



Brown's 2002 Newsletter

December, 2002

Adele's Year in Review

This year has been a good year. I'm still teaching two classes a day at Fort Vancouver High School and running their ESL program the rest of the day. Most days it is a challenge but I like doing both. We have 330 students in our program as of December, 130 of them are Russian or Ukrainian and another 130 are Hispanic. The rest are Bosnian, Vietnamese, and the like. I still have a good rapport with most of these teenagers and a lot of them stop by my desk daily.

Having Elizabeth away at college has been another challenge for me. She is doing well and is at the right school but I miss our conversations and companionship. I really look forward to the holidays.

On the other side of the coin, I appreciate having time with Mary. I enjoy watching Mary turn into a sweet, caring young lady.

My golf game has remained the same but I have started to paint watercolors again and I love it.

I had a nice ten day period while the rest of my family was floating down the "old" Colorado. I did a lot of socializing with lady friends, saw those "artsy" movies my husband doesn't like, and had a few interior and exterior decorating surprises for my family when they got home.

Elizabeth's Year in Review

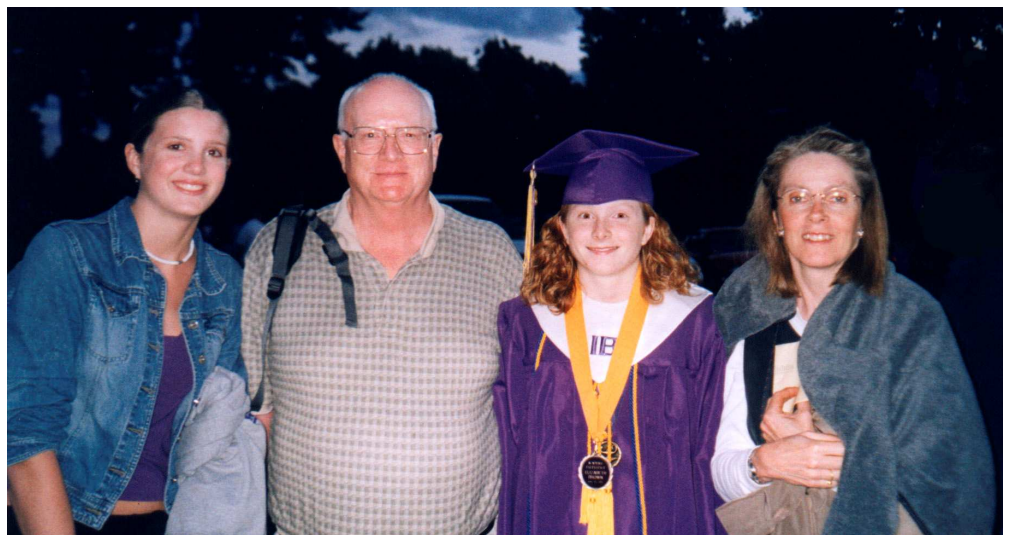
I seem to have the most interesting life of all my family members. First I went to Japan, and now here I am at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. In two weeks, on December 20, I will finish my first semester as a college student. I am currently taking Advanced Chemistry, Calculus II, Japanese 205, and a course called General Studies: Antiquity and Modernity. In that last course, we read literature that pertains to the history of the western world and philosophy of the western world. I must say that my favorite course so far is Japanese, as I am pretty darn good at it, and I learn really fast. Although, I don't think it has *anything* to do with the fact that I spent a year in Japan.

Contrary to popular belief, not all college students party every weekend. I, along with about 12 other Lymanites (people that live in my dorm Lyman), agree that playing endless games of pinochle beats getting smashed! We usually play for at least 2 hours each day, more on weekends. I am continuing my musical studies in the college's wind ensemble and working as a computer consultant in one of the computer labs on campus.

The most surprising thing about Whitman College is how the entire campus is leaning (politically) left...almost like the leaning tower of Pisa, which I am sure leans left in Italy. I thought about joining Young Republicans to keep me from going crazy with people asking me to sign petitions to reduce my CO₂ output each day or to save political prisoners in Sri Lanka.

All in all, I am having a great time here! I don't want to leave, except that when I do come home for Christmas break, my family is taking me on a cruise to Baja!

Graduation Day for Liz!

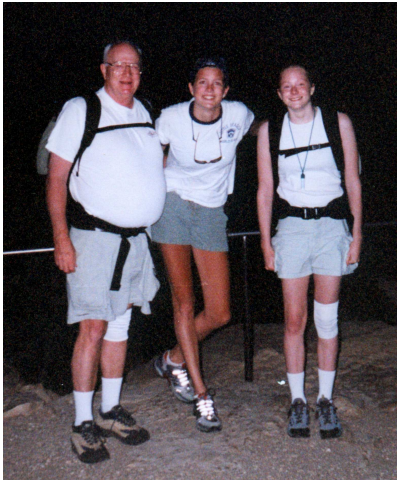


A "Grand" Adventure

In July, the three adventurous members of the family embarked on a 9-day rafting/hiking trip down the Grand Canyon. It was a trip the patriarch had long wanted to do and he was able to convince two family members to accompany him. The trip officially began at 4:30 AM at the South Rim's Bright Angel trailhead. We hiked down 7½ miles of trail and over a mile vertically down into the Canyon where we met our rafts and guides. There were 21 people, 6 guides, and 6 rubber rafts in our party. Each day was spent rafting for a few hours and hiking in the numerous side canyons for a few hours.

The guides were masters (and mistresses) of cooking and camp making, so we ate and lived very well indeed. We gradually became accustomed to the sweltering heat (110° or more each day!) and the baking sun. We soon learned the knack of dumping cool river water over ourselves and keeping our clothes soaking wet. The hikes and swims we were able to take each day were always interesting. And of course, there were the rapids!

In our 125-mile trip, we went through ten major rapids and quickly became adept at hanging on for dear life and bailing out the rafts when we made it through. The trip ended all too soon at Diamond Creek, where the outfitters had trucked in a lavish feast – shrimp, smoked salmon, fresh fruit, and more. However, we were mostly thinking of hot showers at this point. It was a great trip and would have been even better if I'd done it when I was 20 years younger.



4:30 AM First Day. Top of Bright Angel Trail. 40° and windy!



Just Drifting Along. Maybe the best part!



4:30 AM Last Day. 90° and Grungy!



Mary – Looking Good



Liz – Looking Good



Bill – Looking ???

Lava Falls was the last major rapid on the trip. It was also the only one where pictures can be taken.



Heading into Lava Falls



Hitting the Wall



Into the Hole



Almost Through!

Mary's Year in Review

Well, it is my final year in high school. I am a senior and I am having the time of my life, other than the immense amount of work I have to do. College is just around the bend and I still have no clue what school I really want to go to, although I have applied to five of them.

My dad said to talk about what I have done in the past year. I have been volunteering a lot at church, which I really love doing. I have been helping out with a children's youth group and I taught Sunday school over the summer. I also worked during the summer at a pool as a lifeguard. That was fun and I was happy to make money, which I had a shortage of. I also was on the swim team once again this year; our team did really well this year, although we lost the league championship by two points in our last meet. Let me give you an idea of how little two points is; if one person in one race, had gotten one place higher in a race, than we would have won. I am not all that disappointed; I think our team did great. I also got 8th place in 100 yard butterfly at districts, which I was extremely proud of. Well that was a short recap on my life, sorry it wasn't very exciting.

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Bill's Year in Review

It's hard to believe that a mere 12 months ago, we were on pins and needles waiting to see if Liz would be admitted to her first choice college – or to any college. As you can see from Liz's letter, all went well. However, now we are on pins and needles waiting for Mary's college news. I'm glad we only have two kids!

Elizabeth is away in college now and her room stays cleaned up for weeks at a time. It takes some getting used to. It's hard to believe she'll be twenty years old in a few months.

Of course, the big event for the year was our Grand Canyon trip. I spent two months getting into shape and a month recovering, but it was worth it. The Canyon is

even more spectacular from river level than from the rim. The pleasure of drifting along through the ever-changing scenery of cliffs and gorges cannot be overstated!

I decline to report on the state of my golf game, except to say that the wooded areas and ponds at the

golf course are being fertilized by a significant number of my golf balls. Why has no one invented biodegradable balls?

I'm still working on my photography. This is one of my favorite pictures from the past year.

Question: What do golf and photography have in common? Answer: There is always some newer and more expensive item that you really need.

We spent a number of weekends in the fall looking for a mountain cabin retreat. We saw some beautiful property, but haven't yet bitten the bullet. It would be wonderful to be able to head to the mountains for our very own spot on a mountain stream. Stay tuned!



An Iris Posing for Me
