

Reminiscent Teacher History
by Rozella Glanzer

for the
South Dakota Retired Teachers Association

Submitted for consideration for the
Reminiscent Teacher Award

Miss Glanzer's 1st Grade Class
1 year of 33 years of Classes at Jefferson School in Huron, South Dakota

Reminiscent Teacher History by Rozella Glanzer

Teacher: **Rozella Glanzer**
Address 864 Utah SE, Huron, SD 57350
Telephone 605-352-5320
Nominating Unit: Huron Area Retired Teachers Association
Person Working with Nominee Bev Erdahl

Teaching History 46 years Total

- All Grades Country School 4 years
- Grade 1 – 2 Bryant 1 year
- Grade 1 – 2 Willow Lake 4 years
- Grade 1 – 2 Clark 4 years
- Grade 1 Huron 33 years

Substitute Teacher 21 years Total

- 15 long-term and several short term 16 years
- 1 long-term and many short-term special education DLC primary 5 years

Early Interest in Education

Choosing my vocation as a teacher was not hard for me because I started playing school at age four. I enjoyed being the teacher and instructing my students who, of course, were my siblings. So my teaching career began.

I went to a one-room, country school with the attendance being between 15 and 30 students, with 1st through 8th grades. I could use my love for teaching by helping others; it was like being an aide.

During my teenage years, it was not easy to attend high school. I got to go because I had a very determined mother who wanted me to have an education.

My high school years were spent in Willow Lake where I worked in the primary room as a National Youth Administration (NYA) aide. This was a government program for students who qualified. I received a small stipend each month, which I needed to be able to go to high school. I learned a lot in this primary room and I knew I still wanted to become a teacher.

After graduating from Willow Lake High School in 1941, I went to General Beadle (now Dakota State University) for one year and received my First Grade Certificate – my real teaching career began.

Forty-six years as a Teacher

In 1942, I began teaching at Wheeler School, a country school, in Beadle County. I had attended the same school as a student. I taught in this school for 3 years. I received lots of help from my two older sisters who were teachers and from a neighbor who had been a teacher. Without the help from them, I would have been a failure.

Wheeler School, Beatle Country, approx 1943

The conveniences in the rural school were none. I carried water from home in a covered five-gallon pail. I started the fire in a pot-bellied stove each morning when it was cold. My father and I gathered wood from the farm and we carried the coal in five-gallon pails. It was very warm by the stove but cold every place else. We had to use the outdoor toilets because we had no indoor plumbing.

During this time, the government furnished food commodities for the schoolchildren that I signed-up to receive and took to my home. I lived with my parents on our farm, which was a short two blocks from Wheeler School. My mother, who was a very good cook, would fix a noon meal at home and my dad would bring it to the school, so we had meals-on-wheels in those days too. She would fix soup, roasts, homemade bread, cupcakes, and special treats using the commodities. My ten pupils enjoyed that nice hot food and cleaned their plates. We had no hot water, so I would pack up the dishes and take them home and wash them and bring them back for the next day's lunch.

What a contrast with today's schools – breakfast and lunch are served in school. It is so discouraging to see all the food children throw away. Now there is even a weekend program where students take home food for weekend snacks. The schools now are air-conditioned, have good heating systems, janitors, teacher lunch-hours free from the children, computers, TVs, bathrooms, special music, physical education, speech and learning disability teachers.

I enjoyed being involved in projects in the county. My sister taught in a different township so we were always in competition. In this picture, we are holding our scrapbooks "History of Young Citizen's League (YCL)." We both won!

*Jenny Glanzer and sister Rozella Glanzer holding winning scrapbooks
(brother Wilson, far left, and Pa, under the car)*

I also enjoyed giving programs for the community. Our daily paper encouraged the schools to send articles about our activities. As you see below, I contributed my share and the students liked seeing their names in the paper.

Article 1942 – 1946

My sister Wanda Glanzer Reports

\$70.77 Buys New Songbooks and Viewmaster

Prizes for the Spookiest Masks

My fourth year of teaching in rural schools was a change for me. I moved to a different county and to a different school. I had mostly 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. They were a challenge! Another problem was transportation. The roads were so bad I very seldom could drive. I had to walk or ride a pony for the two miles.

Students at Bunker Hill School, Clark County 1945 – 1946

Although it was the most difficult year of my teaching career, I still did extra projects and promotions. We won many honors and took part in community activities.

*\$2 Award Announced in the
Christmas Seal Award Letter*

December 31, 1945

After that year of experiences, I decided to go back to college and work on my state certificate. If you continued your education and passed a test, you could teach in town. I went to General Beadle College for the entire summer and got a 1st and 2nd grade position in Bryant. That was my first experience with only teaching two grades. I really had a very good year. Imagine having a custodian to clean your room, indoor bathrooms, running water, and social life with other teachers. I thought it could not get any better.

My younger sister Wanda was going to high school in Willow Lake so I decided to teach 1st and 2nd grades there so we could have an apartment together. This would be beneficial for both of us. I taught in Willow Lake for four years. It was nice to be back in the community where I went to high school.

The largest enrollment I have ever had in all my years of teaching was in Willow Lake. I had thirty-seven 1st and 2nd graders. Of course, I did not have a Para-professional. Now when the classroom reaches 25 students they get the help of an aide.

Miss Glanzer's 1st and 2nd grade students 1947 – 1948 - Count them 37!

After my sister graduated from Willow Lake High School, I stayed one more year and then accepted a 1st grade position in Clark. I spent four wonderful years teaching some very talented youngsters. Former students and their families are still managing many business places in Clark. Several families in Clark would invite me to their homes for an evening meal with the family. I especially remember the Moritz and Campbell families. This was unusual but gave me

an understanding of the family life. I also made many long lasting friendships: Helen Janish, Thressa Busse, Ella Knudson, and Bob Hald, who was my principal.

Then I moved to Huron and bought a home right across the street from Jefferson School. There was a 1st grade vacancy. Robert Slocum was the superintendent and he gave me that assignment.

For 33 years, I taught 1st grade at Jefferson School. I had four excellent principals, Elaine Lampert, Bob Hanson, Paul Kingery, and John VanWyhe. They all were excellent educators, always gave good support to the teachers, and were good disciplinarians.

In my era of teaching in Huron, there was one principal in each building. In the last few years in Huron, each principal has two schools. I think that is an impossible job and is having an effect on our elementary schools' children as well as the whole system.

My years of teaching in Huron were very exciting and gave me many opportunities. First, I attended Huron College and received my Bachelor of Arts in Education. I continued working on my master's degree at Northern State Teachers College and other institutions.

I had many student teachers from Huron College, Northern, and Black Hills State College. I used the team teaching approach and it proved to be very successful for my class and the student teachers. One of my student teachers Karla Wipf, who became a very successful elementary teacher, wrote me this note.

Another excellent student teacher I had was Hallie Engel from Black Hills State College. She is now a teacher in the Mitchell Public Schools. Her note and a clipping follow

Thank You note from Hallie

When Huron adopted a new reading series by Scott Foresman Company, I wrote a program called "Reading is Fun!" that my class presented. The program used story dramatizations, verse choir selections, poetry and art to inform parents about the new materials.

"Reading is Fun" program starred Dick, Jane and Sally

The "Reading is Fun" program was my submission to a Scott Foresman Company sponsored a contest. As one of ten national winners, I chose a scholarship to attend a summer institute and workshop at Fresno State College in California. This educational opportunity was beneficial, rewarding and made me a better teacher.

Huron Teacher wins Grant for Institute on Reading

I tried to keep the children excited about learning. Each child had the opportunity to participate in many projects and activities. Parents' skills, hobbies and talents were shared with the class as the students did projects. As an example, with the help of parents, the class mixed and baked cookies after reading "Mix and Make". Several of the projects are described in the articles that follow.

“Make the most of everyday!” – National Education Week Celebration

*Parents teach about
Roots, Plants, Music*

*Students Make Initial Pretzels
after reading “Bread to Eat”*

*Color, Shape, Texture
learned in Science*

My principal’s observation and his comments tell the story of my teaching. In 1985, Mr. Van Wyhe wrote, “Miss Glanzer makes subject matter interesting because her in-depth knowledge provides for many and varied types of presentations. Classroom activities are of high interest to students and tie in directly to major points of the unit being taught.” See the “Teacher Observation Record” completed by Mr. Van Wyhe on the next page.

When a new curriculum was introduced in the Huron schools, I was always eager to become informed and use it in my classroom. Therefore, when workshops were planned, I was included as a presenter. Current Trends in Education Workshops, Workshops on Individualized Instructions, and Help Mobile Instructional Conferences were popular in my era of teaching. The three following articles are reminders of the many fine teachers I was able to work with at these workshops. Please see the Lake Region New on a following page.

*Staff for
Current Trends in
Education Work
Along with
Jack Holmquest*

*Help Mobile
Instructional Conference
Programs
In Watertown and*

Belle Fouche

Through attending workshops, I gladly learned about new instructional tools. Some ideas I used and some did not apply to my classroom. Do you remember “Cuisenaire Rods”?

Elementary Teachers learn about Cuisenaire Rods at Pierre Math Workshop

A New Program - "Focus on Self-Development" using a Photo Board

Eleven Members of the Huron Public School - Preparing a Pilot Mathematics Program

In 1980, I received the Huron Educator Award, which was occasionally given by Huron College.

Receiving the Huron Educator Award

My last year of full-time teaching was 1987. The following picture is of the first day of class at Jefferson 1st grade. I think the principal knew I would be retiring that year so he called the *Daily Plainsman* to come and take the picture. Here, I was busy giving opening day introductions and instructions.

Opening Day of School at 1st Grade Jefferson in 1987

During my 33 years of teaching in Huron Schools, I took part in many community activities. For many years, I was a part time recruiter and counselor for the admission department for Huron College. During the summer months, I worked full time and, during the school year, I worked on weekends. I would make home calls and drive many miles to meet with a potential student. Many Huron College graduates have contacted me and thanked me for calling on them and encouraging them to go to college.

I was also active in the Huron College Alumni Association Council. This photo shows the council for 1977 – 1978.

Members of Huron College Alumni Association Council

My Retirement Years

– 21 Years of Substitute Teaching and Community Involvement

I wasn't going to substitute teach but John Liedle, Principal at Washington School and a former sixth grade teacher at Jefferson, called me in February and asked me to teach second grade until the end of the year. I accepted and enjoyed it very much because it was such a remarkable class. They were so eager to learn and do projects. So began my 21 years of substituting!

The next fourteen years were full-time "subbing". I substituted in 2nd grade for Susanne Roache for two terms; Susanne was a former first grade student of mine at Jefferson. A 1st grade teacher at Jefferson needed a substitute for a long-term pregnancy leave. In that class were three pupils whose parents were my former students at Jefferson namely Cindy Manolis,

Lisa Rand, and Dixie Campbell. When my term was finished, those three former students, now parents, had an appreciation party for me that exceeded my retirement party.

Appreciation Tea with the Jefferson 1st Grade Class

I did some long-term substituting in Cavour, South Dakota, too. My former principal Paul Kingery was then a principal in Cavour. I took part in all activities, including Dress Down Day when I won 1st prize for teachers.

Dress Down Day in Cavour

I also did some long-term assignments at the Hutterite Colony School at Pearl Creek Colony near Iroquois and Huron and Riverside Colonies by Huron. The experiences in the three

schools were all different and interesting. The families were all so good to me and shared their culture with me.

The last five years, I have only substituted in a Primary Special Education room. Julie Kasperson is the teacher and is a former pupil. Julie received her master's degree in Special Education and is an excellent teacher. Last year, when I was 85 years old, Julie called me in March and asked if I could finish the year for her. She was having back surgery and needed complete rest. Of course, I consented and with the help of the Para-professionals, the time went very well. Once you start working with these youngsters, they become a special part of your life. Going to the Special Olympics is an honor and an experience you'll never forget.

Regional Special Olympics Winners and their Teachers - 2008

In March 2009, I was substituting for a month for an aide who broke her ankle. My 86th birthday was March 15 and the class had a surprise party.

86th Birthday Party celebrated while substituting in the Special Education Classroom

During all of my teaching and substituting years in Huron, I have been involved in community activities. For several years, I was an officer on the United Way Board. In the following picture, I was co-chairman of the fund drive.

United Way Fund Drive Co-Chairs

For 54 years, I have been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. During that time, I held offices and have tried to be a contributing member.

*Receiving the Order
of the Rose Award
from
Delta Kappa Gamma*

I also served on the Board of Directors of the Huron Area Senior Center. Every year, I volunteer in the Senior Center Building at the South Dakota State Fair.

Senior Center Board Members at Work

I continue to be involved in the RSVP program. One year, I volunteered at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church pre-school for two afternoons a week.

We have an active retired teacher's organization in Huron. I have served on several committees and am now on the Program Committee. We meet at the Senior Center and have an average attendance of 30 retired teachers. Jay and Margaret Ruckdashul organized our chapter and were very active until they moved. I recruited Jay to come to Huron College. In this picture, I presented him with a # 1 pin telling him he was my number one recruit for Huron College.

Jay Ruckdashul receiving his # 1 pin

During my 30 years of membership at the First Baptist Church, I served as the Sunday School Superintendent, Chair of the Board of Trustees, as a Sunday school teacher, Superintendent of Bible School and President of the Ladies Society. I was privileged to participate in many important church events; the celebration of the paying off the mortgage for the church's education wing in 1977 when I was Chair of the Board of Trustees

*Mortgage Burring
for the
Church Educational Wing*

Since I have been a resident of Huron for 53 years and taught so many years, I see many of my students in their jobs in Huron. A few of the former students are:

David Wheeler, lawyer	Ron Volesky, lawyer	Katie Ford, nurse
Christina Raw, nurse	Melissa Lodmel, nurse	Larry Quam, police officer
Bob Neitzert, police officer	Neil Paulisse, salesman	Larry Miller, CPA
Josh Wipf, construction	Steve Anderson, utilities worker	
Cara Green, manager	Karen Anderson, pre-school teacher	
Rodney Mittelstedt, teacher	Bill Johnson, maintenance worker	
Rita Lodinel, school nurse	Ken Meyer, company owner	
Karmen Hulst, pharmacist	Laura Price, music director	

In Conclusion

If I had to choose a career, I would still make the choice of teaching. I was paid all these years for doing something I really enjoyed. When I started teaching, my first year salary was \$85.00 a month. When I retired, my salary was \$23,000 a year. Hats off to the person who started the teachers' retirement; it has proven to be very beneficial, hopefully the recent economic situation will not ruin it.

I know South Dakota ranks low in teachers' salaries, but when I read the salaries of the teachers in Huron, it seems the pay is good. We have to realize the cost of living and compare that to other states.

If you have a degree in education, it seems there are always opportunities to work.. During the summer months, I kept busy tutoring first and second graders to improve their reading skills. When I taught at Jefferson School, there were always summer programs and I usually taught. I still teach summer school for Primary Special Education.

Teaching children is just as important now as it was when I started teaching in 1942. School buildings and teaching conditions are much better now, but there are always different situations – now its language and immigration, and busier and one-parent families.

One thing I am realizing now is the importance of a good teacher. I used to think if a child had an average teacher one year, they could catch up the next year. I have changed my mind. An example is my great niece, Lexy Glanzer who is a 4th graders at Washington School. She has had five excellent teachers. It is so evident that she learns new skills and work habits each year, consequently she is a good student. The students are required to do accelerated math, AR reading, daily language skills and computer skills. Teachers are constantly upgrading and testing to reach the mandates of the "No Child Left Behind". Good teachers are essential so young people to continue to have a passion for education.

I've been blessed to be in education all these years.

Life is good.