



Star Valley School

## MY COUNTRY SCHOOL STAR VALLEY

By Mildred Brazle Snyder

I started my schooling in 1942 in a one room country school – Star Valley district #7. I went there two and one-half years, for first and second grades, and one semester of the third grade.

The school grounds consisted of a schoolhouse, coal shed, two outhouses, and a small lean-to shed for students' horses. My dad bought an "Indian" pony (a painted pony) for us to ride when we got older. There was a hand pump in a well on the southeast corner of the grounds. We got to pump the water and had a water bucket and dipper on a table in the cloakroom.

Inside the building, there was a small hall-like cloakroom where we hung our coats and hats and left our boots and any other items such as lunches. From the cloakroom, you entered the main schoolroom. At the front was a slightly raised area or stage. The teacher's desk sat there with a piano to one side and an American flag on the other. Pictures of Washington and Lincoln hung above the blackboards that ran across the front of the room. In the center of the room was a large round tall stove with a coal bucket beside it. I don't ever remember being cold in the winter. The east and west sides were lined with windows that were opened during spring and fall for the breezes. In the back of the room were bookcases, books, and other things; one of my favorites was a wooden puzzle of the United States. A large world globe sat in a frame on the floor near the corner.

To the north of the school lot was a grove of trees with a small creek/branch running through it on its way to Grouse Creek. The east and south were bounded by a gravel road and a field was on the west.

The fall I was a first grader, the students and teacher built a lean-to in the grove of trees. We laid up flat rocks to make three sides and the top was covered with tree branches. It faced south and proved to be a warm spot when the cold winds blew. We had a pair of teeter totters but I don't remember anything else.

The school day started with reciting the flag salute and repeating the Lord's Prayer. I don't remember much about classes, but I do remember printing my ABCs; this was called penmanship. It seems that reading just happened and to this day I love to read.

In first and second grades, my teacher would have me sit at the piano and I learned scales and simple tunes. We did a Thanksgiving program for parents and families one afternoon. I was a Pilgrim and wore a dark dress and a white cap. We made gifts at Christmas time for our parents. The one I remember and still have is a placemat made when I was in second grade. We took a rectangle of white material and fringed the sides. We then cut out a snowflake, divided it