

## WHY I BECAME A TEACHER Myrna Coyle

From the time I was just a child (my mother said why I was five years old), I had already made up my mind, I was going to be a second grade teacher. Why I said second grade, I'll never know, but I always liked little kids! And to this day, I am so thankful for the many years I spent with little children.

I taught 50 years and then had to retire because of my age, but I said to my principal (Sam Zimiga), what would he think if I said I might substitute, because I loved the days spent with those little people and besides I was too ambitious to be home all the time. He clapped his hands together and remarked, "You go for it Myrna - you are one of the best first grade teachers I know!"

So, I began subbing (K-2) in the four "west side" schools (Canyon Lake, Meadowbrook, South Canyon and Pinedale), where I knew many of the teachers. I ended up subbing for fifteen more years. (I renewed my certificate each 5 years as needed.)

Then one day I thought to myself, I've taught 50 years and substituted another 15 years, it's time for me to quit - which I did!

I live just south of Pinedale School and to this day, when I hear the children playing out at recess, I think to myself, how much I've really enjoyed my life as a teacher and I'd love to go right up there and join them!

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### School Attendance:

1 year at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, SD  
2 years at Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD  
1.5 years and 2 summer sessions at Black Hills State College Spearfish, SD  
B.S. Education      1951   Black Hills State College Spearfish, SD  
B.S. Art              1956   Black Hills State College Spearfish, SD

### Other:

AAUW (Local Rapid City Branch) 1978-1984    Continuous Committee work  
    Outstanding Women  
    Women of Worth  
    Named Fellowship Educational Foundation Program (EFP)  
Delta Kapp Gamma      All state committees  
    State Scholarship Committee (1984-85)  
    State Nominating Committee (1980-83)  
    Corresponding Secretary (1972-74)

Central States Fair Painting & Art Displays- Fine Arts Division (1976-78)  
Art Show, Dakota Art Guild at Dahl Art Center, March 1983  
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology  
Parliamentarian, Women's Faculty Group (1982-84)