pastor of the Westgate Chapel Church in Edmonds, WA., along with one of his favorite verses from the Bible. I miss him tremendously but seeing him suffer with such pain--I can only rejoice for him that his suffering days are over forever & that he is rejoicing together with all the Saints gone before. Please announce this in news-letter and keep me on the mailing list. Thank-you for your prayers and do keep praying for me. Our two children have been comfort to me during this sad time in my life.

God Bless! Louise Anderson

Both Roger Anderson and Louise were in the Home with Adaire and me, and so was Dalton Porter, and if I remember correctly, Adaire sang at Dalton and Nellie's wedding. I was with both of them for visits a few years ago and remember them fondly. Just wanted you to know that I not only knew them, but that we were close friends as well. George & Adaire Monta

CHOW DOWN!

Lazyman's Enchiladas - This recipe grew from my attempts to make enchiladas like those we feasted on at "La Casa Blanca" restaurant in Old Town San Diego in 1952-1952. *Marge*

1 ½ lbs. ground beef
1 Tbsp. dried onion bits
¼ tsp. garlic powder
½ tsp. cumin
½ tsp. oregano
2 Tbsp. chili powder
1 tsp. salt
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
1 8-oz. can water
1 15-1/2 oz. Mexican-style beans in chili gravy
1 dozen corn tortillas, torn in half
Cheese slices, enough for several layers
½ c. chopped fresh onions

Crumble and brown the meat; pour off fat. Stir in onion bits, spices, salt, tomato sauce and water. Simmer, covered, for 15 minutes. Add the beans and chili gravy and heat through, stirring occasionally. Layer in baking pan until all ingredients are used: meat and bean mixture, tortillas, cheese, then onions; top with cheese. (Pour over additional ½ can of water if it looks dry.) Cover with aluminum foil and heat in oven until mixture bubbles and cheese is melted. This also may be layered in a crock pot and heated on low for an hour or so. (In oven, 40 minutes at 350 degrees.) If desired, garnish with slices of jalapeno peppers. Serve with tossed salad and crisp tortilla chips. [For the cheese, combinations of the following may be used: Velveeta brand; cheddar; Colby; Monterey Jack.]

Virginia Gonzales Hayden was the one who taught me how to make Tacos, in 1952. I would love to have her recipe for them! **Virginia, that's a BIG hint (grin)!** For supper with the Home Gang, we'd sometimes have tacos, and then brag on how many we'd eaten. My personal best was 5, I seem to remember. Not bad for the slender bride I was then.

Reunions

'Way back in August 2001...we had one of our Hospitality Home Reunions, in conjunction with the General Council being held in Kansas City, MO. We were privileged to have our "get-together" at Friendly Assembly of God, pastored by Rev. Jim Foster. Friendly Assembly was constructed under the leadership of "Arkie" Radford, when he was pastor there. We had Ernest & Adelle Radford; Becky Campbell-Gaston; Paul Gaston; Mariana Langwell (Mrs. Sam); John & Betty

Knighton; Janna Hall Knowles; Jeffrey M. Hall (Delbert Hall's children - Janna and Jeffery's mother is Mariana Langwell); Geri Gaston; Roger "Phil" & Lily Reynolds; Jerry & Donna Turner; Leon & Sharon (Fuller) Hiebert, and Howard & Marge Marshall. We had a wonderful time remembering; watching an 8-millimeter movie about the "gang"(from Del Hall's viewpoint); and trombone music by Jerry Turner. A special thanks to Pastor Jim & Judy Foster and staff for hosting this reunion. Chuck Vermillion was at General Council but had other commitments and could not attend.

We are wondering IF any of the "Gang" got together at the 2003 General Council in Washington, D.C. Would someone please update us if you did? We would love to know!

We just found Mother Layne's Hospitality Home Web site on the "Net" and were disappointed to learn that we have missed not one, but two reunions.

My husband, Clifford E. Lawrence, was at Mother Layne's from approximately 1948 to 1952, while he was in the U.S. Navy. His friends that he remembers were Leo Gaston and Arkie Radford, also Sam Langwell and Walter Murphy. Cliff was on the USS Maddox 731.

We are retired from the ministry, having pastored Assemblies of God churches in Northern California and Nevada. I was just wondering if you happened to know the McNeven's. Jerry and his wife pastored several years ago in Alaska and he was killed while flying an airplane. Jerry was a dear friend of ours from the Assemblies of God Church in Victorville, California and went to Bethany Bible College with us when Cliff attended there.

We would like to know if Jerry's wife still lives in Alaska. They pastored at Anchorage, I believe (I could be wrong about the city where they were). They had a handicapped child and I heard that after Jerry died, his wife had decided to stay in Alaska.

Any information on Sister McNeven would be appreciated.

Cliff and Betty Lawrence
1933 West Vandalia Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012 (HappyGRMA@aol.com)
Phone: (918) 258-6499

December 2001: I am so sorry that Oather and I couldn't attend the Reunion. I have just had my eye done (implant) so please excuse all mistakes for I do not see well yet. Otherwise we are coming along. Oather is 91 now and God is good in helping us to be well enough to attend church (He's on canes and is very slow) but the Lord healed him of a stroke of which the doctor said he would never come out of the nursing home but after 5 months he was healed. God bless you in your service for Him. Peggy & Oather Morper

From the World War II Years “Old Friends”

Dalton Porter invited three WAVES to the Home one Sunday in Sept. 1943; they were the first women service personnel to attend. Little did he know that the invitation would lead to his marriage to Nellie Shriver a year later! The wedding was performed at one of the churches who participated with the Home, Elim Assembly. Pastor Bill Mincey officiated. Dalton went overseas with the 4th Marine Division, while Nellie stayed behind and was active in the Home. Both received their discharge in December 1945 and headed home to Texas.

After Nellie passed away in 1994, Dalton looked up the friends who were in their wedding. After we began The Home News, he sent us their addresses. All are now on our list except the ones who have passed away (Loretta Atkinson, U. Larry Hudlow, and James & Minnie Stokes McPherson): Arnold & Veneder “Petey” Barnett; Elton & Lois Curnutt; Augilee Frank; Bernice Hudlow; George & Adaire (Weston) Monta; Arthur Patrick; Merle & Mary Lou (Woods) Robbins; Lyla Soule; Heron & Lib Story; Bill & Erlene (Trout) White; and Richard & June (Bay) Wolfe. Arthur Patrick and Petey Barnett are brother and sister.

Arnold and Petey (Patrick) Barnett were married in November 1943 by Dad Rattan at the Hospitality Home. Petey lived in the Home for a while in 1945, doing cooking and housework. The Barnetts settled in Louisiana. Recently they moved to Texas because of Veneder’s health.

Elton & Lois Curnutt live in Colorado, 10 miles from Ft. Carson and they are active in the Army Chapel there.

Bernice Hudlow has many wonderful memories of the Home with her favorite being how Larry Hudlow swept her off her feet with a warm drink of Borden’s Hemo one evening. Six weeks later they were engaged, and another six weeks later they were married. Larry passed away in 1998.

Sailor **George Monta** came to the Home in 1944 and met Adair Weston, whose father Leonard Weston, was the pastor of First Assembly of God at 6th & Fir in San Diego. For some reason, the young couple decided to be married in the church, not the Home – wonder why? George says, “The Hospitality Home provided a warm loving refuge where I learned to dig into the word. Met Adaire and became established in the Lord. Taught school 25 years, then was ordained A/G and pastored for many years. Now we travel - teach - preach and enjoy our 10 acres here in No. Carolina.”

William Arthur “Pat” Patrick was in the Army while he attended the Home in 1942-1943. He also went to “6th

& Fir.” He writes, “I enjoyed the Home very much; it meant a lot to me, being away from home. I think Mom & Dad Rattan were the finest couple I’ve ever known. They helped so many servicemen away from home.” He left the Home when he was sent overseas to the Pacific, where he stayed until after the war ended. He had met Annabel Short in the spring of 1943, two days after he left the Home, and they were married in December 1945. He was out of the Army for 26 months and then went into the Air Force, retiring in 1963. After 14 years with the Post Office, he retired again. Now he fishes, hunts and works with Royal Rangers, “just enjoying life.”

Lyla Soule is a CPA in La Jolla. She was at Mother Layne’s in 1944 and 1945.

Erlene White writes, “I lived and worked at the Home for several months in 1944. Everything from typing to cleaning the dormitory. Met some wonderful friends who made my stay enjoyable and fruitful. The programs we put together and presented at the various churches helped me grow spiritually.”

Warren Halleen was at the Home in 1942. “When in San Diego on leave from the Marine Corps Base, I was invited by a group of men to visit the Home. While not remembering how many times I revisited the Home, I certainly do remember being filled with the Spirit on Christmas Day 1942. Shortly after that I went overseas - the South Pacific for 36 months. Returning after the war, I stopped in to see the Rattans. I don’t recall now how I got out of the Base (I couldn’t be out for any length of time) but at least I could say goodbye to my friends, so helpful to me. I was to be discharged in Philadelphia. ... So many times during the years I’ve thought about Mother Layne’s and been thankful for the friends there, who reached out to me. This has been so pleasant to be contacted after so many years. It seems that the Lord’s people can just pick up right where they left off!”

Stanley Smedsrud was at the Home for two periods: May-October 1943 and June-September 1945. “In 1943 as a Navy lad, I was invited to Layne’s Hospitality Home from downtown San Diego. Rev. & Mrs. Rattan were my spiritual leaders. Mrs. Rattan would put her whole being into leading the song service and Rev. Rattan always gave a clear, concise message of the gospel with many, many service men and women accepting Christ. The evening meal was a great treat. During the times I was there, I worked on the street inviting service people to the Home.”

Peggy Morper recently wrote, “My husband **Oather** and I have fond memories of the Hospitality Home of many years ago and enjoyed attending and worshiping with everyone. We’ve wondered where people are that we knew years ago.”

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.”

MISSING PERSONS UPDATE

We really appreciate those who 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!

Boyd Adams; Larry Aikens, Larry Anderson, Bobby & Diane Bice; George Cameron; Raymond Chandler; Tommy Chontz; Art & Janis Clark; Joel Clark; Clarence Copeland; James Daily; Fred Davidson; Kennedy Ellsworth; Bob & Janie Enders; Roger Eudy or Euddy from Cape Girardeau, MO; Jack Frost; James & Sandra Games.

Michael Harrington; Robert Hudson. Bill Kemner; Dale Lawrence; Cliff Lawrence; Alvah & Polly Leeds; Esther Leining; Irv & Valores Lence; Art Lipton; Dennis Markley; Bob Mathis; Don & Marguerite McCrosson; Viola Morrison; R.D. Munsell.

Van Neilson; Reggie Nelson; Bob O’Gwyn; Jim Pavey; Monty Payne (Navy); Dee Pease; Tom & Janice Plumb; Jack Poland; Edgar & Kathy Powell; Ralph Proffitt; Frank Roberts; Vera Roberts; Henry Rozier; Dorothy Sanders; Dave Sasser, Larry Shaw; Rose Ann Stafford; Jimmie Joe & Georgia Stepp; Bob Stover; Gene Taylor; Charles & Linda Underwood; Darwin White; Jerry Wolfe.

Can you add any names? It may be you’ve searched our address list and our “missing persons” list and still can’t find one or more of your old friends. Please send us the name and we’ll add it to “missing persons.” Someone just might have it for you!

Notes 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.

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. When we run low, we’ll ask for more donations.

A small note for your consideration -- at the April 1998 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 to fit comfortably into a business-size envelope. 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.

Please feel free to make copies of this newsletter and pass it on – we want to reach as many people as possible. Thanks!

Well-worth thinking about:

Around The Corner

By Henson Towne

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end,
Yet the days go by and weeks rush on,
And before I know it, a year is gone.
And I never see my old friend’s face,
For life is a terrible race --
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine.

We were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men.
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.
“Tomorrow,” I say, “I will call on Joe
“Just to show that I’m thinking of him.”
And distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner! -- yet miles away.

“Here’s a telegram sir...”

“Joe died today.”

And that’s what we get and deserve in the end.
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Postscript: Howard and I have been married so long that I can finish his sentences for him. The trouble is, it usually isn’t what he planned to say! ~Marge

About this Document: This PDF file was created on January 1, 2006, but it was originally sent out in December 2003. So E-mail addresses may be different now.