



# Browns' 2011 Newsletter

December, 2011

## Bill & Adele's Year in Review

**A recently-married daughter (a Washington gal) sent this to me to be included in the newsletter. Is there a hidden Meaning?**

### The Difference If You Marry a Washington Girl

Three friends married women from different parts of the country.

The first man married a woman from Alabama. He told her that she was to do the dishes and house cleaning. It took a couple of days, but on the third day, he came home to see a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man married a woman from South Dakota. He gave his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and cooking. The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day he saw it was better. By the third day, he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge dinner on the table.

The third man married a girl from WASHINGTON. He ordered her to keep the house clean, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed, and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything but by the third day, some of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, and his arm was healed enough that he could fix himself a sandwich and load the dishwasher.

2011 has not been a very good year for the Browns. It started off in fine style with Adele & Bill taking bridge lessons. Adele was determined to learn enough to give her sister a good game. It was a lot of fun and Bill even started playing duplicate twice a week. Even then, there were some ominous events - a major foundation repair (jack the house up, then prop it up to level one sinking corner of the house) for one thing. We were also looking forward to some trips - a South America cruise in the fall and a trip to Yellowstone.

Since we couldn't possibly live without cruising until fall, we took a 10-day voyage up to Alaska in the spring. Things continued in fine style with a two-week visit from Adele's sister Elaine (the bridge player). We had many delightful outings together, including a trip to Seattle to see Elizabeth graduate with

her Master's degree from the University of Washington - the highlight was a Seattle waterfront tour by Segue where Bill crashed and burned after hitting a fire hydrant. We went to the Portland Grand Floral Parade, which is every bit as good as the New Years Day parade in Pasadena.

In mid-July, we went to Bend, Oregon with Mary to watch her do her first Olympic Triathlon. She did very well for a first timer (especially one who had knee surgery in January!) and a good time was had by all.

No sooner had we returned than we headed to the airport to pick up our niece, Julia Ransom, who arrived for a one-week visit. We had a good time with her. She is a delightful young lady and she entertained us royally.

Unfortunately, about this time (August), the roof fell in. Adele's Parkinson's really

flared up from being a big annoyance to being a major life problem. We have had to cancel all our trips and steadily adjust our life style to accommodate the situation. It isn't a lot of fun, but Adele can still get out to some extent and we are learning to cope with the new restrictions on our lives. Adele has in-home assistance three mornings a week so Bill can get out to the gym and run some errands. As an added benefit, Roberta (the home care lady) likes to keep busy and she has been doing a lot of chores for us. Bill has never had such neatly-folded underwear and such well-ironed shirts!

As we start 2012, it looks like Adele's situation is improving so she can get back to being her old self some more. She is getting the best medical care we can find and things are somewhat stabilized now.

## Liz's Year in Review

2011 has seen me enter back into adulthood. While finishing my degree, I did a short internship with the Bonneville Power Administration and then after graduation I transferred to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In case you are unsure of which Federal agency that is, our two main focuses are the National Weather Service (self-explanatory) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (promotes sustainable fisheries, researches fish catch limits, etc.). I work out of our Western Regional Center in beautiful Magnuson Park in Seattle.

To finish up my degree, I spent ~6 months working with the City of Roslyn, WA. My project was to help the community develop a sustainable business and development plan to revitalize the community. The project culminated in a presentation to the City Council in July. I hope that they will take my suggestions and recommendations to heart and create a viable future for themselves.

I hope everyone had a wonderful year and the good times continue into 2012.

**The Brown Gang  
(l-r) Adele,  
Bill, Mary,  
Elizabeth  
Streett,  
Scott  
Streett**



## Mary's Year in Review

Another year older and hopefully wiser. This past year has been very eventful – and sometime painful!

I started the year off with emergency knee surgery! A few days before Christmas 2010 I blew out my knee skiing and had to have surgery two days after Christmas to repair my ACL, Meniscus and a fracture in my left knee. I spent the first couple of months of the year recovering and being a couch potato followed by two months of building the strength back up. It's amazing how quickly you lose muscle and how long it takes to gain it back, to this day, my left leg is still slightly smaller than my right!

After I was given the green light to run by the doctor I did what every sane person would do and started training for my first triathlon. I ended up doing two triathlons, a Sprint in June and an Olympic in July, where I did surprisingly well. Over the past year I've also done a couple other races including a swim across the Columbia in August and a half-marathon in October. I've already signed up for one run in 2012 and

plan to compete in the Boise 70.3 half-ironman in June, I can't wait!!!

In addition to abusing my body, I've also had some other changes this year. In August I was offered a job with the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, and jumped at the opportunity to diversify my skills (and work closer to home!). I've been there for four months so far and have a lot of interesting projects in the works. In addition to the new job, I also moved closer to my work (approximately .5 miles) in a historic community called Officers Row. I love my new place, it is quaint and the perfect size for me and Gus and. Overall this past year has been great and full of new opportunities. Hopefully next year will be as eventful as this year, but with fewer injuries!



**Mary Crosses the finish line in Bend!**