



Brown's 2009 News

January, 2010

Elizabeth's Year in Review

You May Live in Washington if...

If you drive 75 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you may live in Central, Southern or Eastern Washington.

If driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow and ice, you may live in Central, Southern or Eastern Washington.

If you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter, and road construction, you may live in Central, Southern or Eastern Washington.

If the seasons are: almost rainy, rainy, still rainy, and road construction, you may live in Western Washington.

If you know more than 10 ways to order coffee, you may live in Washington.

If you know more people who own boats than air conditioners, you may live in Washington.

If you consider that if it has no snow or has not recently erupted, it is not a real mountain, you may live in Washington.

If you can discuss the difference between Starbucks, Seattle's Best, and Dutch Brothers, you may live in Washington.

If you know the difference between Chinook, Coho and Sockeye salmon, you may live in Washington.

If you know how to pronounce Sequim, Puyallup, Issaquah, Sammamish, Suquamish, Umpqua, Yakima, and Willamette, you may live in Washington.

If you never go camping without waterproof matches and a poncho, you may live in Washington.

If you have actually used your mountain bike on a mountain, you may live in Washington.

2009 started slowly, but picked up to a lightning pace when Scott proposed to me on February 28th. By the end of March, we had picked a date (September 19, 2009) and shortly there after I was accepted into graduate school (starting September 21, 2009). Even with no honeymoon on the horizon, we kept the date and planned our big day. In the meantime, I prepared to leave my job and start my two years as a Masters of Public Affairs student at the University of Washington. Although it is stressful to lose an income and start planning for a new future, I know I have the right man by my side.

The wedding was beautiful, even with a rained-out, tearful ceremony. Beth Lillie, my great cousin in-law, officiated and did a superb job! The cupcakes were so good we only managed

to save one from consumption for our first anniversary. We are enjoying our first four months of marriage and excited for the years to come.

We plan to take our honeymoon to Belize in March. I hope that there will be a lot of relaxing, snorkeling and a bit of harmless adventure in the jungle. If Scott has his way, there will be a lot of adventure and not as much relaxing. I've started my second quarter of grad school and I'm eager to continue my economics and statistics education...although there are a few classes I wouldn't mind avoiding (i.e., a required management course involving case studies and memo writing).

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from the Streett family! (Brown-Ransom-Streett family seems a



Elizabeth on Her Big Day

little excessive for a newsletter title...) Next year we will be competing with my parents for top story. We'll have Belize and a one-year anniversary, but they'll have another long cruise under their belts.

Mary's Year in Review

This past year has been fun, I'm still adjusting to life outside of college, but am getting used to waking up at 6am instead of 10am every day. I'm continuing to work for the Cowlitz Economic Development Council where I work on recruiting businesses into the area and helping local businesses grow. I love my job and our mission, but this year has been quite slow for us as businesses are not looking to expand. On a positive note, things

seem to be turning around and we have been getting a lot more inquiries about our area. I'm excited to see what my job will be like when the economy is in a better state, and companies begin to hire back employees.

Unfortunately, I didn't get to take any vacations this past year, other than a few days in Vegas after a business trip. It was a fun trip and I had a great time with my girlfriends, despite the fact that it was 115 degrees every day.

The big event for the year was Liz's wedding in September. It was a beautiful wedding and everybody enjoyed themselves. Liz and Scott did a great job of making the wedding unique to the Northwest, so everybody got a taste of what life is like out here. Who knows, maybe we will have some East Coast immigrants.

Overall, this last year has been great and I look forward to this coming year and the trips I have planned.

Bill's Year in Review



275 Pounds

For the first time this century, the Browns did not take a cruise. However, we had a busy year, nonetheless. My major project for the year was for there to be less of me. I succeeded. I have lost 55 pounds and am now striving to keep it off (always the hard part) and possibly lose another 20 pounds. A cruise certainly would not have helped my effort.

Of course, **the** big item of 2009 was Elizabeth's wedding. It came off spectacularly – I have no doubt this was due to my use of all the arcane project management and budgeting tools I learned over the years.

My personal high point of this year was my 70th birthday party. It has to be one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me. It was a total surprise and my wife and daughters brought many of those who are near and dear to me to celebrate. It's (almost) worth it to hit 70.



225 pounds

Gus's Year in Review

This has been a really, really bad year for everyone's favorite kitty (bear in mind that is 6 cat-years to me!). Even though I have a wonderful home with my own personal servant (Mary) things got a little rough sometimes.

This summer, I was playing happily outside in the sun when I fell into the river. It was the most terrifying moment of my life! I got very wet, very dirty, and very cold. Plus, I tore off a toenail scrambling out of the water. Who knows what might have happened to me! I was so

scared I hid under our neighbor's boat. I refuse to ever go outside again.

In the fall, Mary had a delicious-looking plant. Honest, all I did was taste a few leaves. Anyway, I wound up in the hospital for five days where they stuck needles into me and made me throw up. I was sooo happy to get home.

I want to go visit my grandparents and sit in the sun out on their deck. Granddad always feeds me a lot of treats



Gus's Quote for 2009:

You can keep a dog; but a cat keeps people, because cats find humans useful domestic animals.

Adele's Year in Review

The Browns took a year off from cruising in 2009 (actually, I took a quick one-week Alaska cruise in the summer) but we do have two cruises planned for next year, one is a small family cruise to Mexico and the other a longer one to the Mediterranean from Florida.

I am still painting watercolors and at this point I have over 100 paintings on the walls of my house "gallery." I have also sold nearly 95 paintings without spending full days at craft shows. Neighbors and the handymen (who fix various things around our house) seem to be my best customers. I still have paintings hanging

in a gallery in Vancouver and in a fish store/restaurant in the local area.

We spent a lot of 2009 planning for our Elizabeth's wedding. She was very creative and put together a wonderful experience for us all.

Of course, the most exciting day of 2009 was September 19th, when our Elizabeth got married at Skamania Lodge to Scott Streett. I keep telling everyone that I now have a son and hopefully, some grandchildren in the future.

Adele on Her Alaska Cruise



Wedding Photo Gallery

Here are just a few photos from Elizabeth & Scott's Wedding.
If you want to see more, log on to our web site brownransomfamily.org.



Engagement Photo—"Lurking in the Weeds"



Table Favors



Before the Ceremony



Down the Aisle!



It's all over. Does Scott look a Little Shell-Shocked?



"I do"



Mary Doing her Bridesmaid Thing



For Some, the Best Part Was the Cake

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We're on the web!

www.brownransomfamily.org



After the Wedding:

(l-r) Mary Brown, Kim (Brown) Heiser, Scott Streett, Elizabeth (Brown) Streett, Adele Brown, Bill Brown, Scott Brown

Scott's Year In Review

We would like to welcome Mr. Scott Howard Streett as a new contributing editor. Mr. Streett, who is originally from Pennsylvania, was awarded his position for marrying the editor-in-chief's daughter.

What, we are done with 2009 already? The year was a blur but some high points come into focus. Proposing to Elizabeth at the end of February stands out as a small move that got great things rolling. I am so impressed with how everyone embraced and planned our wedding in just a few months. I enjoyed visiting venues and sampling food during the spring.

The next high point was the summit of Mount Rainier. I helped again with a

charity to build schools and help orphans in Nepal. I led a group of climbers with the group "3 summits for Nepal." We had a great crew this year and better weather than the previous year's allowing us to navigate the DC route, have a great time and raise over \$20,000 for Nepal.

I remember a trip to Disney World with the Streett side of the family. We seemed to pick the hottest time of the year to visit Florida and the first trip into the park had the longest wait of the week in the hottest spot I found all week. My favorite ride is still "The Tower of Fun" or was it "Tower of Terror?"

The Florida heat must have helped me acclimatize because I know we had some very hot weather but all I remember is a beautiful Seattle summer once we got

home. Okay, I don't remember much until all of a sudden the wedding was upon us. I am sure you can read several different perspectives on the wedding so I won't say too much. I am so thankful for all our friends and family for joining us and helping in so many ways.



Scott checks for rain on his wedding day.

Scrabble Box Score

January 14, 2010

959 Games Played

Player	Won	Pct.	Average	Highest
Adele	420	43.8%	322.98	491
Bill	539	56.2%	337.01	514