

Brown's 2005 Newsletter

December, 2005

Latest Real Estate News!!

The increasingly eccentric (but always lovable!) Browns have done it again. Finding that a cabin in the mountains was not for them, they have acquired a floating home on the Columbia River. Their new three-bedroom bungalow provides a fun summer hideaway and a peaceful winter retreat. The summer season, in particular, features a very busy social scene featuring fireworks, live music, and freely flowing beverages.

Of course, one simply cannot have a floating home without a boat to go with it. So they also acquired an 18-foot aluminum boat with a 75 hp outboard. Bill has been practicing running aground on sandbars. Although the Columbia River is over a mile wide and up to 80 feet deep, sandbars may be found if one knows where to look.



You know you're from Washington State when:

- You know the state flower (mildew).
- You know the state invertebrate (banana slug).
- You consider that if it has no snow or has not recently erupted, it is not a real mountain.
- You feel overdressed wearing a suit.
- You often switch from "Heat" to "A/C" several times in the same day.
- You know more than 10 ways to order coffee.
- You know where Bill Gates lives.
- You go to the beach, but never go in the water.
- You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit under a raincoat.
- You know umbrellas are for wimps or tourists.
- You know how to pronounce Sequim, Kalamath, Puyallup, Oregon and Wahkiakum.
- You know the real Vancouver is in Washington, not Canada.
- You wear Birkenstocks year-round, but with socks in winter.
- You know the difference between *pyroclastic flow* and *lahar*.
- You know the difference between Chinook, Coho, and Sockeye.

Emily Anne Heiser

Bill's daughter, Kim, presented us with a new granddaughter on August 11th. Also involved was Kim's husband Terry Heiser. Now, this picture may look merely like an ordinary (although very cute) baby, but looks can be deceiving. It is quite clear to any grandfather that she is destined for genius and beauty – we need only wait a few years.



Adele's Year in Review

What a grand year we have had! I never would have imagined that I would ever have an opportunity to sleep in a Buddhist temple in Japan, to walk the ancient steps of Beirut, Lebanon, to have a private tour guide in Rome, and to walk in step with hundreds of penguins in Antarctica.

Other than a special visit home to see my family for the holidays our next trip will be down the east coast on the intra-coastal waterway.

Along the way we have given up both our golf membership and our Mt. Hood cabin in exchange for a beautiful floating home on the Columbia River 20 minutes from home. I enjoy the

lively summer activities at our marina and William appreciates the quiet fall and winter. So we are both happy.

The girls continue to do well and are always full of surprises and adventures. I love it when one chooses to come for a night or two.

The thing which has had the biggest impact on our daily lives has been our nightly games of Scrabble. We enjoy playing and can become quite serious. Let's just put it this way, I have memorized the 96 two-letter words and Bill keeps track of our point spread amongst other things.



Adele drops a dime (florint?) in Buda-

Bill's Year in Review



Bill looking for some ice in Antarctica

This was another busy year for the old guy. It's not easy trying to keep up with a young chick like Adele.

The main thing we did was to buy and furnish our new floating home. Since Adele has developed something of an obsession for IKEA, we made several trips to Seattle (the nearest store) and came home with several Suburban-loads of furniture – all of which were heavy and needed assembly.

Having furnished the home to Adele's satisfaction, of course we had to get on to important things – such as buying a boat. There were many discussions before we settled on an 18-foot aluminum fishing boat. It seems

perfect for cruising on the river and I might even take up fishing again.

It is a tie for the most memorable trip this year – returning to Beirut for the first time since 1957 or going to Antarctica. Both were special for very different reasons. I had forgotten that Beirut is a truly beautiful city and it was terrific to see how the Lebanese are pulling things together after all the troubles they have had. On the other hand, I have always wanted to see Antarctica, and the trip did not disappoint. The weather cooperated, the ice formations were spectacular and we met some very nice penguins.

Mary's Year in Review

Since last year at this time I have officially changed my major twice because I hear that is what college students are supposed to do. Now I have settled on a double major – Economics and Psychology. Even though I have decided on my majors please do not ask me what I am going to do after college, I have no clue!! I figure I still have a year and a half left to decide.

As most of you know we went to Japan over spring break, which was fun, but I was the coldest I had ever been in my life when we went to the Worlds Fair. I am blaming all this on Liz who claimed it would be sunny and warm, instead it was snowing, below freezing, and windy.

This summer I continued to work in Seattle in the research lab where I have been working for the past two

years, although I did spend a lot of my time hanging out with my friends on the beach. Currently I am working at Victoria's Secret, which has turned out to be tougher than I imagined, but I continue to work there for the discount and a paycheck. Classes are going well, but they are tough now because it is finals week, and hopefully all my tests will go as well.

2005 Travel Report

We kicked off the year in March with a trip to Japan to visit Elizabeth. There's no better way to see a country than with a daughter who is fluent in the language and knows her way around. The highlight was staying in a Buddhist temple for two nights. The monk in charge had been her instructor in Walla Walla. The home was strictly traditional Japanese and gave us a unique perspective.

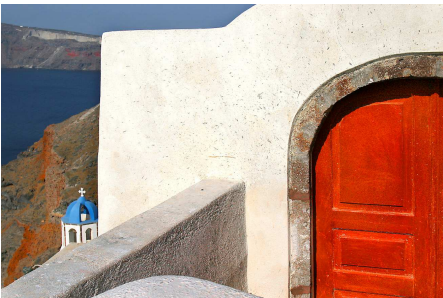
Our next trip was in April, a seven day steamboat cruise up and down the Columbia River – from the Pacific Ocean to Idaho. We had a chance to get a tourist view of areas with which we were familiar. The luxurious accommodations on the boat and the fact that there was no plane ride only iced the cake.

In May we took a 10-day cruise in the Mediterranean. We went to Italy, Turkey, Greece, and Croatia. Although the trip was fun, the tourist sites were very crowded – sometimes as many as five cruise ships were in port at once. We ended up in Rome and spent several nights at a wonderful B&B and treated ourselves to a private guide to see the city.

From the cruise, we segued directly to Bill's high school reunion in Beirut. Although Adele was a little (well, maybe more than a little) apprehensive, we had a wonderful time in this beautiful city. Bill enjoyed meeting with his old geezer buddies.

By October, we had gone 3 full months without a trip. Adele couldn't stand it and booked a 10-day river boat trip on the Danube in Eastern Europe. This trip was not as great as some others, mostly due to the fact that most of the cities and countries we visited were somewhat dreary. However, Budapest was wonderful. We loved the Hungarian food.

In November, we were ready to go again, so we went on a 10-day cruise to Antarctica. We saw lots of penguins and ice formations and Bill racked up his seventh continent. Bill thinks Antarctica had the most spectacular scenery he has ever seen.



(Clockwise from top left)
Our Japanese guide; the girls of Japan;
Columbia River Steamboat; Nike model
in Eastern Europe; Corniche in Beirut;
Antarctic Scrabble Tournament;
"Charley the Chinstrap Penguin"; those
Greek islands are beautiful



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Elizabeth's Year in Review

Last year I came to you from exotic Sri Lanka, however I am now back in the quaint town of Walla Walla, Washington, which itself is moving up in the world. We have become the number one US destination for wine and wine-tasting. Private tours of the area are available for a nominal fee.

However, before I get to the me of today, I have to backtrack to almost a year ago when I left on my latest international adventure, I returned to Japan for the third time. This time feeling like I had a good command of the language, though I knew I could only go up. For three months I studied language and culture, passing with flying colors.

After that I began a 2 month illustrious career as a US Department of State intern. I pasted visas, fetched coffee, and took over the back-scanning various documents. It was an amazing experience learning

about bureaucracy and US immigration laws.

By the time I left Japan, my Japanese had improved by leaps and bounds and my bank account was empty. There must be a calculable yen to vocabulary ratio!

I had two weeks back home and it was off to Whitman for my final year. I am a senior Asian Studies Major, with a Japanese minor and chemistry emphasis (I really didn't want to take Organic Chemistry Lab my final semester). I am currently writing my thesis on Gift-Giving in Japan, set to be the next hit on the best-seller list while attending to six students as the RA (resident assistant) of the Japanese Interest House on campus. It has been an exciting year, though a very busy one. And no, I don't know what I am going to do with myself after I graduate.



Liz in Japanese costume.