

COME  
HOME,  
IT'S...

a  
tribute  
to  
**Lulu  
Brown  
Shrum**  
(1912-2006)



# A tribute to Lulu Brown Shrum (1912—2006)

## Foreword by Lulu's Nephew, Ken Brown

Aunt Lulu is especially significant to this writer, because she was the intermediary by which my mother, Kiree Hartley, met my father, Lulu's older brother, Orville "Jake" Brown. Without that introduction, I wouldn't be writing these introductory words to you. Aunt Lulu and my Mom would graduate from Ava High School together in 1931, and they would remain life-long friends.

Lulu Brown Shrum was the tenth of 12 children born to Uncle Jim (J.L.) and Aunt Mel (Morris) Brown. Lulu (pronounced Lula) was born on February 12, 1912, at the old Brown farm south of Ava, and died at Lowry City, MO on June 8, 2006 at the age of 94. Everyone who knew Aunt Lulu would agree she was one of God's special "bell-ringers." On the cover, Aunt Lulu is pictured ringing the **dinner bell** for workers at the Hinds Ranch in Oregon in the 1940s. For decades to follow, she rang **school bells** for her children to come in. And, in the writer's opinion, Aunt Lulu was a perfect partner for an old cowboy turned preacher, Bruce Shrum. Together they would ring **church bells** in communities large and small in the Idaho, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Many of those years they traveled light using only a house trailer in which to raise their two girls.

In the next section, an outline of Aunt Lulu's life is gleaned from the story that she and her girls penned for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Aunt Lulu and Uncle Bruce in 1995. That is followed by a section that Aunt Lulu would care most about—short biographies of her children and grandchildren—all of whom have crafted meaningful lives.

## The Courting of Lulu Brown

School had begun at the Whitescreek School in August 1934, with Lulu Brown as teacher. This was her third term and she had no idea that romance could be lurking outside that one-room school-house door.

It happened one day when school had been in session only a few weeks. Bruce Shrum, a young farmer, who farmed the land adjoining the school yard,



Lulu's High School  
Graduation Picture—1931



Lulu with her brother,  
Orville "Jake" Brown around 1930

came by to say, "Howdy there, Schoolmarm, little Brother has been telling me some exciting things about his teacher." This casual acquaintance developed, as each evening after 4:00 Bruce was on hand with his pinto to walk Miss Lulu home.

Then came the Pie Supper (he bought the teacher's box), Thanksgiving dinner at the Shrums, the Christmas program and tree trimming at school with you know who helping out--until finally the romance culminated in a wedding February 9, 1935. Lulu's plans for college were postponed, and the teacher and farmer joined hearts and hands and began a life together on the farm.

## Lulu and Bruce Head to the Great Northwest

In the late summer of 1936, daughter, Nancy, was born on the farm in Douglas County. Then the family tried city life, returned to the farm for a short time and then headed west. Their destination was Spokane, Washington. While there, a second daughter, Sue, was born. Later the family moved to Oregon where Bruce and Lu began employment with the Hinds Land and Cattle Company. Bruce made a good ranch hand and Lulu showed off her skills in the cookhouse with sour-dough biscuits, ham and gravy.

## War Time In Tulsa

In December of 1941, World War II broke out and the Shrums thought it wise to return to Missouri, for Bruce expected to be called into military service. But instead, both Bruce and Lulu found employment at Douglas Aircraft in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Shrums worked here for over two

## A tribute to Lulu Brown Shrum (1912—2006)



**A young Lulu dressed in the latest styles of the early 1930s**

years. The grandeur of the mountains and the fragrance of the evergreens turned them again to the West, to Buffalo, Wyoming. There they worked in the timber in lumber production. They worked there until after the close of the War. They built a new home in Buffalo, not far from the Big Horn Mountains, and expected to make Wyoming their home. God had other ideas.



**1989—(L-R) Sue, Lulu, Bruce and Nancy**



**Lulu displays some of the wonderful oil paintings she created in her retirement years.**

### Post-War Ministry Calling

In September of 1946 both Lulu and Bruce were converted to Christ. The beauty of the mountains, the sunrises and sunsets, friends, family, and the new home and good jobs made living in Buffalo attractive; but slowly, subtly, and surely the Lord was changing their life-style. In September 1949 Bruce and Lulu enrolled at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri, to prepare to spend their lives in the ministry of the Lord.

Lulu resumed her love for teaching and Bruce was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Vista Baptist Church. The work was enjoyable and fruitful. During the summer the Shrums parked their house trailer they acquired when leaving Wyoming on the



**Lulu and Bruce—Early 1950s at Vista (MO) Baptist Church**

church lawn and involved the whole community in daily vacation Bible school. Attendance was good—over one hundred children enrolled. Bruce pastored the Vista Baptist Church for nearly two years, and one doesn't need to exercise his imagination much to visualize the near circus at the church. Bruce was 38 years old, a pastor, a student in college, a comparatively new convert to Christ, and was just fresh from the wide open spaces of Wyoming with half a lifetime spent with the wild bunch. But strange as it may seem, the Vista people accepted him and overlooked his uncultured ways, and the Shrums made many dear friends in the Vista and Gerster communities.

### Education and the Ministry Take Lulu Many Places.

Lulu and Bruce both graduated from SWBC in the spring of 1951. Thereafter, the couple would move to places where Bruce would preach and Lulu would teach.

1951 – Osceola, MO

1953 – Fort Worth TX (Bruce attended Seminary—

## A tribute to Lulu Brown Shrum (1912—2006)

Lulu did alterations for a Fort Worth department store)

1957 – Joplin, MO. (Lulu taught kindergarten)

1959 – Kellogg Idaho (While pastoring at Kellogg, the Shrums were involved with the design and construction of the new church building). Their stay was interrupted by a short stay in Enumclaw Washington before returning to Kellogg for two more years.

1969 - Sarcoxie Missouri (Lulu completes her education at Missouri Southern State University and teaches fourth graders in Sarcoxie).

1971 – Lowry City, Missouri (Lulu taught fourth grade at Lakeland School, and Bruce preached at Round Prairie in Bates County. After six years, they both retire.



**60th Wedding Anniversary in 1995 at Lowry City, MO—Bruce, Nancy, Lulu and Sue**

While at Lowry City, Lulu and Bruce acquired another house trailer which they converted into a wonderful permanent home with a barn next door for Bruce's horses.

The couple would both have serious surgeries, but recovered and were thankful for restored health and purpose in life. Thereafter, they enjoyed serving in His Vineyard with the good people of Gerster (MO) Baptist Church until health issues prevented the weekly trip. Lulu and Bruce celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1985 and their 60<sup>th</sup> in 1995. Not long after, Bruce's health began to fail, and he died in 1997. Aunt Lulu continued to live in the home for another year before taking up residence at the wonderful retirement home in Lowry City. She continued to be God's bell-ringer among the staff and residents for eight years before her death in 2006.

### **LULU'S FIRST BORN — NANCY SHRUM CARRELL**

Nancy Shrum graduated in 1954 from R. L. Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas and that fall returned to Missouri to Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar. It was in her sophomore year that friendship with Roy Eugene Carrell, a high school friend from Osceola, Missouri, was re-kindled. After graduation from SWBC, Nancy was the church secretary at First Baptist in Joplin, Missouri, until she and Gene Carrell were married on February 24, 1957, at Osceola, Missouri, and moved to Kansas City, Missouri to begin their life together. Nancy soon began employment with Business Men's Assurance Co. where she worked until their first child was born. Janalea (named after Janalea Brown) was born November 9, 1960. She was joined by a sister, Lisa Jean, on March 25, 1963. In August of 1967 the Carrell family moved to a 40-acre farm in Bates County, Missouri at Amoret. A few years later they moved to Butler, Missouri, where they lived until the summer of 2003. While in Butler Nancy worked for a ready mix company and three attorneys (all at different times) and retired in 1998. Nancy and Gene now live at Bolivar, Missouri, where they enjoy serving in their church, taking advantage of the exercise facilities, getting together with friends, meeting new people, attending events at the university.



**Gene & Nancy (Shrum) Carrell—2005**

### **NANCY'S DAUGHTER— JANALEA "JANA" CARRELL DUKE**

Jana and her family make their home in Springfield, Missouri. She is a graduate of Butler (MO) High School and Missouri State University—Springfield. Jana has been employed at a Springfield architectural-engineering firm as a technical writer for 28 years. She is also an active member of her church, where she currently serves as a Toddlers

## A tribute to Lulu Brown Shrum (1912—2006)

II Sunday school teacher and sings with the Praise Chorale and “Tapestry,” a ladies’ ensemble.

Jana married Brad Duke in 1985. He also works in the architectural field, and they have two terrific children: Nathan, 19, and Samantha, 8. Nathan was a 2010 graduate of Springfield Parkview High School where he was outstanding in music, debate and academics. Nathan just completed his freshman year at prestigious and rigorous Washington University-St. Louis, where he is working on a double major in computer engineering and computer science. He is also active in the University’s music department as a member of the concert choir and an a cappella group called “After Dark.” [Ken Brown’s Note: When Nathan was just a toddler, Aunt Lulu (the professional educator) confided to me: “Kenny, he’s really special-I know!” I discounted it as being biased through the eyes of a great-grandmother, but she was right, and all the Brown family rejoices with every one of Nathan’s accomplishments].



**DUKE FAMILY—Nathan, Sammi, Jana and Brad-2010**

Vivacious Samantha (Sammi) will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader this fall. She is an avid reader and participates in the children’s music and drama programs at church. She also likes to play basketball and swim. Her future plans at this moment include learning to play the violin and studying to be a veterinarian.

### **NANCY’S DAUGHTER— LISA JEAN CARRELL**

Lisa graduated from Butler (MO) High School where she was a star athlete. She graduated from University of Missouri-Columbia where she was on the basketball team. After college, Lisa worked with Campus Crusade for Christ International for ten years, living in southern California, Colorado, and a year in Moscow, Russia. In 1996 Lisa moved to Los Angeles and worked at Paramount Pictures for 12 years in Human Resources. Tired of the congestion and drain of Los Angeles, Lisa moved in 2008 to south Orange County (about 75 miles south of L.A.) to Aliso Viejo,

and she couldn’t be happier there. She consults for an HR outsourcing company and is a project manager for marketing firm for non-profits. Some of her greatest joys are being able now to do more volunteer work in the community and her church. Recently, she’s resumed her study of the Russian language.



**Lisa Carrell**

### **LULU’S DAUGHTER—SUE SHRUM STORM**

Sue graduated from high school and attended Joplin Community College while her parents lived in Joplin. When her parents went west to Kellogg Idaho, Sue headed to William Jewell College in Liberty MO where she graduated in 1963. Shortly after graduation, Sue married David Storm of Webb City and their only child, Carmen, was born in 1964. Sue and her family stayed in the Kansas City area for several years. Sue taught high school English in Lawrence KS and Osawatomie KS before spending several years with David in Wichita followed by a return to the Kansas City area. While teaching at Osawatomie, Sue, David and Carmen lived in Stilwell Kansas so Carmen could have a horse --a love initiated and nurtured by her Grandpa Shrum with whom she had a very special connection.

In there somewhere, Sue received her Master’s degree in Special Education and began teaching in Shawnee Mission Schools in 1978 and taught there until retire-



## A tribute to Lulu Brown Shrum (1912—2006)

ment. Sue and David parted shortly after Carmen graduated from high school with Sue moving to Overland Park KS. Carmen took off for KU, the horse having been traded for an older, but very classy bright red Camaro during Carmen's junior year.

In 1996, Sue was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives and served for twelve years. During those years, she taught special needs students in Shawnee Mission during the first semester and served in the legislature during the spring term. Sue retired from both Shawnee Mission and the legislature in 2008, and promptly ran and was elected to the Kansas State Board of Education. She is in the third year of a four year term. Sue looks forward to full retirement in order to spend more time with Carmen and her family, to travel, to work in her garden, to read, go to estate sales, movies, and out with friends.

### SUE'S DAUGHTER—CARMEN STORM GRAY

After graduation from KU, Carmen taught German in Omaha and Liberty, Missouri. In 2000, she married Brian Gray of Easton in Leavenworth County, Kansas. Both were KU alums but had not known each other at the university. Brian is an engineer and a year after their marriage, they moved to Charlotte, NC, where Brian now designs and supervises the manufacture of custom-made self-automated vehicles, mostly forklift-types. Carmen teaches students who are English language learners in Gastonia.

The biggest news is that almost three years ago, Carmen and Brian adopted three children and became a family of five overnight! Marco, 11, Brenda, 9, and Justin, 8, are beautiful, kind, smart, sweet children. People tell Carmen and Brian how lucky the children were to find them. Carmen and Brian sincerely believe they themselves are the "lucky" ones. "Blessed" would be a better word! Carmen is now a soccer mom and instead of sleeping in on Saturdays, it's usually off to the soccer field.

With so many KU alums in the family, the children are quickly turning from Tarheels or Duke Blue Devils into Jayhawks!



**GRAY FAMILY—Brian, Carmen,  
Marco, Justin & Brenda**



**School picture taken late in  
Lulu's teaching career.**



**Ca 1949 — L-R: Uncle Jess Brown w/James Brown,  
Grandma "Mel" Morris Brown w/Ken Brown, Iris (Brown)  
Durham, Loa (Hamilton) Davis, and Lulu (Brown) Shrum.  
At Grandma Brown's little house in Ava.**