



Browns' 2012 Newsletter

December, 2012

Bill & Adele's Year in Review

2012 was a slow travelling year for the Browns.

However, we still managed to have a pretty good time with extended visits from Adele's sister and our (soon-to-be) globetrotting daughter, Elizabeth. Liz was on her way to DC for training as a State Department Foreign Service Officer and eventual deployment to Honduras.

Also on our activity schedule was a driving trip to Boise in June to watch Mary compete in a triathlon. The weather was very cold (41°) and windy. Mary didn't enjoy her swim (water colder than air) and bike ride (35 mph wind) very much, but she

finished with flying (though frozen) colors.

In May, Bill attempted his long-planned (3 years) solo photographic safari to Yellowstone. The trip was such a disaster, it was almost funny. Liz and Scott had driven through Yellowstone in April and reported beautiful, clear, warm weather, so Bill set out in May with great confidence. When he arrived in Yellowstone, he found sub-freezing temperatures and a white-out blizzard! When the snow got up to 10 inches he packed it in and headed for warmer climes. No pictures were taken. Bummer.

We did manage one air trip. We flew to DC in June to see Liz's "graduation" ceremony from the Foreign Service school. It was good to see Liz and Scott. We were also able to squeeze in visits to Adele's brother and family.

Liz and Scott came to visit in November so we could meet our new grandson and have two early Thanksgiving dinners. The visit was really grand and little Nelson is a real cutie. We plan to visit them in early 2013 in DC.

Adele continues to enjoy her watercolor painting. She created quite a few of them in 2012 and put the best ones in a 2013 calendar.

Nelson's Year in Review

were really great. I was always warm and fed. I could sleep as much as I wanted. My quarters were a bit cramped toward the end, but even that wasn't too bad.

Things turned much worse on Sept. 14th. I was resting peacefully – well maybe I was kicking a little bit – when suddenly I was prodded and squeezed unmercifully. Mommy was screaming and someone was yelling "Push! Push!" All of a sudden I was shoved out into a bright light and laid on Mommy's tummy. I was so scared.

Things have gotten a little better since then. Even though I have to cry for food sometimes and miss my warm, dark, quarters – not to mention this gross thing called pooping – it isn't too bad. It is really nice to be able to see Mommy and Daddy and so many other exciting things. Mommy gives me delicious meals whenever I want (you should see how she does that!) and Daddy doesn't seem to mind changing my clothes and keeping me clean. There are so many wonderful people to meet. Everyone makes a big fuss over me. All I have to do is smile and they are all happy. I bet 2013 will be a good year for us all.



Hello, world! It's me, Nelson Scott Streett.

The Gang
(top) Scott Streett,
Mary Brown, Kim
(Brown) Heiser, Terry
Heiser.
(bottom) Elizabeth
Streett, Nelson
Streett, Adele, Bill,
Emily Heiser



Mary's Year in Review

Another year down and slightly wiser! I started out the year with a trip down to Tamarindo, Costa Rica for surf camp. The weather was beautiful, the people were nice and the beaches were great! We started every day at 7:30am with a trip to the beach for surf lessons, including one interesting day where we swam across an inlet with saltwater crocodiles (luckily I was the fastest swimmer of the bunch), and I actually did quite well at surfing!

As soon as I returned from Costa Rica, it was time to buckle down and start training for my first half Ironman. Over the next three months, I spent most days swimming, biking and running way more than I'd ever choose to admit. This training finally paid off in Boise in June 2012 when I completed my first Ironman 70.3! I was thrilled to finish, despite hypothermia during the swim and my inability to remember my bike ride due to my low body temperature. My parents and a friend came with me and it was great to have their support to carry me through.

After my Ironman, I relaxed and enjoyed the rest of my summer as well as picked up my workload a bit. Over the past six months, I've been very busy with work while squeezing in trips here and there to visit my sister, Scott and my new nephew.

In 2013, I'm planning on doing a few more half marathons and another Ironman 70.3. I am also looking at starting a Master's Degree program in the fall.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gus sends his best wishes, too. He is a little sulky about being upstaged by Nelson, though. He had a couple of nice visits with his Grandparents while I was travelling. He always enjoys visiting, even though (or maybe because!) Grandpa gives him lots to eat.

Liz's Year in Review

2012 started with finding out we were expecting a little Streett in September. A few weeks later I learned I cleared the final hurdles and was offered a job with the US Department of State as an entry-level Foreign Service Officer. Scott and I prepared to move across the country and left Seattle on April 28th for our grand cross-country road trip. The highlight of our trip was 2.5 magnificent days at Yellowstone. We arrived in Virginia and I started my orientation class on May 21st. It was only May and our lives had already changed drastically.

During the fifth week of my orientation, my parents flew out and Scott's mom drove down to our "Flag Day" ceremony. During the ceremony we were supposed to learn to which exotic country we would be moving. We received the flag of (wait for it!)...the District of Columbia...very exotic, eh? Scott and I had a 3-week scramble to find a place to live in the unknowns of the DC Metro Area. We ended up in Old Town Alexandria, VA, and had two months to nest in preparation of little Nelson's arrival. Nelson is now over 3 months old. The time since September has been a blur so I won't try to recap.
