
Plain Brown Rapper

News for the Tandy and Grace Brown Family

April, 2001

Teaching in a “One Room School House”

Family memories are such fun to read about and this next one, written by our sister, June is certainly no exception. June is the fifth in the long line of children and one of the most loving and generous people I know. There was Vivian and Anna, then a little boy named Tandy Parks Brown, Jr who passed away at two weeks of age and Roy. After Roy came June, Betty and Leah. They were somewhat a “trio” as they did everything together. June graduated from Cheyenne High School and went to Hastings College in Nebraska. Betty did the same thing. Leah graduated and married shortly after.

Both June and Betty became teachers in one room school houses. June went to a school close to Laramie Peak in Albany County and Betty taught at the Iron Mountain School here in Laramie County.

As a little background information, teachers were not allowed to be married. In those days it was just plain against the rules. But by the same token they were held in the highest esteem and considered the final authority.

Here are June’s memories of teaching in a one room school house.

The First year 1938-1939

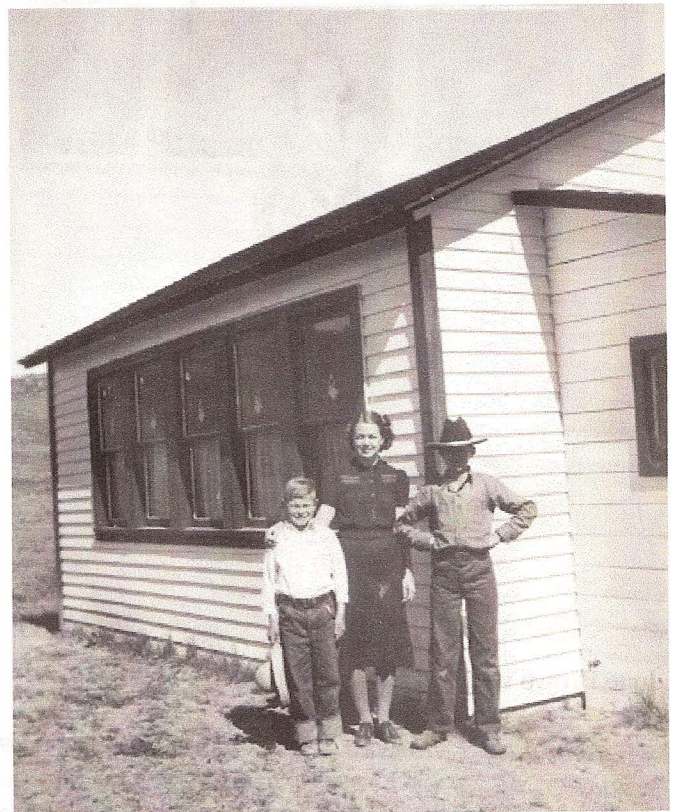
“At 19 years old and fresh out of college at Hastings, Nebraska with one year of college training, one year of Normal Training and a teaching permit, I was hired by Albany County Superintendent, Helen Nelson to teach a one room school in extreme northern Albany County near Laramie Peak. The school was called ‘Dunn-Pexton, because the students were Bobby Dunn (4th grade) and John Pexton (8th grade).”

I roomed and boarded at John and Pansy Dunn’s home for \$15.00 a month. My pay was \$75.00 a month for 9 months. Of course this was 1938-39.

This was a learning experience in teaching, but mostly I remember the people. John Dunn had only one arm, but he could roll a cigarette deftly. Bobby was their adopted son and I remember Pansy (a real character) chasing him around the house with a stick when he misbehaved.

Saturday nights everyone would gather at one of the many one room schools for dances accompanied by fiddle, guitar, or whatever music someone could provide.

This is where I learned and loved square dancing.”



This is a picture of June and her two students, Bobby Dunn and John Pexton in front of their “one room school house.”

The Second Year 1939-40

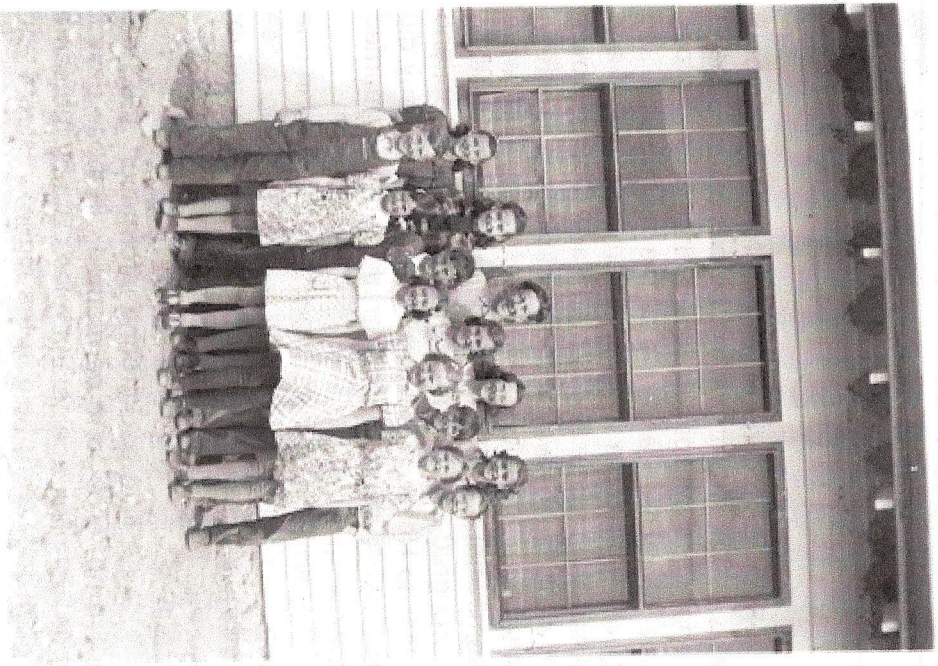
"Because Anna was Public Health Nurse in Goshen County, I visited her often (to get a bath) and applied for a school in Goshen County. I was hired for the Moore Springs School near Jay Em. I had 14 students and all 8 grades. I had no idea what a challenge this was. People made you feel so special. In this school I had 1 first grader, named, no less, June Brown. I roomed this year with a dear older couple named Canady, near the school. Mrs Canady told me when it came time to bathe, 'you washed up as far as possible, then down as far as possible, then possible.'"



June Brown with her student, June Brown

Social life here was a little wider spread. We would go as far as Lusk, or in between, to Prairie Center to a dance. The pay was still \$75.00 a month for 9 months. How I managed to teach 8 grades in one day, I don't know. These kids helped each other. My first grader was ready for 3rd grade at the end of the year. She absorbed all the 2nd

graders did. The eighth graders had to live in Torrington to finish High School, and many of them ended their school life at eighth grade."



June's 14 students at the Moore Springs School

The Third Year 1940-1941

"My third year of teaching I traded schools with a girl at the Prairie Center School. It was her home school and someone thought she should move. This was a consolidated school with 3 teachers and a male Superintendent who taught 8th grade. The 3 teachers were all from Cheyenne and we all graduated from Cheyenne Central High School together in 1937. They were Nina Occhipinti, Geraldine Pratt and me. This was a fun school, it was quite new with a big basement area under the school where all area activities took place. Mira had 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade. I had 4th and 5th grade and Jerry taught 6th and 7th. We

lived together in a "teacherage" which was a one room school which was no longer used.

There were 3 of these buildings that became empty when the one room schools consolidated into Prairie Center. The superintendent and his wife had one, the Janitor, wife and 3 children had another and ours. We boarded with the Janitor's wife. We became acquainted with all kinds of people from a large area of farming families. Teachers were always treated special and we were invited into their homes often.

All the summers I attended the University of Wyoming to take courses to update my certificate and finally earned a two year certificate, which most teachers taught on. Only after World War II did they require degrees."



June's 4th and 5th grade class at the Prairie Center School

The War Years 1941-1944

"My next move was to Lingle, probably my favorite place to teach. Four of us teachers roomed at the home of the Pierson's. One Sunday morning in early December we came home from church to find "Percy," as we called her, beside herself. Pearl

Harbor had been bombed and she had a son there. He was a civilian and wasn't hurt, but it took a while for her to find out.

This was World War II and rationing. Cars were parked for lack of gasoline, so if someone went somewhere they took a carful. The teachers were included in everything, whether school or town activities. We roomed at Pierson's and boarded at a boarding house. This is where I met Norma Hankins and we became life long friends."

Thanks so much for the wonderful memories from your years teaching in Rural Wyoming. We have had so much news lately about Schools and School funding and all the problems. This memory adds so much to the early years of the Brown family and what they were doing.

Again, thanks June and I hope you will write down some more memories for us.

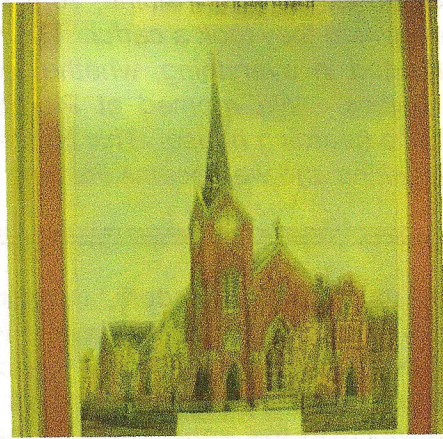
Cheyenne's First Presbyterian Church

Each Sunday as Bob and I go to church, we sit in that magnificent Sanctuary and admire the sun streaming through those stain glass windows reminding us of what a beautiful place it is. We are also reminded of the roll the Presbyterian Church has played in the lives of the Brown family. Many of us were married there, we were certainly all baptized there and as I put the original membership roster on a disc for the Archives I see the Brown family name many times. Much of our life is recorded; births, baptisms, memberships, marriages, and of course deaths.

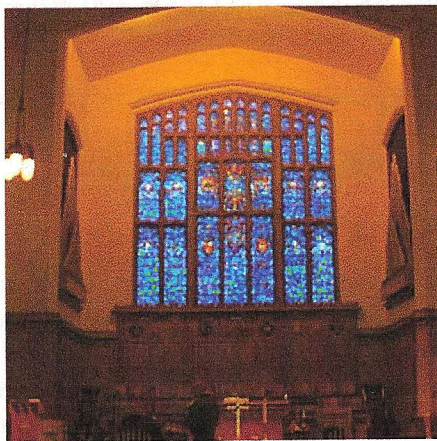
Grace and Tandy were married at the old church on 18th and Carey. This was demolished when the new one was built in 1925. Many of the older children were baptized in the church on 18th Street and the rest of us were baptized in the new one at 22nd and Carey.

Easter always reminds me of the hours mother put in at the sewing machine making our dresses and shirts, but at Easter, we were treated to some store bought clothing. June, for as long as I can

remember, bought new dresses for Pat and I. She also bought us new shoes, socks, petticoats and underwear. It was a royal treat for us to be decked out in our new Easter finery.



The old church at 18th and Carey Ave in Cheyenne



The South Sanctuary Windows, there are also many stained glass windows on the East, West and the West foyer and hallway.

June, Betty and Leah were always dressed to the nines and had the most wonderful hats they wore on Easter Sunday. I can remember them lamenting the fact that it would probably rain or even worse snow on Easter Sunday and it usually did. But regardless, we wore our newest and prettiest and waltzed into church thinking we were the most beautiful in the land.

How many of you can remember Bunk Porter, the head usher. He stood guard at the entrance to the church in his morning coat, striped trousers and little glasses perched on the end of his nose, looking very much like Batman's nemesis Penquin,

and checking everyone entering the church to be sure they belonged. He really was a very nice person even went to England to learn how to be an Usher, but he was pretty uppity.

At the back of the church were the church ladies. A group of very stiff women dressed in their furs and hats and etc. Mrs. Read, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. McCracken, Mrs. Rolston, Mrs. Bunten, Mrs. Pattison and etc. All chatting away about all the gossip in town.

Everything is different now, I haven't seen a hat in church for many years, the children are allowed in the sanctuary during the service, the Sunday School attendance which was 450-500 then is about 45-60 now and the dress code has fallen by the wayside. Now the attendance for Sunday service is 280, then it was about 800-900 and on Easter Sunday, even with two services, you couldn't get a seat if you weren't there early. But this church built with love and labor, which our mother and father had a part in, is still just as beautiful as it can be. The organ Mrs. Holliday gave to the church sounds just as wonderful now as it did then. No longer needs to be pumped and enhanced with a larger range of pipes, it remains a reminder of another day and time.

Announcements

Kathy Yenney has moved, her new address:
711 SE Swainson Lane, College Place, WA
99324 New phone number: 409-529-5652

Stuart (Bill) and Emily Beardslee announce the wedding of their daughter **Noel to Mr. Mike Martin**. Wedding to take place on April 7th. Congratulations Noel — how about a picture?

Dick and Marty are expecting another Grandchild, **Katy and Tyler Jacobs** should have a new arrival in the Fall.

Dolfe and Bob and going to be great-grandparents. **Barbara's, David and Kim** are expecting in the Fall.

High School Graduations:

June's, Kirk and Terry's daughter Mary from Natrona County High School and **Leah's great-grandson, Michael** from Cheyenne East High.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Vivian's Family: **vivianb@mymailstation.com**
 Bob Beardslee beard1@flash.net
 Bill Beardslee bbeards@rockwall.net
 Cindy Beardslee cebups@aol.com
 Bob Beardslee rbeardslee1@hotmail.com
 Kristi Blazine brewski@orbitworld.net
 Stuart Beardslee sbearde@attglobal.net
 Nancy Beardslee Ekdahl nancyekdahl@fbg.net
 Mike Wheelless michael@privateinfo.com

Anna's Family:
 Joanne Jacka jojacka@cruzio.com
 Nicky Schumacher Schumach@desertlinc.com
 Andy Schumacher a_shoe1@yahoo.com
 Gordy Schumacher gordys@ucinet.com
Yenney@pocketinet.com

Roy's Family
 Denny Brown makbrown@earthlink.net
 Rosemary Brown rbrown500@excite.com

June's Family
 Jim & Terry Smith turbines@pacbell.net
 Kerry Smith kbsmith@trib.com
KTSMK@AOL.COM

Leah's Family
 Jerry & Rick Keslar RLKeslar@Yahoo.com
 Jayne & Mike Clark Mclark.316@juno.com
Frank and Family Fbrown6940@aol.com
 Tandy Brown tandy1@juno.com
 Jenny Brown frog99@uswest.net

Orpha and Family rownogb@cs.com
 Stuart Brown RavelloLMB@aol.com
Charles and Family Chuck_Brown@co.el-paso.co.us
lavenab@att.net
 Charles & LaVena(home) ken.brown@som.com
 Ken & Vicki Brown RJBrown@prodigy.net
 Ron & Jodi Brown cindy@kolmar.com
 Cindy Brown brownnat@juno.com
 Natalie Brown ntreadway@sisna.com
Nancy and Family mmauderer@home.com
 Mary Mauderer

Dick's Family
 Becky & Craig Ward becky.ward@aspeninst.org
 Martha & Gerry Wyrsh gjwyrsh@xplore.net.com
 Charlie & Margaret Brown crbrown@uswest.net
 Sara Brown sarahbm@mcwaccess.net
 Katie Tyler Jacobs downtown@prowebhost.com

Dolfe and Family dolfe96@aol.com
 Roger & Susan VanAlyne rogr66pony@aol.com
 Rodney & Cathy VanAlyne vanalyne@plix.com
 Jan VanAlyne nrsmom665@aol.com

Pat and Family pbwhite531@earthlink.net
 Janet White nanetj@aol.com
 Bruce White Bruce@Bruce-White.com
 James White WYORFC@home.com
 Page White Blackiepage@netscape.net
Mike and Family MikeBrown@realtor.com
 Amy Johnston sjohns8317@aol.com
 Bill Brown wtbrown0708@uswest.net
 Jeni Brown jenitodd@uswest.net
Sally's Family viersenx2@uswest.net
 Jenny Petrella Jiviersen@yahoo.com
 Jimmy Viersen mstngfan@hotmail.com

send your e-mail address. It's proving to be an effective communication tool.

TRY THESE WEB PAGES
WWW.CHUCKBROWN.ORG - Charles
WWW.PRIVATEINFO.COM - Mike
Wheelless

New e-mail addresses are in bold print

New House for KathiYenney
 711 SE Swainson Lane
 College Place, WA 99324
 509-529-5652