

Brown's 2003 Newsletter

December, 2003

Bill's Year in Review

Northwest Humor

A visitor to the NW was sick and tired of the rain. While out walking, he encountered a small boy and asked, "Kid, does it always rain here?"

The lad looked up at the man and replied, "Gee, mister, I don't know. I'm only six years old."

A Real Northwesterner:

- ◇ Can correctly pronounce: Willamette; Yachats; Neahkahnie; Wahkiakum; & Sequim.
- ◇ Owns an umbrella, but knows that only tourists use them.
- ◇ Can point to at least two volcanoes – even through the clouds.
- ◇ Considers it a "good day" when sun breaks are predicted and actually appear.
- ◇ Gets nervous after more than three days of sunshine.
- ◇ Complains about Californians, but feels OK about doubling his money selling one of them a house.
- ◇ Knows more than ten ways to order coffee.
- ◇ Looks in his suit pocket to see to which wedding or funeral he last wore it.
- ◇ Is aware of *lahars* and *pyroclastic flows*, but doesn't worry too much about them.

This has been an exciting year for the big guy. To start with, we took our first-ever Christmas trip away from home. It was a little tough being away on Christmas, but we had a great time on our cruise/tour of Mexico and the Sea of Cortez.

The big event, of course, was Mrs. Brown retiring. It is very hard for her not having students to yell at, but it's nice having her home. I was getting tired of fetching my own snacks and picking up after myself. Now that she isn't working, she does all that for me (in my dreams!).

We spent much of the year trying to find a mountain cabin. We were successful and spent a few more months fixing it up.

It's a really special place and I'm looking forward to spending time there next summer. There are some trout in Still Creek that haven't seen my artistry with a fly rod!

It was also a sad year. My Dad died May 30 after being in seriously failing health for some time. He lived to the ripe old age of 94, which is some consolation. At his request, we did not have a funeral, but sprinkled his ashes on the golf course. I think the grass is a little greener there now.

Probably the high point of the year was our riverboat cruise to Europe. We went with some close friends (you know who you are!) which added to the fun. I saw more cathedrals



Touring Europe the Right Way.
"6 mit kraut."

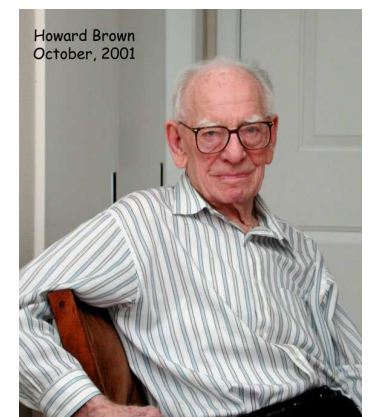
than I really needed to, but the food and other sightseeing (see picture above) were terrific. Riverboats are the only way to travel.

For those of you keeping track, my golf scores have not improved, but my weight is down 30 pounds (thanks to Dr. Atkins).

Howard F. Brown 1908-2003

Bill's dad passed away on May 30 at the age of 94. He was born in Rondo, Missouri in 1908 and immigrated at the age of 3 to California. He attended Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University), graduating in 1932 – the depths of the depression. He said he

was the only person hired by Chevron in 1932. After WWII, he led his family to the oilfields of Saudi Arabia where he remained for 20 years before retiring to his "dream home" on a golf course in Vancouver, Washington. He lived there for many years until his health began to fail. He is greatly missed by his wife Margaret, son Bill, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.



Elizabeth's Year in Review

I can't tell if this year has been long or short, but it's coming to an end and my future is getting more exciting. Things to look forward to next year: I was awarded a free trip to Japan for two weeks in June 2004; I was accepted into the Intercollegiate Sri Lankan Educational program so I will be spending four months in Sri Lanka starting August 2004; and then I will spend a semester in Japan beginning January 2005.

This year started off well with a trip to Baja and Chihuahua, Mexico. And it will end well with a trip to the Caribbean. (One of the benefits of retired parents) After returning to Whitman last spring, I changed my undergraduate plans from "science

science science" to Asian Studies. I am still planning on completing my pre-med requirements and chemistry minor, but with this major I can study abroad for a year without complications. I will become a geriatric doctor!

This summer, I volunteered at the Parkinson Center of Oregon planning their annual fall symposium. It was really interesting, and I hope to get an



Liz is so busy, her passport picture is the only photo we could get!

internship where I can work more closely with patients in the medical field. In addition, I took physics and passed the first two quarters with flying colors (ahh, the beauty of curve grading at a state school) and we traveled back to New Jersey.

I'm taking a random assortment of classes this semester: Spanish 305, Genetics, Swimming, Japanese 391, Organic Chemistry, and Buddhist Civilizations in

Asia. I don't think that I could pick a favorite because they are all so different! If anyone is wondering how I got interested in Sri Lanka, it is because of the Buddhist class I took.

"Sea Lion" Cruise at Christmas

It's hard to get the family together anymore. Between college schedules and job schedules, we're almost never home at the same time. With that in view, we booked a trip to the Sea of Cortez and Copper Canyon, Mexico over the Christmas break. We spent a lot of time snorkeling and looking at the unique scenery in Baja California. On Christmas day we went snorkeling with a pack of very enthusiastic and playful sea lions. Although the weather and water were chilly, we had a grand time seeing the sights both above and below the water.

After the cruise, we went by bus and train to Copper Canyon (Mexico's 'Grand Canyon'), staying at some spectacular hotels along the way. In El Fuerte, we stayed in a two hundred year old hacienda, and at Copper Canyon, we had rooms overlooking the canyon itself.



M.V. Sea Lion, Two Kayaks, and Two Girls



Mary's Year in Review

OK, so apparently this year I am the last person to turn in my Christmas newsletter, again, but I really have a valid excuse now, I'm at college! I am attending the University of Washington and I love it! I think college was just what I needed, no offense

to my parents, but I was really ready to move out.

My dorm room is really tiny and my roommate and I have a lot of stuff, I can't imagine how people with three people in

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Browns Buy a Cabin

After diligently searching the mountains of the Northwest, we finally found our dream cabin on the forested slopes of Mt. Hood. Since things are a little rustic out here, our basic requirements were few: indoor plumbing; kitchen; bedroom; heat; and (of course) not in danger of imminent collapse. In the middle of the year we found a place that met all these specifications and more. It has two bedrooms, a big living room, and lots of heat. It is also right by a beautiful stream where salmon swim to spawn in the spring and fall.

With a little fixing up and much decorating (by Mrs. B), it is ready for use year-round. We are looking forward to spending lots of time up there. If you're in the area you're welcome to use it, too!



Adele's Year in Review

The year 2003 brought a big change to my life; I took a year's leave from my teaching job. Over the past few years William and I had spoken about taking some trips once the girls were both safely at college and this was that special year. I did take the leave with mixed emotions because I do love teaching. In fact to confirm how much I like teaching, I have been subbing a couple times a week and believe you me; you don't do it for the money or to lower your stress level.

Anyway, to the exciting part, in October William and I took a wonderful trip to Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria. Most of the three weeks there was spent on a riverboat moving down three rivers and a canal ending up in Vienna. And if you're wondering we had great weather and a stateroom better than we have had on any other ship.

In August all four of us went back to the East Coast to see my sister in CT and my brother in PA. We also managed to get to the tent in Ocean Grove and a few Little League games in Williamsport, PA.

Not to forget, last Xmas we took the girls on a great cruise and land trip to the Sea of Cortez and Copper Canyon. Highlights were snorkeling with sea lions on Christmas day and the beautiful haciendas we stayed in.

In general, I am really enjoying being home and spending quality time with William.

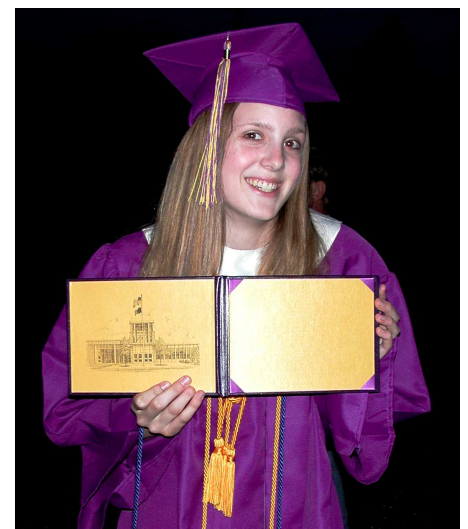
I'd love to tell you that I have become a great golfer and watercolor artist but that would be far from the truth. I still love to paint and enjoy hitting that silly little ball around the golf course.

Mary's Year (cont'd)

their rooms could fit all of their stuff. Another big thing that has happened in my life is that I joined the crew team, yes, I am a rower. You wouldn't think it would be my style, but I love it, all of the girls are great. I am in the best shape of my life, they really whip us up. The crew team at the University of Washington is one of the best in the country, so I am very excited. I work out 2 hours a day, and this is the off season, I can't imagine how bad it is going to be in March – I heard we practice twice a day.

So basically everything in my life is new, but I won't go into every detail. I am almost out of space. Dad limits me, mostly because in years past I wrote so little. Well, more updates next year, I will start writing letters to the people that receive this newsletter, so they can know more about my life.

**Mary
sadly bids
farewell
to her
high
school
years!**



Brown Family 2003



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October in Europe

We celebrated our first few months of an empty nest, by booking a river cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna. The trip, weather, scenery, and food were spectacular. The boat would cruise along the Rhine, Mainz, or Danube Rivers and then tie up for the day in small towns where we would indulge in delightful walking tours of charming old villages.

Our spacious cabin had a deluxe view of passing castles, vineyards, and quaint villages. We often simply lay in our beds and watched scenes go past with occasional snooze breaks. We can hardly wait until our next opportunity to travel in this grand style.



(Above) Canal Boats in Bruges
(Below) Oh, those Belgian bakeries!



(Above) Jet-setters at dinner.



(Right) M.S. River Symphony in Koblenz