

LAVON HEAD
FEBRUARY 3, 1908 - AUGUST 11, 1995

Lavon was born on February 3, 1908 in Ava, Missouri, the first child of George and Stella (Sanders) Bradshaw. Brothers and sister that joined the family later were Melvin, Calvin, Clifford and Lotus.

In 1914 when Lavon was six years old the family (with the exception of Lotus who was born later) moved to Claremont, California, where Lavon attended kindergarten through fourth grades at Sycamore Elementary School. She attended La Verne Heights Elementary School for her fifth through eighth grade classes as the family had moved to La Verne Heights.

In 1923 Lavon's Father George bought her a 1916 Model T Ford so she could attend Claremont High School. Her cousin Lester Sanders cranked her Model T every day after school so she could drive home. Lester planned to play baseball after school one day so he asked a friend, Raymond Daves, to crank up the Model T for her.

Not long thereafter a girl friend of Lavon's asked her to go on a double date. The girl friend was paired off with Raymond and Lavon with another young man. Half way through the evening, the girl friend asked Lavon if she would like to trade dates. Lavon agreed. A little later in the evening the girl friend wanted to trade back and Lavon replied: "Nothing doing!"

On May 10, 1924 Lavon and Raymond were married in San Bernardino Courthouse and moved into a prefab home on the southwest corner of Mountain Avenue and Foothill Blvd. in Claremont. That evening they were chivareed. That was a custom where friends and relatives would arrive at night at the home of the newly married couple and separate the two for a length of time, delaying their first night together. After the groom was returned to the bride, they treated their "guests" to dessert and drink.

At the time of their marriage Raymond was working at the Claremont Ice House and Lavon, at College Heights Lemon Association in Claremont.

In 1926 the couple purchased a new Ford Roadster, an open windowed car with side snap-on curtains. The gasoline tank on this Ford was located just in front of the windshield.

Barbara, the first child, was born in Glendora, California, November 10, 1928. Lavon and Raymond were living on Foothill Blvd. in Glendora at the time, just a few blocks from downtown. Then in 1929 Raymond took a job with the Foothill Citrus Ranch and the little family moved to Azusa. Daughter, Phyllis, was born January 28, 1930 followed on December 18, 1936 by Daughter, Martha. All three girls were born at Mrs. Bun's Nursing Home in Glendora.

After moving to the Foothill Ranch in Azusa and at the insistence of her Mother, Stella, Lavon graduated from doing her laundry on a rub board to a new Thor agitator washer with ironer attachment which was purchased from Wright Brothers and Rice in Pomona.

Raymond Daves passed away December 25, 1941. Lavon and the girls moved to San Dimas to live with her Mother, Stella Bradshaw, until February of 1942, when Lavon bought the home at 305 West Third Street, San Dimas, where she lived for 53 years.

May 17, 1943, Lavon married Ernest Head adding the fourth daughter to the family - ten-year old Betty. Ernest passed away February 28, 1983.

Lavon's work outside the home included: College Heights Lemon Ass'n. in Claremont where she worked on the washer. She packed lemons at both the Glendora and San Dimas Lemon Associations. When the San Dimas Lemon House closed their doors, Lavon baby sat two of her grandchildren, David and Dan, at their home in La Verne. In 1954 she began working in the cafeteria at Roynon School and was known for her delicious cinnamon buns. Soon thereafter, the Bonita Unified School District established their first central kitchen in the now demolished San Dimas Elementary School on South Cataract Avenue, San Dimas. Lavon left the school district at that time and began working in the kitchen at Hillcrest Homes in La Verne. She retired in 1977 at the age of sixty nine after twenty years of service.

During her time at Hillcrest, Lavon took courses in cake decorating, making and decorating the wedding cakes of her daughters, grandchildren, nieces, friends and many residents of Hillcrest. She was a member of the San Dimas Baptist Church and active in the Dorcas Missionary Society. Lavon took many crafts and ceramics classes and for many years made all the Christmas and birthday presents for her family.

Few outside the family knew of her expertise with a rifle. Whether it be day or night she had a sharp eye and was considered a crack shot.

After three months of progressive heart failure, Lavon passed away in her sleep, early Thursday morning, August 11th.

She certainly enriched the lives of all those she touched.