

Brown's 2010 News

January, 2011

You know you're from Western Washington when:

You have a definite preference for either Starbucks, Seattle's Best, or Tully's.

You know how to pronounce Sequim, Puyallup, Enumclaw, Issaquah, and Sammamish.

You can't imagine going through a tornado or hurricane, but secretly think earthquakes are kind of fun.

You have a definite opinion on which mountain will be the next to erupt.

You are concerned about the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

You know you had better enjoy snow quickly before rain washes it away.

You see a person carrying an umbrella and know they must be a tourist.

You or someone you know works at either Boeing or Microsoft.

You've used every setting on your intermittent wipers on one drive to work.

You keep snow chains in your trunk, but they've never been used.

You've attended a wedding where the bride and groom were registered at REI.

You only visit the Space Needle if you have out-of-town guests.

Your lawn is mostly moss (hey, its green, isn't it?).

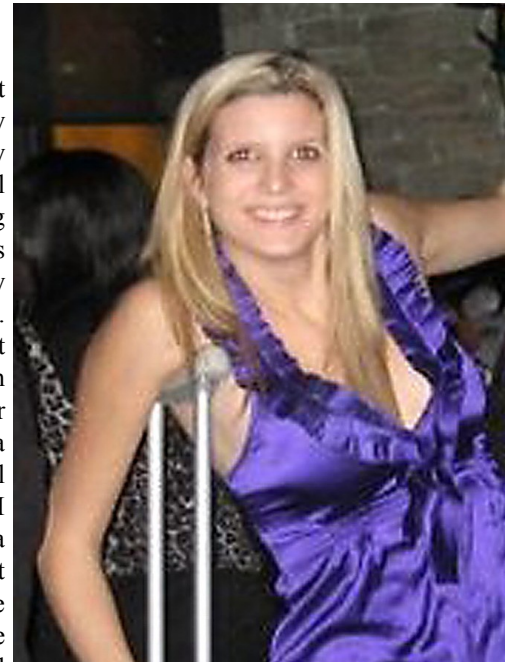
Mary's Year in Review

Another year down, is it just me or do the years keep going by quicker and quicker? This year has been great other than a few spills. We had a great family trip to Mexico with all the siblings, and mom and dad. Although it was a bit chillier than it expected it was good times all around.

Work has been really good and I'm enjoying it immensely. Things are starting to pick up for us now, which is great because it's a sign that the economy is turning around. Other than the trip to Mexico and a few long weekend trips I haven't used up much time off, hopefully once I'm all healed up I'll be able to take a nice long vacation.

Now on to the spills I mentioned... The first one occurred in May when I was in the midst of training for a triathlon; it was a stress frac-

ture in my right leg. Despite my best efforts to stay off of it, it still took very long time to heal and is not completely healed to this day. My most recent spill occurred in mid-December when I took a pretty bad fall skiing, at first I thought it was a bad sprain, but it turned out to be much worse. The doctor informed me that I had a torn ACL, a fracture in my knee and a severely torn meniscus. I had emergency surgery right after Christmas and am now in the process of healing up. I should be almost good as new



It takes more than a little knee surgery to slow Mary down!

in 6 months and am planning to accomplish my goal of completely a triathlon at the end of the summer.

Bill's Year in Review

Swoosh! Another year has flown by; I think they're picking up speed as I slow down. No weddings this year, but lots of time on cruise ships. My (physical) health is holding up nicely, my mental health may be open to question, as usual. I have gained back some of the poundage that I lost in 2009, so my per-

sonal Battle of the Bulge is still going on.

2010 saw us take a lot of trips – 95 cruising days altogether. We kicked off the year with a 7-day family cruise to Mexico in February. My four kids, their significant others, and even a few grandchildren were able to join us. So we wouldn't lose momentum, we took off on a 53-day cruise to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. After a brief pause to repack, we took a 35-day trip to Greenland,

Iceland, Holland, England, etc. We racked up a few new countries for our life-list on these trips. See a few pictures in the centerfold.

The last trip we took in 2010 was a little more prosaic. We drove down to San Francisco for a "Geezer" reunion. The "Geezers" are old, old friends who were with me in Saudi Arabia in the 40s and 50s. I had a great time renewing acquaintances and swapping stories – but there sure were a lot of old people there!

Elizabeth's Year in Review

2010 has treated me well with two visits south of the border by March. In February, we ALL (Dad, Mom, Mary, Scott Streett, Scott Brown, Krista, Jesse, Kim, Terry, Emily and I) all took a weeklong cruise to the Mexican Riviera. We had a great time with the onboard activities and wandering around various ports of call.

After finishing winter quarter at the University of Washington, Scott and I headed to Belize for our delayed honeymoon. We spent our first few days on the western side of the country touring Mayan ritual caves and Tikal, Guatemala. We planned to stay in a tree house, but opted for cabin size rather than novelty. Following our independent travel, we connected with our REI Adventures group and toured the Tropical Education Center, tubed down another cave in Belize and zip-lined in the rainforest canopy. After those 2 days, we

journeyed outside the barrier reef and arrived at Glover's Reef atoll, our home for the next week. We snorkeled, kayaked, sailed kayak, fished (well, Scott did), ate great food and relaxed in hammocks.

The rest of the year wasn't as exciting, but mom, dad, Scott and I took a 3-day trip to Ocean Shores, WA. Mom told the front desk that it was our 1-year anniversary and they changed the sign to say Happy Anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Streett. It was really sweet. True to character, Mom had us spending the weekend go-karting, bumping bumper cars and visiting a garage sale. The weather could have been warmer, but we all had a great time!

Now that December has come and gone, I only have two quarters left of graduate school. I've started a project with the City of Roslyn, WA (you know, where Northern Exposure was filmed) to map their human, community and social assets as they fulfill their "Roslyn Renaissance" vision. That will take the next



Starfish Rustler Spotted in Belize!

five months; in the meantime I will be applying for post-MPA jobs.

Adele's Year in Review

Last year was definitely not a quiet year for the travelling Brown family. We spent 95 days cruising in 2010. In February, we took a short family cruise to Mexico. In May, we took a 56 day cruise to the Black Sea and Mediterranean. To finish off, we took a 33 day cruise to Greenland, Iceland, and northern Europe. In between, I flew to the East Coast with Elizabeth to attend my niece's (Laura) baby shower. The trips were all wonderful and I would repeat them in a heartbeat.

I am still a watercolorist and I love it. I have paintings for sale in four establishments as well as close to 100 at home either framed or

not framed. If you need some paintings in your homes let me know.

I have taken up bowling so I or we go once a week. We are still looking for Vancouverites who play bridge and in the meantime we enjoy going to bingo. I am waiting for the weather to improve so I can play golf.

One more great thing is seeing so much of Elizabeth and her husband, Scott. Fortunately, they often come here or we there for weekends. Liz loves to play games so we get along well, she has that Ransom love for games in her and Scott is always a good sport with his mother-in-law.

Mary is still in Portland in the floating home. It is nice to know she is so close.



On the Beach in Funchal

Gus's Year in Review

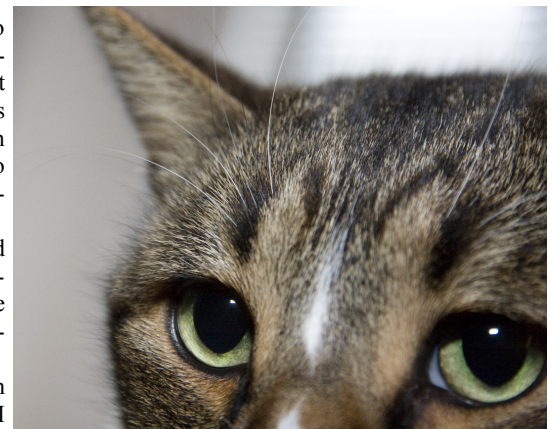
Hello again, everyone. It's been seven long cat-years since my grandfather made me write my last article, so I have to think about everything that has happened since my last one. I guess the good news is that I did not have to go to the vet this time. (Well, there was that thing with the fleas, but I don't think that **really** counts, do you?) I didn't even come close to falling in the river, either – even though I spent lots of time outside with my play buddy, Jake, who lives across the walkway. According to his parents, Jake has fallen in several times.

Yes, I was my usual happy and healthy kitty self – and a good thing, too. My mother had a

very bad year and really needed me to take care of her. I have found that cuddling with her a lot and purring a lot really seems to help. The only bad part is that she's moving slower these days with her gimpy leg and I sometimes have to really beg her to get up and get my breakfast.

Other than that, life is quiet and peaceful in our lovely river home. Although it can be kind of scary when those big sea lions and beavers come swimming past.

Oh yes, I forgot to mention that I am resolving to lose some weight in 2011. I have a goal, but I'm not telling anyone since I'm not sure I can do it. I guess if Granddad can do it, though, anybody can.



**Big Kitty is Watching You!
Are you Heading for the Food Dish?**

Travel Highlights

To see more text & photos, log on to www.brownransomfamily.org



Adele Meets the Strangest People When We Travel!



Do you think they mean me?

My favorite place name.

Istanbul, Turkey

Greek Monastery

Bill & the Gang on the Mexican Cruise. Seated L-R - Elizabeth Streett, Krista Brown, Jesse Brown, Kim Heiser, Emily Heiser. Standing L-R - Scott Streett, Scott Brown, Mary Brown, Terry Heiser, Bill, Adele



Harbor, Katakolon, Greece



Harbor, Nanortalik, Greenland (August 15th)

Scrabble Box Score—January 7, 2010
1189 Games Played
 (Notice Adele's Highest Score!)

Player	Won	Pct.	Average	Highest
Adele	517	43.5%	320	<u>541</u>
Bill	672	56.5%	335	514

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We're on the Web!

brownransomfamily.org



Seated—Mary, Adele. Standing—Elizabeth, Scott, Bill

"Streett Smartt" — 2010 Edition

This year instead of repeating everything family members have written about Belize and Mexico, I will write about what occupies most of my time - investing and stock markets. I don't want to burden the editor with graphs so a quick table of performance will have to suffice:

Month	Streett's	S&P
Sept '10	31.0%	8.8%
Oct '10	6.8%	3.7%
Nov '10	0.4%	-0.3%
Dec '10	5.2%	6.5%

My largest positions entering 2011 are:

Apple - I would have even more but need to stay diversified and haven't heard of a cure for pancreatic cancer. Bad news for Steve Jobs would be very bad for any investor who is overweight Apple at the time.

e*trade - All those performance numbers are after fees (which are considerable at times) so I like to own the company I am paying those fees. This stock has lagged but I am a believer for 2011 and like this as a financial exposure.

Reed's - A good way for small investors to beat the big guys is to find small cap stocks before any of the big money can invest in them. Ginger Ale and Root Beer from this natural foods company are tasty treats in the Streett household.

Google - I worry some about this position but think it has the same upside as smaller Internet stocks or retailers without as much downside risk. Google prints money from Internet advertising and has adapted well over the years.

Berkshire Hathaway - Warren Buffet got some great terms on his investments during the financial crisis. After past recessions Berkshire Hathaway has dramatically outperformed and I see no reason this will not be repeated.

Short Gold and Treasuries - I hate gold because I can't understand why investors pay miners 3 times what it costs to destroy the environment with cyanide and strip mines. Then pay other people to guard their 'investment' until some point in the future when they hope someone will pay more to take their place. And if some bout of hyperinflation gives reason to holding gold then we should benefit even more from the shorting of Treasuries.



The Man Himself!