

LeNora Vernice (Brown) Richards' Hugo Life: 1913 - 1968

by

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1913 LeNora Brown was born April 27, 1913 to Lawrence and Ellen (Markley) Brown on Horse Fly Mesa in Colorado. Her parents were there on a range with their herd of sheep.

1923 The Brown family moved to Compton, California in 1923 where Lawrence Brown worked in the old fields. They moved to California due to a flood on the Gunnison River in Colorado.

1925 In 1925 the Browns moved to Oakland, California (see Photo 1).

1926 Then in 1926 the Browns with their kids, LeNora, Carrol, Edwin, and Maxine, headed north to Hugo, Oregon (see Photo 2 and Map 1).

1926 - 1929. Hugo Elementary School She attended the Hugo school for

part of the seventh grade and all of the eighth grade (see Photo 3).

Community members in Hugo who played instruments would gather at various homes to have musical "jam sessions." All youngsters were invited and encouraged to play with the adults and were accepted no matter how well or poorly they played (see Photo 4).

1929 - 1932. Grants Pass High School She chose to attend the Grants Pass High School to participate in its music program. She played violin all four years in its

LeNora supported herself in high school by working at various jobs. One was for an Auto Court (now call Motels) South of the Caveman Bridge near the entrance to the park on the Rogue River.



*Photo 1. Brown Family in
Oakland, CA: 1925
Back - LeNora and Mother Ellen
Front - Carrol, Maxine, Dad
Lawrence, and Edwin
Courtesy of Edwin & Betty Brown*

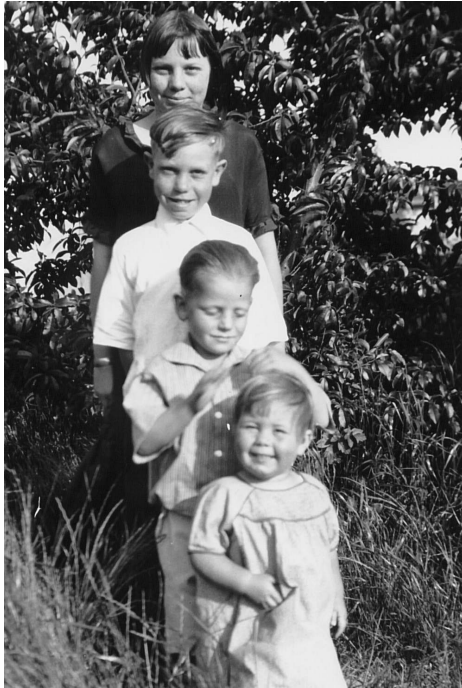


Photo 2. LeNora, Carrol, Edwin, and Maxine Brown (top to bottom) in Hugo, Oregon: 1920s

Courtesy of Carrol & Martha Brown

While in high school she was active in several organizations: Junior year she was Defense Attorney on the Student Court and Junior Representative on the Student Council. She was on the debate team with Martha Lee (who 12 years later became her sister-in-law by marrying her brother, Carrol Brown). Senior year she was president of the Girl's League and again on the debate team.

1932 After graduating from Grants Pass High

School in 1932, she went to Los Angeles and enrolled in a business school.

1933 It was in Los Angeles that she experienced the 1933 earthquake. LeNora and her landlady were eating when the quake struck. The landlady yelled, "Turn off the gas!" They gathered a few personal items, some quilts and food, and got into the landlady's car. They wound their way around fires and debris to the main highway out of the city. The destruction was great. It was three days before LeNora could get word to her parent that she was all right.

While in Los Angeles she was able to use her musical ability by playing her violin in the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra.

1934 - Married While in Los Angeles LeNora met Miles A. Richards who was in the Navy. They married February 14, 1934 in Delta, Colorado. They made their home there in Delta. For a while LeNora again used her musical ability by playing her violin at the Pea Green Community Hall for some good old country dances.



Photo 3. Hugo School: 1926

Courtesy of Carrol and Martha Brown

LeNora and Miles had two daughters, Marolyn and Marla. They gave them seven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

LeNora owned and operated a flower shop in Delta for over twenty years. She was an excellent designer. She loved to cook, bake, and sew. She was loved by everyone who knew her. She would have been proud of her grandchildren and their children's accomplishments.

1968 LeNora Vernice (Brown) Richards died June 24, 1968 in Delta, Colorado of complications of breast cancer.



Photo 4. LeNora Brown and her violin in Hugo, Oregon 1930?
Courtesy of Carrol & Martha Brown