

# Brown's 1997 News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 3, 1998

## Features

- Browns move to new house.
- Jim & Ada come to visit.
- Adele goes to Russia.
- Bill constructs garden shed.
- Liz starts high school.
- Mary is taller than Adele.
- Adele develops a craving.

## Washington Jokes

What did the Washingtonian say to the Pillsbury doughboy?  
"Nice tan."

Washington is a state where it takes ten words to order what the rest of the country calls "coffee."

A Washingtonian is someone who is made sublimely happy by any weather forecast that includes the word "sun."

## Bill's Year in Review

1997 was a big year for WHB. In January, the family moved into a new house with plenty of room for Adele's treasures. It was difficult leaving the house on the ninth fairway of Royal Oaks Golf Course, but the new home is much bigger and more modern. For a

*"After moving his family to the 'dream home,' Bill discovered that there was a lot of work to be done."*

moving-in present, Bill got a really nice suite of computer furniture. After all, he is a Senior-type computer guy now, and orange crates just don't do it any more.

After moving his family to the "dream home," Bill discovered that there was a lot of work to be done. Fortunately, he also got to buy lots of tools and other toys, which was some compensation. He spent most of the summer working on his "dream shed." This was a 12'x16' garden shed where he could store his toys. It was a much bigger job than planned and took several months to complete. Possibly it would never have been finished except for the help of an expert and generous neighbor. (Actually, it was more a case of Bill helping the neighbor – but we won't go into that.) Anyway, the shed is done, it has electricity and is dry as a bone – a



**THIS ISN'T THE NEW HOUSE, BUT IT'S CLOSE!**

valuable asset in Washington winters.

Once this was finished, he took to fixing a minor drainage problem. It turned out there was a seasonal dream pond in the dream backyard of the dream house. There was about a 4" deep pool there all last winter. With his usual enthusiasm and

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## Adele's Year in Review

1997 was a good year for all of us. It was my second year of teaching ESL at Fort Vancouver High School. Believe me, the second year is always much easier than the first. My big transition was last year when I went from teaching groups of 2 or 3 elementary students in New Jersey to teaching up to 40 high school students in one class in Washington. What a difference a "long

distance" move makes!

Our biggest thrill in 1997 was moving into a new and much more accommodating house. It is so nice having a house as big as the one we had to leave in NJ. An unexpected bonus is that we now have the nicest neighbors we have ever had. Neighbors make a difference!

With teaching, I don't have time for much else, especially since I've been se-

lected to be on a couple of committees at school – that's in addition to two weekly staff meetings. However, I do always find time to visit my favorite store at least a couple of times a week (Goodwill aka "Saks Fourth Plain").

In June, my mother and father came to visit from New Jersey. It was wonderful having them here, and Dad certainly enjoyed the numerous senior activities available in Vancouver. It was not

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## Bill's Year

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 energy, encouraged by his delighted wife, he dug a 4'x6'x6' dry well and filled it with rock. The project was a success and the backyard has been dry so far this winter. Bill also has a new appreciation for his Stanford education as makes it purely optional for him to pursue ditch digging as a career. He has spent the rest of the year resting on his laurels.

Other adventures included a five-day whirlwind tour of some Oregon hot spots such as the Sea Lion and Oregon Caves (Bill likes caves). This was a special trip since it was just Bill, Elizabeth, and Mary. Adele had deserted her family for her 9-day trip to Russia, so the left-behind Browns made up their own trip. In addition to caves, the group saw whales (1 captive, 2 wild), lots of ocean, redwoods, and took a great dune buggy ride.

Bill's Dad didn't have a great year. In June, he fell and cracked his left hip. What with complications (including another fracture and a replacement of his right hip), he didn't get out of the convalescent home until November. He's home now and on the road to 100% recovery. He was pretty sick for a while, but Browns are **tough!**

As a grand finale for the year, Bill wanted to get a **really big** Christmas tree. Fortunately, his better half talked him down from a 12-footer to a 92-footer. After an aching back and some calculation, Bill has determined that the mass of a Christmas tree is proportional to the cube of its height. That sucker was **heavy!** However, after tribulations too

miscellaneous to mention, it was successful installed in the living room and served admirably as a backdrop for a load of presents.

Bill is looking forward to 1998 and summer with no shed-building or dry-well digging. He also hopes to get back out on the golf course. He may even get



his handicap down.

### Dirty Statistics

A hole 4'x6'x6' contains 2.67 cubic yards of muddy Southwestern Washington clay soil, weighing over 3 tons. To fill this hole requires 2.5 cubic yards of medium-size river rock weighing approximately 5 tons. This equates to about 40 trips with a wheelbarrow, each load containing 20 shovels full of rock.

These numbers brought to you courtesy of the Brown hole excavating and hole filling service.

### Measuring Mary

On December 24, 1997, a measurement was made on the comparative vertical dimensions of Mary French Brown, age 12, and Adele Louise Ransom Brown, age 30+. The official results (certified by William H. Brown) are as follows:

Adele - 5 feet 8¼ inches.

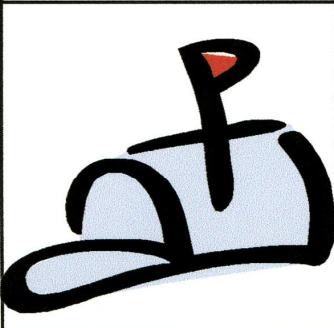
Mary - 5 feet 8½ inches.

It's official, folks. Mary is one-quarter inch taller than Adele! Based on this growth rate, it is expected that Mary will reach the average supermodel height on October 15,

## Change of Address

For those who haven't gotten the word, our new address is:

**William & Adele Brown**  
**4307 N.E. 139th St.**  
**Vancouver, WA 98686**  
**Phone: 360-546-1273**  
**E-Mail: browwi@teleport.**



## Mary's Year

biked and hiked all over the San Juan Islands. When I got back there were two days to recuperate and get ready to leave for NJ.

In early October Mary went on a back to school retreat with her youth group and they went up to a lodge and stayed there for the weekend. At the end of January Mary is going on another Jr. High retreat up to Mt. Hood to go tubing for the weekend.

In the beginning of the summer (while Adele was in Russia) Mary, William, and Elizabeth took a one week trip all around Oregon. They went to see the Oregon Caves and the Sea

Lion Caves and even went to see Keiko at Newport. All we could see was his tail because he was asleep and it was not very exciting. Three days after we got back Mary and Elizabeth's grandparents were coming out from NJ for ten days. The day that Mary's grandparents were coming, Adele was coming home. Also this summer Mary had a job she tutored her neighbor three days a week. She also did a program called Summer of Service which is all volunteer and you help other people and you get to pick a new project each week.

All in all I had a very good year

### Telephone Trivia

During the last three months of 1997, 83% of all incoming phone calls to the Brown household were for Elizabeth Acacia Brown. The mean length of each conversation was 37.23 minutes.

Of these calls, 68% were from adolescents

### Adele's Craving

Since moving to the Pacific Northwest, Adele has attempted to adopt local vices. Because of this, she has developed a severe attachment to *café mochas*. Until several months ago, she would daily stride to the front of the line of her favorite espresso stand and boldly order her usual "skinny, decaf, double-shot mocha." Then she realized that she had come to depend on this sweet mixture of coffee and chocolate for her daily fix, and the habit was expensive!

To resolve this problem, she purchased a deluxe home espresso maker from Starbucks. Her slavishly devoted husband now makes sure she does not leave the house each day without receiving her morning "dose." Adele insists that William makes the very best mochas.

## Elizabeth's Year in Review

This summer was really cool. I was a camp counselor for a Camp Fire Camp and an Audubon Camp. I also volunteered at Heritage Health and Rehab Center, an elderly convalescent home. The highlight was definitely the trip "home" to see all my eastern relatives.

This school year has been a semi-good one. I thought that I would be so devastated that my best friend moved to Tennessee but I am coping quite well. My friends this year are great and I have still kept all my guy-friends from last year, which is cool. This is the first year in a long time that I have had better female friends than male friends, it takes a lot of getting used to. My social life has been more active this year since I have new and more "apt to do things" friends. My friends and I will go out every weekend doing something new. My parents didn't like this year because they are the ones who have to drive me eve-

rywhere.

I was going up and down with my grades in eighth grade and now that I have started high school it has become a lot easier to keep A's and B+'s on my report card. My electives, this year, are typing and band. Band didn't start out that well because none of the people in the band were in *IB (International Baccalaureate, an advanced placement program in which Liz is enrolled - ed.)*. This mostly meant that I would have trouble getting to know people because they were only in one of my classes and they already had other friends from last year. It was extremely hard because every weekend we went on 12-hour band trips that if you had no one to talk to you did absolutely nothing all day. However, on those trips we all became good friends - some of us more than others. My 1st boyfriend of the year I got stuck sitting next to him in Biology and then we

found out we were both in band and the rest is history. So far I really like high school; you have more freedom and the work hasn't gotten harder.

I had dreamed about going to Chile this summer but it was canceled because of financial setbacks, which anyone is free to help with, for the summer of 1999. Anyway Spanish is my favorite class because of the academics and definitely not because of the people in there. They call me "nerdy little smart girl," which is quite annoying and gets old fast.

I can't wait to drive I get my permit in less than a year, when I am 15½. I am so excited I just can't hide it. Sorry about that. I really can't stay calm when I talk



### Adele's Year

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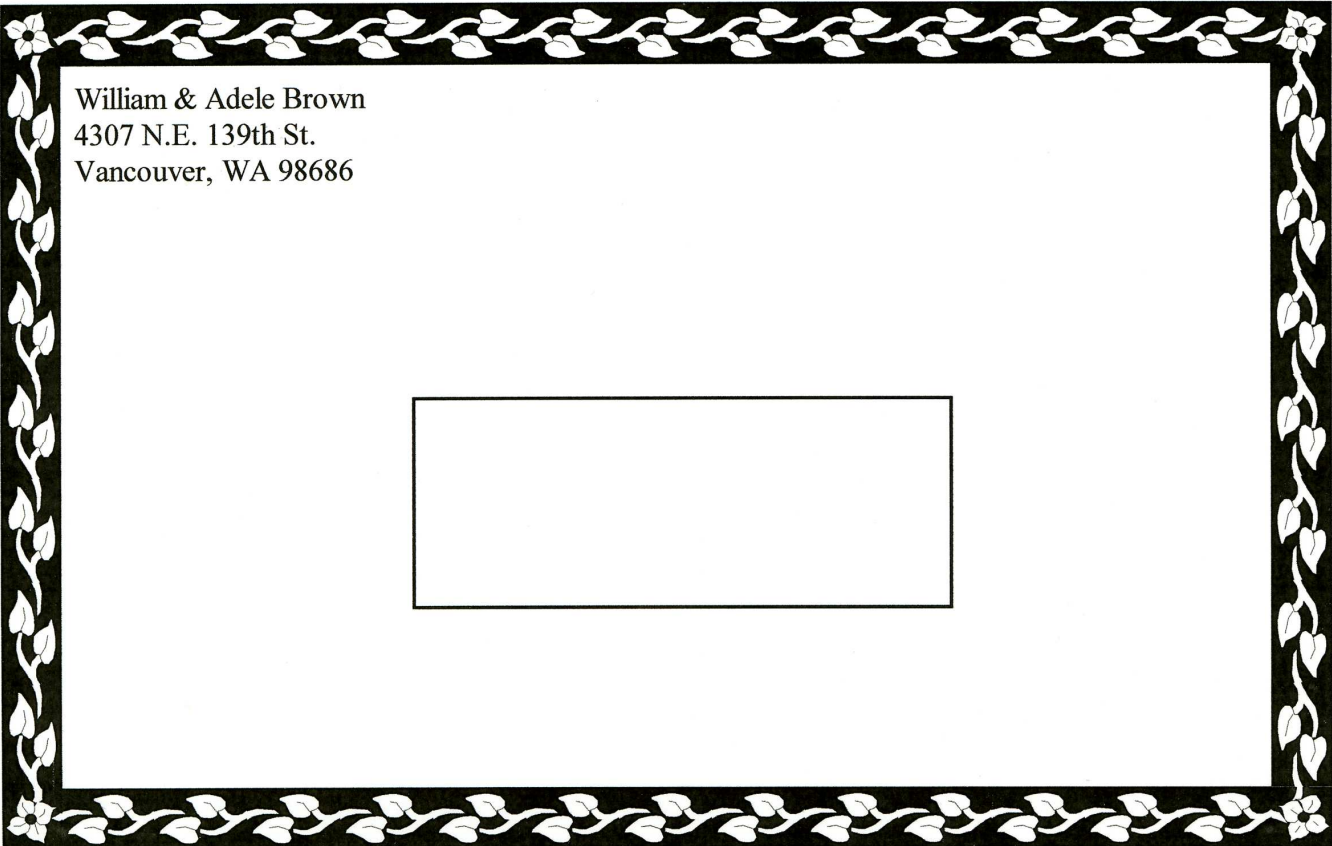
such a good trip for my mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's, and was pretty confused much of the time.

I had a special bonus from the school system this year. I was selected to go on an all-expense-paid trip to Russia for 9 days in June. The trip was in commemoration of the 1937 over-the-pole flight (from

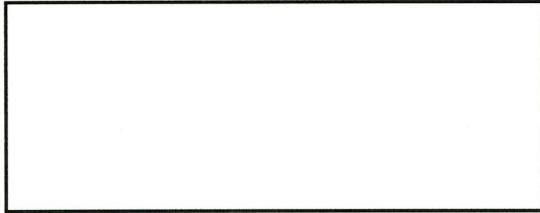
St. Petersburg to Vancouver) of Valeriy Chkalov — the Russian Lindbergh. The trip was a very big event for our little town and many local dignitaries and educators were in out party of 85. We were wine and dined wonderfully in Russia. I met Cosmonauts, four-star generals, and high government officials. Fortunately, I was able to get away and have dinner and social time

with some Russian families. It was a tremendous experience, which can never be repeated. I have learned to appreciate the value of toilet paper.

In August, I took the girls to NJ for our customary visit. My family was all in good health, and it was wonderful to get to see them all. Unfortunately, we had to place Mom in a residence where she can get the constant care she now needs. I'm happy to report that



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BROWN'S 1997 NEWS

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## *Mary's Year in Review*

Mary has accomplished a lot of things in the past year such as volleyball and she is beginning a season of basketball in January. For those of you who don't know, Mary got braces in September and shall have them on for two years. In October, Mary participated in a play called ghost stories actually it was not one big play it was a lot of little scenes that had happened many years ago in the same place.

Mary is in seventh grade now and twelve years of age. She attends the Vancouver school of Arts and Academics. At the

Vancouver School of Arts and Academics Mary particularly enjoys Math, Theatre and Literary Arts. Mary has had two parties this year one was a birthday party and one was a Christmas party. Her birthday party was a disaster because it turned out that her school's outdoor school came up on her birthday but she did have a party the weekend after Mary got back from her trip. Her Christmas party turned out much better. Her friends had a lot more fun and although it was very short, it seemed like it had just started when it

was really ending. Though after three years in the northwest she still misses NJ. We moved in to a new house in January of last year. It was a very big move for Mary because in the old house on Royal Oaks she had a very small room but now in her new home she has a very large room. She had a lot of stuff in her old room and in the new home she can spread it out more and it does not look as cluttered.

Our family was planning to take a trip during the holidays, but it turned out that we had planned our trip too late so we could not go. We are going to get in exchange

student in late January for two weeks. I am personally looking forward to that occasion. Our family is hoping that we might be able to take a small boat up to Alaska. As always we will be going back to NJ in August.

Now that Mary is in Jr. High she can participate in her Jr. High youth group at church so she can go on all the trips they take. The best trip just happened to be a bike and hike in the San Juan Islands which is right next door to the Canadian border. It was a weeklong trip and we

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