



# BROWN'S YEAR 2000 NEWS

Vancouver, Washington

December 2000

## An Active Summer

Summer officially began for us when Elizabeth returned on June 18<sup>th</sup> after a ten-month absence in Japan. From that point on things really started to move.

A top priority was to help Lizzy remember how to drive after her long absence!

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Adele hopped on a plane to attend her 30<sup>th</sup> High School reunion in New Jersey. She planned to stay at her parents' house and begin the arduous cleaning process.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Bill officially re-

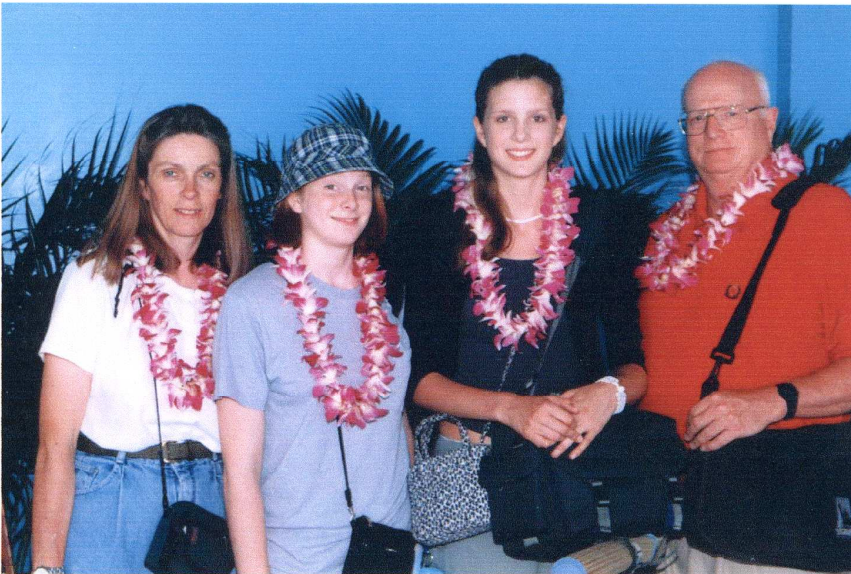
tired from Tri-Met. His going-away present was his extra-comfortable office chair. Since it was worn to his personal contours, it was felt no one else could fill it as well as he could.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Bill attended his High School reunion in Portland.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Liz, Mary, and Bill boarded a plane to New Jersey to meet Adele and contribute their bit to the house cleaning effort. It was a lot of work, but it was certainly nice to spend some time with the New Jersey side of the family.

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**Cleverly disguised as ordinary tourists, the Browns prepare to board the SS Independence.**

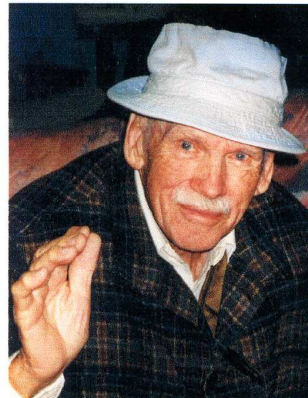


## James Maxwell Ransom — 1912-2000

Adele's father died tragically on May 11<sup>th</sup> after being struck by a car while crossing the street in front of his home. Jim had just turned 88 (or, as he might have put it, 'pushing 89').

Jim led a full and varied life. His accomplishments included rising through the ranks to a vice-presidency of Harris Bank & Trust, becoming a recognized authority on New Jersey

history, an expert bridge player, and an enthusiastic and tireless dancer. Possibly his crowning achievement was his book *Vanishing Ironworks of the Ramapos*. Published in 1966 by Rutgers Press, the book is an important reference on early New Jersey iron production. Jim would have been gratified to know that copies are today selling for over \$400 on *Amazon.com*.



### True Vancouverites:

- Consider that if it doesn't have snow on it all year, it's a "hill," not a "mountain."
- Know how to pronounce "Wahkiakum," "Neahkahnne," "Sequim," "Yachats," & "Puyallup."
- Frequently go to the beach, but never go in the water.
- Complain about Californians until they sell their house to one for twice what it's worth.
- Can point in the direction of two or more volcanoes even though you can't see them through the clouds.
- Change their hiking boots for their Birkenstocks when the temperature gets above 60°.
- Believe that people who use umbrellas are wimps, Easterners, or both.
- Take half a day each July 1<sup>st</sup> to find sunglasses and sunscreen.
- Think Pizza Hut makes real pizza.
- Think downtown Portland is scary because they were once panhandled there.
- Used to live somewhere else.

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## Adele's Year in Review

My year has been filled with numerous stress factors including my mother's and father's death, the retirement of my husband, the wonderful return of my oldest daughter and the end of my youngest daughter's term as an only child. Other than all of that it has been a normal year.

During my month's stay in New Jersey cleaning out my folks' house I was able to attend my 30<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. It was great! I went with my old friend who has lived in Missouri since

graduation. I still contend that the woman look better than the men do.

I played a lot of golf this summer and fall and I'm getting much better, especially my driving.

My school year has been wonderful. I have most of the students that I had last year. That is the best news. They know me and I know them. I teach reading all day and with the Accelerated Reader program I have installed on the six computers in my room, the students finish a book and take a pre-made

test on their particular book. So far my 75 students have read and taken tests on more than 500 books.

I have also become an ESL mentor teacher for the school district, which means I facilitate study groups with regular classroom teachers regarding the ESL students they have in their classes. Thank goodness there is 20% more pay to compensate for frequent after school and weekend events.

## Mary's Year in Review

This has been a good and eventful year for me. I started the year 2000 without a sister (she was in Japan) and attending St. Mary's High School in Portland. I'm ending the year with a sister (she's back!) and going to Columbia River High School in Vancouver.

In between, we had two trips to New Jersey and a trip to Hawaii. The New Jersey trips were last

*"I had an incredible trip to Hawaii, I think I must be destined to be a Hawaiian beach person."*

Christmas and in July. Neither of them was too exciting. We visited relatives and cleaned out my grandparents' house. We went to see *Jesus Christ Superstar* on Broadway in New York. We also ate a lot of that good NJ pizza.

I had an incredible trip to Hawaii, I think I must be destined to be a Hawaiian beach person. The best part of the trip was a one-week cruise to several islands. There were a

bunch of kids on the boat and my parents let me stay up late to be with them. I went snorkeling, kayaking, beaching, and shopping as well as a lot of driving around islands with my family.

So far this school year has been pretty difficult. I'm taking 7 tough classes plus playing basketball. This doesn't give me much time for church trips, friends, and stuff, but next semester should be easier.

## Summer

*(Continued from page 1)*

After a strenuous and stressful three weeks cleaning out 50 years of accumulated treasures, the entire family returned home for a brief rest before — — HAWAII!

Our plan was to spend 5 days in Honolulu and then take a 7-day cruise on the *SS Independence*.

We had a grand time on Oahu, doing everything from snorkeling to attend-

ing flea markets. We spent a morning at the *USS Arizona Memorial*, which was a very moving experience. One of the high points was our trip to Hanauma Bay, a renowned snorkeling spot. There were many bizarrely colored fish and a living coral reef. We arrived very early so we did

**"That night, our ship went past active lava flows and we were able to see molten lava flowing into the ocean — truly an awesome sight."**

not get caught in the crowds of swimmers, which can get very large. However, some of us had to be forcibly dragged from the water when it was time to leave

(3 ½ hours is not too long!).

We were all tired and ready to go when the time came to board our ship. Being experienced cruisers, we quickly made ourselves at home.

The ship was scheduled to make one-day stops on Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii (two stops on Hawaii). We rented a car at each stop so we could get the flavor of each island.

It was astonishing how different each island is in climate and ambiance. Since the islands are so small, we were able to

pretty much drive around and at least glance at all the sights. We had another great snorkeling experience at Poipu on Kauai.

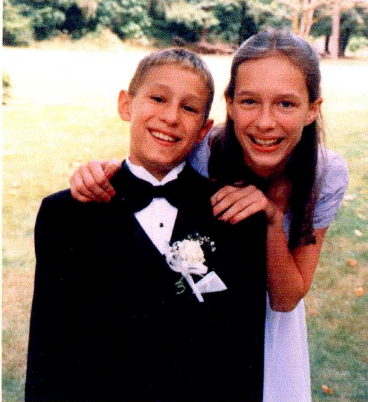
Possibly the most interesting sight we saw was the field of black lava that had been the seaside town of Kalapana on the island of Hawaii. All that remains of the town are a few signposts and a road that dead-ends at a frozen lava river. The beach is now half a mile away and is black sand and raw new rock. That night, our ship went past active lava flows and we were able to see molten lava flowing into the ocean — truly an awesome sight.

All too soon, the ship returned to Oahu and we boarded a plane for the mainland, ending our summer.



## Scott's Wedding

Bill's son Scott was married to Krista Ann Hall on August 13, 2000. Scott and Krista are now living in Milwaukie, Oregon with Scott's two children Billy & Brittney and Krista's daughter Jesse. Although we were in Hawaii and couldn't attend, Scott's grandparents, Howard and Margaret Brown, ably represented the Brown clan.



**Billy & Brittney Brown**



**Krista & Scott Brown**



**Scott with his Grandparents**

## Elizabeth's Year in Review

Hello, this is Liz, do you remember me? I spent last year in Japan. Now I'm back. But for all of you that haven't heard about it yet, I will tell you a little about the best year of my life. I was in the town of Aomori, which translates as "blue forest."

My first host father, who ended up being my last also, was a Buddhist priest. I lived in a temple and listened to the drumming constantly.

My second host father was a Mazda car dealer. You would think that he would get me a new car for Christmas, but the family got me makeup. I think that they were hinting that I'm ugly.

My third host father was a publishing designer. He designed book covers or something. Their family was great. I had the house to myself while my parents were at work. My host mother was an English teacher, her English inhibited my Japanese learning but she was still one of the sweetest people I met.

My fourth host father was a professional liquor seller and taster. This house was the best because I had an endless supply of soft drinks - not just alcohol was sold in the store. It was also only a five-minute bike ride to school and my best friend lived almost next door.

My last host family was my first. I loved

the family the first time I was there, though the second time, when I could understand what they were saying about me, things didn't go so well.

While I was in Japan I learned to speak Japanese, though not as well as I would have liked. In Aomori, the year was a light snow year, we only got 2 meters of snow, I was disappointed

I came home early from Japan so that I could go back to New Jersey with my family so that I could help in cleaning out my Grandpa's house. He passed away this year and it hit me really hard. He wouldn't be waiting there for me when I came back from Japan. He wouldn't be there to tell me I was the smartest person he knew, whether or not it was true. I loved him so much and I still miss him a lot. It was good closure going back to New Jersey.

From New Jersey we went to Hawaii. That was Mary's highlight of the year so I'll let her reminisce about it for you.

I started school feeling that I was more stupid about English than when I left. I was nervous, but I've made it so far. I drive everywhere now and I also went to my first formal dance. These are things that would be highlights in my year if I hadn't gone to Japan. If you have any more questions about Japan you can email me at [lizbyb@hotmail.com](mailto:lizbyb@hotmail.com).

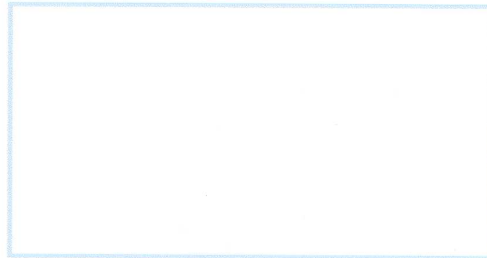
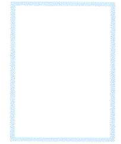
[lizbyb.com](http://lizbyb.com) I could talk forever about it, but there is no room in our newsletter.



**Lizzy All Dressed Up!**

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## **Bill's Year in Review**

2000 was a GREAT year for the big guy. Retirement arrived after some 40 years of slaving my heart out, rising to positions of incredible power and authority, and inventing the Internet. Yes, I'm free at last! I don't understand how I ever had time to go to work! What with golf, home computers, digital photography and all those chores, I haven't yet had time to relax.

Fulfilling long-held vows, I took a 1999 Christmas trip to New Jersey. It was doubly nice because not only did I get to see friends and family, it kept me from missing a certain daughter who was in Japan. It was also fortunate since it was the last time I got to see Jim Ransom.

I officially retired on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The next day, I began my 44<sup>th</sup> high school reunion, which lasted for three days and was held in downtown Portland. The school I attended was in Beirut, Lebanon, so my classmates are scattered all over the globe. The class of '56 had about 12 attendees (from a class of 32) – a pretty

good percentage. It was great to see a lot of old friends.

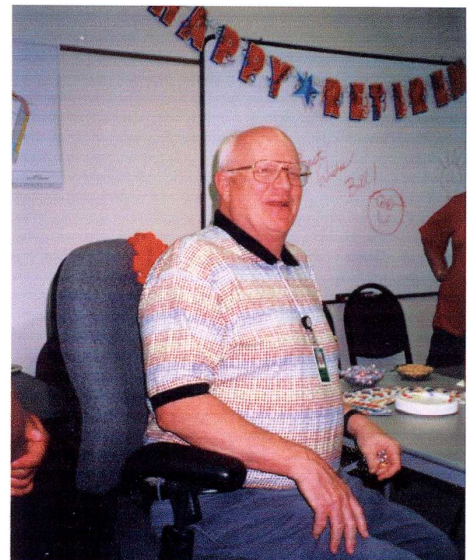
On July 6th, we went to NJ to spend three weeks cleaning out Adele's parents' house. It was an experience I would never care to repeat. We filled up two 30-yard dumpsters, had about six garage sales, and hauled several loads to Adele's sister's house. But we left with a feeling of accomplishment – even though considerable work was left for Adele's brother and sister. We worked so hard I didn't even have time to visit my friends in NJ.

A week after we returned from NJ, we were on another plane, this one to Hawaii! It was the first time I'd been there since 1952. Although Hawaii was a bit hot for my taste, it was a relaxing trip and we saw a lot (see article).

Since then, I have been diligently pursuing retirement. I took a break from trying to improve my golf game and took a trip to California to see some long-lost cousins. Actually I suppose I'm the long-lost

one, since they're all together down there and I'm 700 miles north of them..

In 2001, I hope to actually relax!



**Happy Retirement!**