

Life of Lanny Parsons

b. January 24, 1921; d. October 5, 2007

(As read by Elder Norman Reitz on October 13, 2007)

Lanny Parsons was born to Hollis and Alice Parsons in the Southern United States in the city of Natchez, Mississippi.

The Parsons family had 3 sons and 1 daughter. Lanny's sister Esteen died as a young woman, leaving a husband and a son. Lanny's brothers Troy, Grady and James, all lived into adulthood. All came to California. Two of them along with Lanny had ties to the Hayward Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Exposure to the Seventh-day Adventist truths occurred through the influence of their mother Alice Parsons who was a church member. But although she raised them up to know the Lord, their commitment and involvement with the Adventist church primarily happened later in California at this very church, largely through the influence of Lanny on his brothers, providing the words of the wise man Solomon:

*Train up a child in the way he should go and
when he is old he shall not depart from it. (Prov. 22:6)*

During World War II Lanny was drafted into the US Army and served the required term. Before and after the war Lanny attended Southern Missionary College in Tennessee, a highlight of his life. The years in college further cemented his knowledge of Adventist truth and his personal commitment to the Lord. It did not, however, put Lanny in the way of a woman to be his wife. {Our own son Daniel says that Walla Walla University, the Adventist College in Washington State, is nicknamed Washington Wedding Chapel because so many young couples get put together there}. Lanny never married and remained an independent bachelor until the end of his life.

Lanny came to California in 1950 because his brother James was stationed out here with the US Navy. Lanny's brothers Grady and Troy also came out west. James married Helen, the Helen Parsons we know and appreciate here in our church. Troy married Barbara who is also a faithful member of our church.

Lanny pursued a very successful career in convalescent care management. He worked for Rapp Industries and managed at different times various nursing homes and retirement homes in the East Bay including St. Regis at the corner of Mission Blvd. and Jackson.

When he first came to California Lanny was active in the Hayward Seventh-day Adventist Church at the time it was located on Blossom Way. Lanny was then active in the Sabbath School as a superintendent, leading out in vespers and had a passion for giving personal Bible studies. For a while Lanny fell away from the church. But when he came back and began attending church here on Gading Road, he had a positive influence on his brothers James and Troy and their families. Personally I remember a number of occasions when Lanny hosted us and others to meals he cooked in his own apartment on Harder Road.

Those of us who have known Lanny in his retirement have come to understand that he was very loyal to the church, its beliefs and its leaders. Lanny was very faithful in attendance. He knew that he was a sinner and that his only hope was in Jesus. He regularly encouraged others and witnessed to his neighbors and former employees.

As we all will do, Lanny grew old and was less vigorous in the last several years. We would like to express our appreciation for those of you that helped Lanny with his affairs during those declining years, especially Dennis Reed, June Blackie, Anna Tatum, and George Edwards. There were others also; your deeds are recorded in the Book of Remembrance.

Lanny, we say good night to you now. We will see you in the morning – that great getting-up morning when the trumpet sounds and the dead in Christ rise.