
Plain Brown Rapper

News for the Tandy and Grace Brown Family

July 1999

Memories of our Sister Anna

ANNA MARY BROWN FRENCH

July 19, 1914 - May 24, 1999

Anna was born to Tandy and Grace Parker Brown in the summer of 1914. She was the second daughter of what would eventually be 17 children. Being one of the eldest, and in a time of war, depression and drought, Anna was of tremendous help to her Mom and younger brothers and sisters. At the time of the Country's crash in 1929, Anna was only 15 years old. By 1931 she had entered nursing school, gone on to earn her Registered Nursing designation and began working in various hospitals, supporting herself and still helping out the family. In Nebraska, Anna met and cared for an expectant young Mother, Rosemary French. When Rosemary died just after childbirth, Anna again was asked to care for the child, Joanne. The next year, Anna married Joanne's father, Norman and they were married for 59 years.

In those early years of marriage, Anna and her ready-made family lived in several places in Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana. During the early 40's, the second world war, with rationing and wartime deprivation, Anna canned and gardened and kept the underground cellar full of supplies. She sewed everything with precision - snow suits, play clothes, fancy dresses, baby things. She compulsively kept house even in those cold and dusty climates and expected perfection of everything and everyone. Every paycheck, Anna sent off her hard-earned egg money to buy a "golden" spoon, or fork, until she had a complete set of dinner flatware. She made matching outfits for her new little daughters, Nicki and Kathi. Anna could cook, my how Anna could cook. Fried chicken, chocolate chip cookies, lemon meringue pies, and my favorite, chocolate birthday cake with coffee/mocha icing. Even hard boiled eggs and potato salad. Tuna fish casserole or macaroni and cheese have never tasted as good as when she made them. Of course, there were the inevitable lima beans and brussels sprouts - that she force fed us - being aware of the importance of nutrition and greens even back then.

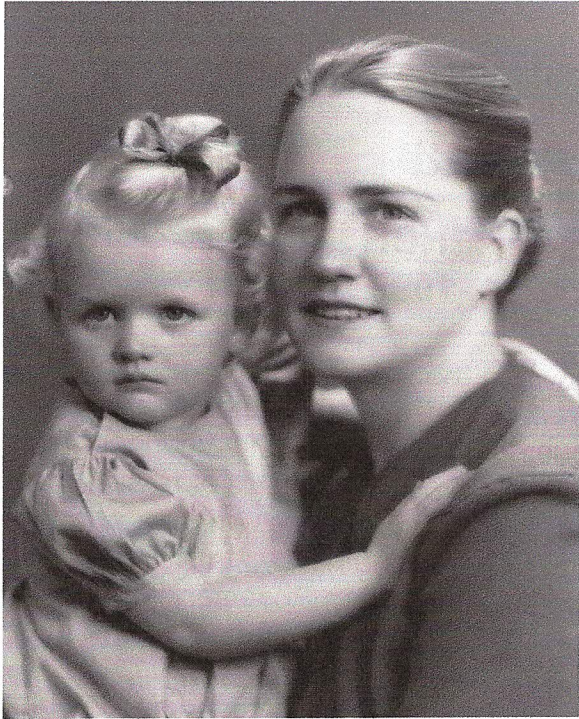
But her main forte' was packing and organizing. As Dad's jobs took us all around the world, Anna could pack up an entire house; send it off and drive us clear across the Country without batting an eye. I think they moved 15-20 times before finally settling down in Oregon. Even with all those moves, they still kept mementoes of us kids - our early art projects of 50+ years ago.

Anna loved good music and good books. She read biographies and histories; kept abreast of foreign and political relations and could converse with kings and ambassadors as easily as with small children. No one could match her with crossword puzzles and she continued to educate herself on new discoveries and inventions. On our last visit with Mom & Dad, she insisted that my son teach her how to manipulate his lap top computer - working on it for hours.

Anna was especially good to her 9 grandchildren and her 8 great-grandchildren. She was generous and loving to her many nieces and nephews. And, she was a formidable presence in all of your lives, she will be missed.

Submitted by Joanne French Jacka

Memorial to Anna continued:



Anna and Joanne, 1941, Joanna was 2 years old

There are as many personalities as brothers and sisters in our family. Each of us was raised to think we could do and be anything we wanted. Anna was no exception. She was her own person and had definite opinions about everything in life.

As Joanne said, she was the second child. Born on July 19, 1914 in a little cottage on what is now Warren Air Force Base. She was a beautiful little blue eyed blonde and I'm sure she arrived demanding everything she deemed necessary to survive.

Anna went away to nursing school before I was born, so I didn't get to know her during her years at home. I will have to rely on the older brothers and sisters for that information. I can however, remember when I was young (yes, I can remember that far back) and Anna would come home to visit and we were all put on the line. I do not mean that in a negative way, it's just how it was. She thought we needed a lot of training in the proper ways of the world, and she would help us along.

One time, she came home and was going to introduce us to new cooking. Everyone knows Anna was one of the best cooks in the world. She prepared a huge pan of Chop Suey. None of us would eat it and she was madder than a wet hen. Not funny you say? You are right! We got into a lot of trouble over that episode.

Another time, Pat and I traveled to Casper to visit her when she and Norman lived on Alcova Road, she decided to tell us about the "Birds and the Bees!" She set us at a table, pulled out her pen and writing pad and commenced to draw the diagrams and tell us all we needed to know. We wiggled and giggled until she decided we were beyond instruction and quit. We went on to learn all the details, right where we should have in the first place, the playground!!! (Just kidding)

However, Anna was always in there pitching, she never gave up on trying to save us from ourselves.



Anna and Vivian, picture taken in 1914

Later in life, I learned to love her, accept her for who she was and then she and I became good friends. Bob and I would travel the extra few miles when we went to visit Rodney because we loved to see Norman and Anna. She loved many of the same things I love, good music and current events. She knew so much and I could learn a great deal from visiting with her.

Anna was a rare jewel in the crown of life, she set her goals high and never wavered. She and Norman were at ease in the presence of Heads of State or Heads of Governments. She could prepare a dinner for 50 with the ease of a caterer knowing full well the electricity could go at anytime in those less developed countries. She wrote wonderful letters and as time goes along, I will share them with you. She lived an exciting and sometimes exotic life. Her letters told of the way they lived and how they traveled.

Joanne mentioned traveling with her. Did you know that Joanne was an expert map reader at the very young age of 8? She could get Anna anywhere in the United States. One time a Jordanian Sheik offered to buy Joanne. Anna put her foot down there. She also didn't let the girls go to the dinners where everyone ate from the central pot on the floor.

As I think of her, up in heaven getting every one organized, assigning jobs to do, I hope someone warned St. Peter not to ever use a paper napkin on the dinner table!!!

God Bless you Anna, we will all miss you and thank you for the love you gave while you were here on earth.

Dolfe

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR 2000 I PLAN TO PUT TOGETHER A FAMILY ALBUM. THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO LET FAMILY MEMBERS KNOW WHO EVERYONE IS. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS I ALWAYS GET IS, "WHO IS SO AND SO RELATED TO?" PLEASE, IF YOU PLAN TO HAVE A FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS OR FOR ANY PURPOSE, SEND A COPY TO ME SO I MIGHT PUT THE BOOK TOGETHER. ALSO SEND A BRIEF FAMILY BIO I MIGHT USE. THANKS dolfe

FAMILY CONCERNS

Vivian is still working very hard on her Physical Therapy with the hope of returning to her own home soon. Bob, Bill and Nancy are great to keep us updated on her condition and she loves phone calls. She also loves all the cards and letters. You can write to her at her home address: Vivian Beardslee, 9007 Chisholm Ln, Austin Texas 78748. And, if you send e-mail to any of her children, they will take it to her. Keep your cards and letters coming. They mean a great deal to this wonderful lady!!!!

Bill Brown (Mike's son) is making slight progress in his fight to regain mobility. Please keep him in your prayers.

Rick Brown (Frank's son) is still fighting cancer and needs your prayers.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Charles Brown	July 27
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AUGUST

Alice Brown	August 4
Bob VanAlyne	August 18
Vivian Beardslee	August 20

No Anniversaries these two months

If you have any special concern or notices, please feel free to send them to me.

Celebrations



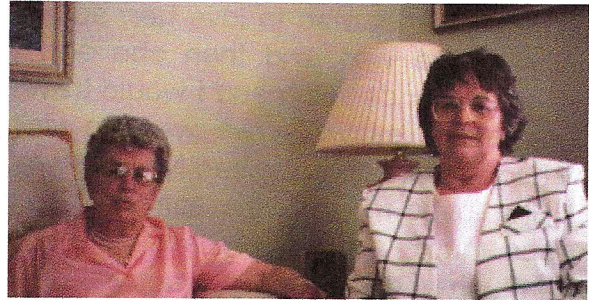
June and Charles waiting for the fun to begin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE

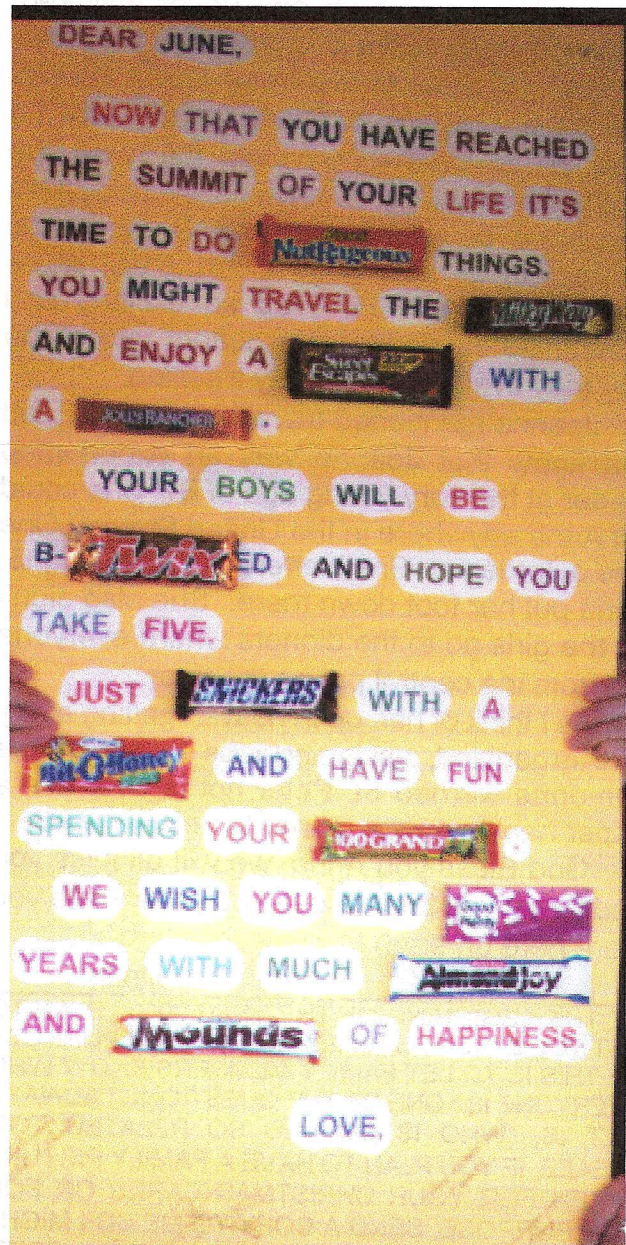
There were 7 of the original brothers and sisters in Casper on Sunday, June 27th to help June celebrate her 80th Birthday. Dick made arrangements for us all to meet at the Casper Country Club where we had a great lunch and enjoyed the afternoon.

Those attending were June, her two sons Kerry and Kirk. Kirk's wife, Terry and daughter, Mary, Leah and Willis, Orpha, Charles, Nancy, Dick, Bob and Dolfe, and Pat. Dick hosted the luncheon at the Casper Country Club and the food was wonderful. From there we went to June's house where we continued to visit and have some good family laughs.

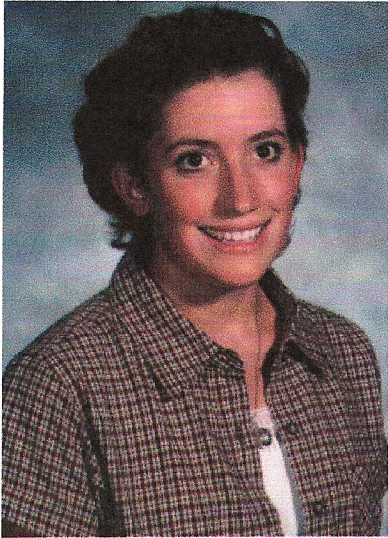
It was great fun to spend the afternoon in such fun company and to hear the many stories about what is going on in everyone's life. We missed all of you who couldn't attend, but never fear, we talked about you anyway.



June and Nancy after the party.



Birthday Card by Orpha



June's beautiful granddaughter, Mary (daughter of Kirk and Terry Smith) recently made her debut at Carnegie Hall. Wow, what a trip that was. She and the rest of the Natrona County High School Chorus toured New York City, went to see "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway and visited all the tourist sights. Mary said it was a wonderful trip and she had a great time. Mary will be a Junior in High School next fall.

In case you wonder what that Birthday Card said and can't quite make it all out it says:

"Dear June,

Now that you have reached the Summit of your life, it's time to do 'NUTRAGEOUS' things. You might travel the 'MILKY WAY' and enjoy a 'SWEET ESCAPES' with a 'JOLLY RANCHER.'

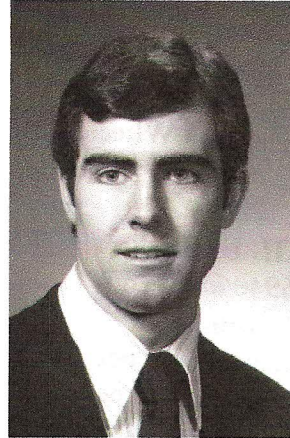
Your boys will be b-'TWIX'-ed and hope you take five.

Just 'SNICKERS' with a 'BIT-O-HONEY' and have fun spending your '100 GRAND'

We wish you many 'GOOD & PLENTY' years with much 'JOY' and 'MOUNDS' of happiness.

Love,"

We all signed and signed for those not present.



Congratulations to Ken Brown (Charles's son) on his new position as President and CEO of the Skidmore, Owens & Merrill Architectural Engineering Firm based in New York City. The newest and very big project this firm is doing is the renovation of Penn Station in New York City.

Welcome back to the States to Ken, his wife Vicki and their children.

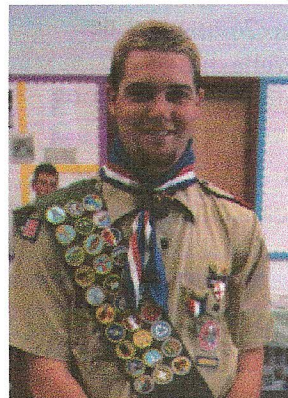
(How about a new picture Ken?)

In all on life, we have many highs and lows! We bask in the good times and want the lows to hurry by. Recently Bob and I were treated to the highest of highs. Our 4th Grandson, Devon VanAlyne (Roger and Susan's son) graduated from High School and received his Boy Scout Eagle Award. He is our sixth Eagle!!!

Roger and Susan had prepared a weekend filled with entertainment. The graduation ceremony held in the stadium with made to order weather. Cloud cover and a gentle breeze to shield us from the bright Nevada sun. A graduation party attended by friends and neighbors. On Sunday, after the church service, we were honored to see Devon receive his Eagle Award. The emotional ceremony written by

Roger and the beautiful reception prepared by Susan made the day just perfect. What a wonderful day.

Congratulations Devon, we are very proud.



TRY THIS WEB PAGE

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WWW.PRIVATEINFO.COM - Mike Wheelless

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