

## Charles Aldro Brown

Aldro was the name he went by, but many just called him "Brownie". He was born in 1908 and died in 1961 at the age of 53. He was born in Pike County of Edward and Bessie Brown. He had an older brother, Ralph Brown, who was a Valley's High School coach in the early 1950's.

Aldro was married to Ruby Beryl Brown, and they had a son, John Brown, born in 1940, and later they had two grandsons.

Brownie opened the Kroger's Store in Lucasville in 1935. His wife, Ruby, also worked for Kroger's in Portsmouth from 1935 until she retired in 1955. They lived in the house just south of the store. Ruby died in 1985.

As a child, I (Linda Howard Scott) can remember going into the store and smelling the famous Kroger's coffee which was freshly ground each day.

His Kroger's store eventually became Foodland until his death in 1961. The building next housed the first Giovanni's Pizza in Lucasville and was later torn down.

In 1947, Brownie was elected to the Valley School Board and served on that board until his death in 1961. He served on the board during the time when the schools were overcrowded due to the expansion of the A Plant. The School Board and Lawrence T. Comer scrambled to build two new facilities. One was the addition to the elementary school and the other was the new high school on Lucasville Minford Road. As of 2024 that 'new' high school is being used as the middle school.

The essence of this Lucasville Legend is captured in the Memoriam to Aldro that can be found in the 1962 Valley High School Yearbook:

"...well known to Valley students and faculty as "Brownie," was called to his celestial home on August 31, 1961. He had been a member of the school board since 1947 and had been its clerk for the last seven years. He was prominent in community activities.

With deep sincerity to a man who lived before us in a silent manner but had set a wonderful example to all who were in association with him, a man whose qualities of friendliness, loyalty, and sportsmanship won a place of high respect, deep admiration, and warm affection from the students and faculty, we express our gratitude for his service to our school. Let us go forward inspired by his splendid example, realizing that he has only passed to the fuller life everlasting."