

Brown's 2008 News

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You live in Oregon if:

- Someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and they don't work there.
- You've worn shorts, Birkenstocks, and a parka at the same time.
- You've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed the wrong number.
- You know several people who have hit a deer more than once.
- You have switched from 'heat' to 'A/C' and back again in the same day.
- You design your kid's Halloween costume to be rainproof.
- The speed limit on the highway is 55 mph – you're going 80, and everyone is still passing you.
- You know the seasons: almost rainy, rainy, still rainy, and road construction.
- You measure distance in hours, not miles.

Mary's Year in Review

This year has been a good year; I've gone through a career change as well as traveled quite a bit.

I started off the year with a trip to LA to visit a good friend. It's always fun to see old college friends, and it seems that wanting to be back in college again is a feeling that never wears off. In mid-April I went to my Cousin Laura's wedding in Connecticut. It was nice to see my relatives on the East Coast. Laura's wedding was shortly followed by my birthday then a family cruise. It was a short cruise that went from Vancouver, BC to Astoria. My parents, my brother Scott, and my sisters Kim and Liz were all on the cruise with their families. We had a great time and some family bonding, which included some trivia contests and seasickness (on the part of others). In October, I went to New Orleans to visit a friend. It was fun! New Orleans parties all night long and deep fries everything! Apparently they even have drive-through daiquiri stands, although I never saw any of those.

This year also included a big change in my employment. I started out the year being an associate underwriter at Health Net of Oregon, which was a good job, but not for me. I then received a job offer as the vice president of the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, which I accepted. It is a great job and I love it. I have my hand in a lot of pies, but my basic job description is to help bring new businesses in and retain companies in Cowlitz County.

I am running out of space. So I only hope that next year is even better.



Mary and Gus. One of them is being forced to pose!

Gus's Year in Review

Here I am again, the family's favorite kitty! I'm still living with my adopted mother (Mary) in my floating home on the Columbia River. It's mostly a nice, warm place, but lately there has been this nasty, cold, white stuff on the

ground outside. I went outside and sank right down up to my furry belly!

Speaking of my belly, I would like to complain that I'm not getting enough to eat! I am on something called a "diet" – they say

kitties shouldn't get too fat. I don't think I'm too fat, – just look at Granddad!

The year has been fun though. I go outside sometimes and I even have a new friend, Jake the cat, who lives across the way. We have play dates all the time when the weather is nice.

2008 Trip Report & Pictures

In 2008, we logged over 35,000 cruising miles in 110 shipboard days – we are becoming known as “Ancient Mariners.” The first cruise was in January and was very forgettable. We left from San Diego and cruised the South Pacific. Although we went to some romantic places (Raiatea, Bora Bora, Tahiti, Moorea), the weather was consistently dreary and rainy. In fact, we didn’t have a truly sunny day until the very last day – in San Diego!

However, the rest of the year more than made up for the bad start. At the end of April, we took a short (3-day) cruise from Vancouver, BC to Seattle with stops in Victoria, BC and Astoria, Oregon. The special part of

this voyage was that all four of Bill’s children (Scott Brown, Kim Heiser, Elizabeth Brown, and Mary Brown) and two of his grandchildren (Jesse Brown and Emily Heiser) were able to join us. We had some great family time and a lot of laughs.

In mid-April, we flew east to the wedding of our niece, Laura McClure. We had some family party time as we saw the last of the McClure clan get hitched.

In the middle of May, we took a car trip to Carmel, California to a reunion of Bill’s Beirut high school class of ‘56. Carmel is a lovely place to visit at any time and we dutifully indulged in food, wine, conversation, and generally undignified behavior.

Our **big** trip of the year was a 65-day cruise on the MS Amsterdam. We left from Seattle on Sept. 19th and returned to San Diego in November 23rd after logging 23,861 miles – not counting walks to the buffet and dining room. Our stops included Japan, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Bali, Australia, New Caledonia, Fiji, and Samoa. We had a splendid time, played a lot of trivia, made some new friends, and got reacquainted with some old friends from previous cruises. There are far too many pictures and too much description to include here, but take a look on our web site (www.brownransomfamily.org) for all the details and lots more pictures. I took 955 pictures, but winnowed them down to about 150 for the website. Better yet, come for a visit and we will give you a personal show-



The proud papa with his progeny!



The Bride- Laura McClure, soon to be Laura Anastasia



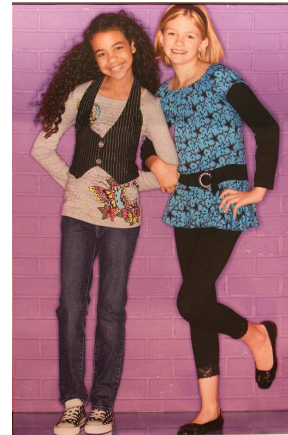
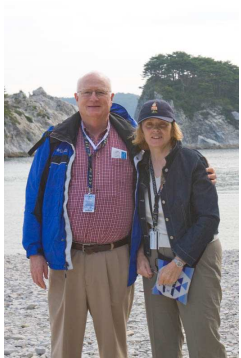
Beirut—Class of 1956 in Carmel, CA
 Back Row: Bob Lowenthal, Pat Hinds, Bill Crays, John Woods, Diane (McWood) Nowland, Jock Sommers, Kathy (Jackson) Ullman, Bob Sample, Bill Brown.
 Front Row: Norm Gray, Ken Lebsock, Judy (Mandaville) Lipman, Diane (Renfer) Sommer, Cary (Overton) Randall



The Dynamic Duo in Grand Teton National Park.

Yellowstone Tourist Attraction





Clockwise from top left:
 Aomori Baby Memorial
 Da Nang Haircut - \$5
 Is that my cell phone?
 Drumming is hard work
 On the Beach in Japan,
 Ozzie Tourist Attraction
 My granddaughter
 (Jesse Brown), the
 model.

Adele's Year in Review

Hello, everyone. This year has seen a couple of firsts. We went on our first cruise of over sixty days to most of the Far East and I transitioned from a hobby watercolor painter to actually displaying and selling my works. Right now I have paintings in two galleries – in one of which I am the artist of the month. It feels great when someone comes up to you and says, “Did you paint this?” The other great compliment is that two of my

She looks pretty happy for someone who's about to go down with the ship!

neighbors have bought paintings from me and have placed them in a prominent spot in their houses, life is wonderful. By the way, on the cruise I painted 18 pictures on sea days.

I am also so proud of my daughters. They both have moved out and have wonderful jobs, so we must have done something right. I am sure they will tell you more.



Liz's Year in Review

2008 started and ended slowly. I was still working with the Army Corps of Engineers and figuring out what to study in graduate school. (I am still taking suggestions.) In June, I transferred to Fort Lewis, the same job at a different location. And now I am still working for the Army and figuring out what to study in graduate school. (Ideas?)

My exciting year continued with my attendance at four weddings during 2008. Thankfully, I was only a participant in one that included a bachelorette party in

Las Vegas and a week in Toronto, Canada AND all four weddings were with different social circles so I could re-wear the dresses!

I was able to get away for a short vacation to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. Four beautiful days, one on a lakeside in an old lodge, one on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the last in a cabin at a natural hot spring resort tucked up in the mountains. No TVs, no cell-phone coverage and no work!

Captain of the Irish Women's Soccer Team



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The "Brown Gang"

On our family cruise, April 2008.
This is the first time we have all been
together in many, many years.

Top Row (l-r): Mary Brown, Bill
Brown (aka Big Daddy), Scott Brown,
Terry Heiser.

Middle Row (l-r): Krista Brown,
Adele Brown, Jesse Brown, Elizabeth
Brown, Kim (Brown) Heiser.

Bottom Row (way down there!):
Emily Ann Heiser.



Bill's Year in Review

Another year has whizzed past. I will be turning 70 next year, so perhaps things will slow down then.

Can you believe it, in 2008, we spent 119 days on cruises, tours and other excursions – that's one third of the year. However, it's nice to be home, although as I'm writing this we have 10" of snow outside

and freezing rain in the forecast. At least this kind of thing happens only once every 10 years or so in our area. Anyway, it always melts in a week.

Among our many trips (see the trips article) the shortest (and possibly the year's highlight) was a cruise we were able to put together with my 4 kids and their families. It was the first time we had all been together on one place for many years. We shared

some fun times and lots of talking and joking. Right now, we're trying to put together another trip for 2009!

Another short trip was a drive down to Carmel for a reunion with some of my high school cronies. We had 13 people there out of a graduating class of 30 (only 23 still above ground). It is amazing that we're all still so close and think of those few years in Beirut as the best times of our lives.

Scrabble Box Scores December, 29, 2008 723 Games Played

Player	Won	Pct.	Average	Highest
Adele	327.5	45.3%	327.79	491
Bill	395.5	54.7%	339.21	514