
Plain Brown Rapper

News for the Tandy and Grace Brown Family

October, 1999

Memories from Frank

My earliest memories of Anna and Vivian were of them, kind of, assuming the position of second Mother to June, Betty, Leah, Leonard, Stuart and me as we grew up. Mother was always busy with something and passed off a lot of leadership to the oldest two girls. They would comfort us when we were sick or hurt or just needed some loving. They would paddle us if they felt we needed it, but we always knew that they loved us very much. They were "Tigers" when it came to protecting us, and to pick on one of the Brown kids was tantamount to having a desire for extreme punishment.

I remember one incident vividly. We had a neighbor family, the Graber's, they had an older boy named Wyman who was a kind of bully, he was around Anna's age. He came over to our yard and knocked Stuart down, Anna and Vivian went over to his house and told his mother to send him out, Mrs. Graber refused and Anna went in the back door of his house with a broom. Vivian waited outside the front door and when he came running out he was caught between the two girls and took quite a beating, that was quite a sight. Anna had a mind of her own and we little kids didn't cross her too much. She was an independent young lady and she and Mother had words quite a few times. They were too much alike.

After she graduated from High School she went into Nurses training in Pueblo, we only got to see her occasionally after that since she lived and practiced in Denver. When I was about twelve, she insisted I go to Denver to have my tonsils taken out, so I did. It was kind of nice, she took real good care of me, I think it was about then she took me to see "Fantasia" when it was first released in Denver. I have spent the next twenty years collecting all of the music from that Walt Disney movie. My one regret was never getting to play in an orchestra with her, she played a fine violin I was told. By the time I was good enough to play in the Cheyenne Little Symphony she was gone from Cheyenne. We did have an orchestra in the church and I played in it but can't remember whether or not Anna was home at the time.

One time, Anna brought home a dog. It was a black and white Pointer and was named "Cuter." Cuter had a tendency to run far and wide around Cheyenne and vicinity. We also had an old Airedale named "Prince" and he started to run with Cuter. Prince was quite a bit older than Cuter and not as fast. One day he didn't come back and we found out later he was with a pack of dogs which were running a herd of sheep. The sheepherder shot Prince. Cuter was faster and got away. As you can guess, Cuter was in the doghouse for a long time. Prince had been with the family for a long time and we were quite attached to him. This was one of those good intentions which back fired.

Roy and I were in the Wyoming National Guard Band and one Summer (around 1940) we went to Guernsey for maneuvers. On this beautiful sunny day, it must have been a weekend, Anna and another Nurse came out to see us. I will never forget how pretty she looked. Funny how some incidents stick with you through the years.

When I returned from overseas and before I was to report to a V-12 Unit in Colorado College at Colorado Springs, I took a trip up to Casper to see Norman, Anna and Joanne. This was in June and it was cold, in fact it had snowed. I had left the tropics just a short time before and my blood was good and thin. I had a great time, and the cold weather didn't bother me one bit--- don't you believe it, I wore every bit of clothing I could put on!!!!

As most of you remember, Anna and the rest of the girls were "died in the wool" Democrats, it seems to me Mike was or is also, and the rest of the boys were Republicans. If you wanted to get into a big long argument with Anna, all you had to do was to say something good about the Republican candidate. That was always good for a good long discourse.

Editors Note: During the time Frank speaks of when he and Roy were in Guernsey, Anna was a Public Health Nurse. She worked in Goshen County and her work was mostly with migrant farm workers. I can remember she and mother talking about the horrible conditions of the workers on the farms around Torrington and places close by. She wore a white starched uniform dress, white stockings, white shoes and her nurses cap. She

carried a little black bag which made her look very professional. During cold weather, Anna wore a navy blue wool cape with a crimson satin lining. It had her nurses emblem above the left breast. Frank is right, the sight of her in her Nurses Uniform will always be etched in our memories. She was beautiful.

Also, Frank spoke of the V-12 Unit. Before the G.I. Bill, certain men from World War II were tested and selected for college education. Frank was chosen and attended Colorado College in Colorado Springs. He continued his education and attained his Engineering Degree at Colorado State University (known as Colorado A & M when Frank and Charles were there) in Fort Collins. He was the Drum Major for the University Band and it was another of those memories, etched in my mind, seeing him in his uniform and tall shaker hat. He looked about 10' tall!!! Somewhere there is a wonderful picture of him in his uniform with the mascot, the Ram. Mother was so proud of Frank and loved to see him on parade. Anyone of her children getting a chance to gain an education was a wonderful source of pride for her.



Anna in 1939 as a Public Health Nurse

Education in the family

Grace Brown was a liberated woman long before it was popular. She was adamant about education, not just for her sons but her daughters as well. Finishing High School was never an option, it was expected. Even during a time when it was not the rule and many young people quit school after the 10th grade to marry or get a job.

Mother also felt the need to push us on to college. To quote Anna, "she told us we had to go not how to pay for it."

The male members of our family all have degrees of some type. Roy, Funeral Director; Frank, Leonard and Charles, Engineering; Dick and Mike, Business Administration. Of the females, four have degrees, Anna and Pat in Nursing and Betty and June in Teaching. Vivian, Leah, Nancy and myself were homemakers until our children were older and then we worked in the business field working our way up to Office Managers and Supervisors.

So you see, Mother held a great deal of influence in our lives. While Dad was very proud after the fact, he wasn't so adamant as mother.

It is even more interesting to look at the occupations of the grand children. There are 52 grand children of Grace and Tandy Brown. They range in age from 65 to 29. Bob Beardslee being 65 and having retired from the Military and having a second career as a banker. The youngest is Natalie Brown. She is 29, just received her Masters Degree in Social Services and will be working with the Larimer County Colorado Social Services Office.

The careers are many and diverse. There is one Career Military, one Realtor, one Golf Pro, one Chef, one Social Services, one Law Enforcement, one Food Service, two Lawyers, four business owners, four bankers, four business managers, six educators, seven in the craft industry (builders and etc) eight engineers and eleven office workers. For some, it is hard to categorize their positions. Jim Smith is an engineer, but he owns his own consulting firm and goes worldwide to give his expertise on Turbines. Stuart Brown is also an engineer with his own firm consulting on Dam Construction. Bob Beardslee actually retired from two careers, Military and Banking.

The careers of the spouses are also interesting. There are engineers, lawyers, nurses, teachers, day care owners, painters, mechanics, business owners and etc.

Mother and Dad would have been very proud. Although deprived of her desire to go to college, her children and grand children would have made her proud. She would have enjoyed the bragging rights. Dad would have told all his buddies on the street as he walked down town. He loved to visit along the way.

Fun fact: Dad's nickname for June was skipper. Apparently when she was very young, she skipped where ever she went.

The Movie at Marty and Denny's House

Marty Brown writes about having a movie made using her house.

"Living in Newberg, a small Oregon town, is usually pretty quiet and uneventful. We like it that way. But, we are always up for an adventure. About the first week of August, I came home from work to hear that a movie locations manager from "Hollywood North" had driven by our house and contacted Denny at work with the idea about possibly using our house for a movie. I was a little skeptical at first, but the next day he was back with a whole van full of photographers, art design directors and producers. They were looking for a "small town" old house with a deck and garden for a made for TV movie about two babies who are switched at birth. One of the babies is from a small town and one from a yuppie family. I was still skeptical."

"To make a long story short, we signed an agreement to let them use our house with the promise to return everything to its existing condition. The day before the shooting was to begin, a set designer arrived to build steps from our deck to the side yard, install a porch swing (both of which they left), and plant even more flowers in the garden. Then they started moving our furniture to the garage and theirs inside to transform our family room into a bedroom and nursery. Our dining room table, however, made it into the Mother's Day scene and my antique quilt (a double wedding ring design made by my grandmother) is in one of the bedroom scenes."

"The shooting lasted three days. We were given the choice of a motel, or staying at the house (they did not use our upstairs except to store things). Since we like to be in the middle of the action, we chose to stay. On the morning of the first day, we awoke early (they wanted our bedroom air conditioner out of the window by 6 AM) and went out to see if anyone was around yet. Much to our surprise (and our neighbors, I might add) the whole neighborhood was full of about 12-15 huge

trailers and semi-trucks. There were dressing rooms for the actors and prop trucks, generators, catering trucks, etc. Our neighbors were great - of course we have one grumpy guy who complains about normal things, but I think even he kind of enjoyed the excitement."

"A little later, the actors arrived. Melissa Gilbert (of Little House on the Prairie), Rosanna Arquette (from Pulp Fiction), Mary Mara, James McCaffrey, Susan Barnes, and David Andrews were the most well-known. The Director was Doug Barr (from The Fall Guy). They started rehearsing and shot mostly outdoor scenes the first day. It is absolutely amazing to watch so many people each do their part of putting together a scene. I can't even imagine how complicated a big feature action film must be. From now on, when I watch a movie, I will be imagining crew members hovering around with lights, microphones, and reflectors just out of the camera's eye but within reach of those on camera."

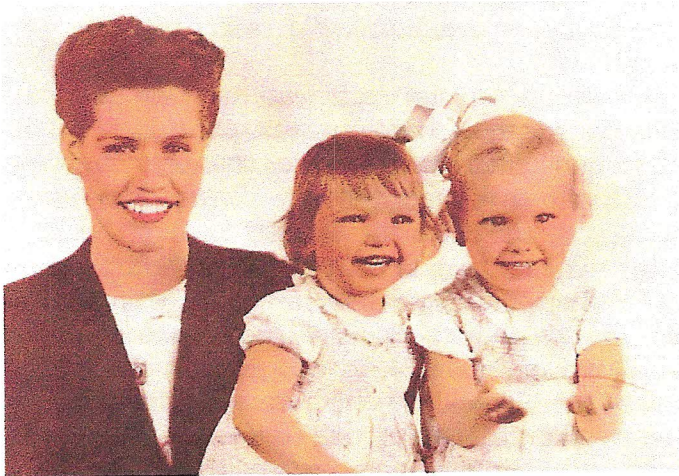
"The scene on our deck was the two year old birthday party and each little boy was played by a set of twins so they could have a better chance of catching one of them in a happy mood. When they were shooting you could hear the familiar "quiet on the set," "rolling," "action," "let's do it from the top," and "that's a wrap." When the cameras were rolling, everyone all around the house and in the street had to be completely quiet. Denny got in trouble for whispering in the garage at one point. Overall, the crew was really friendly and extremely considerate of our property. We got a chance to talk to them and eat with them at the food tent (which was set up a half block away on the corner of the George Fox University campus. With Denny's outgoing personality, he became fast friends with most of them and it surprised all of us that he didn't actually get a part in the movie."

"We had huge electrical cords running in doors and windows, an air-conditioning hose coming out the bathroom window and an ugly yellow telephone on the wall in the kitchen. Since our house was the "small town" house (in reality the house of "lesser means" compared to the yuppie house they used in Gresham) they went to great pains to make a lot of things look old. When they were finally packed up and gone (they had our carpet and house cleaned) our lawn looked like the circus had come and gone and some of my flowers took a beating, but we had a great time and look forward to seeing our house on TV."

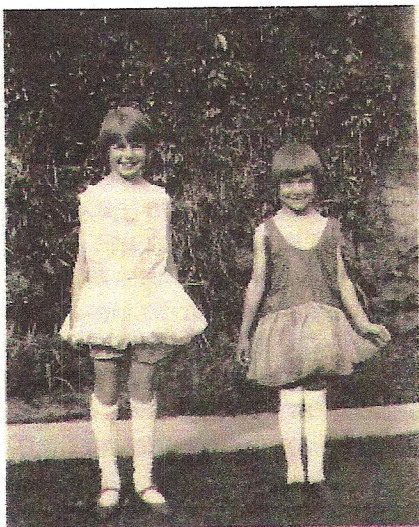
"The show is to be aired on CBS sometime in late November. We still haven't heard the exact title, because "Switched at Birth" has already been used, so they will have to come up with another title. As soon as we find out, we will let you know."

Editors note: Marty and Denny are two of the nicest people you could ever meet. Their home is so beautiful. They have done some fun things inside and out and when you see the home on TV you will be impressed. Thanks Marty for letting us in on the workings of the movie. As soon as we know the name, we will certainly put it in the newsletter!!!

I had asked for pictures and memories of Betty and while the memories are still coming in, I have received some fun pictures.



Above picture is Betty, Sally and Ilene. Picture was taken in late 1943 or early 1944.



Left: Picture of two future Ballerinas and I'm not even dating this one. It's June and Betty. Pretty cute, wouldn't you say?

The November Issue

November is traditionally Thanksgiving and Veterans Day. In our family there have been many who have served our country in uniform. The four branches represented are the Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy (in alphabetical order). As far as I know, there weren't any Coast Guard members.

The November issue is dedicated to the Military Tradition in our family. And, to let you know what great people our brothers are, I just want to add this little part to tell how I feel about them.

Roy came into my life when I was an adult. He was activated with the Guard in 1940 and I was only 8 at the time. I have come to know him and Alice as a couple of the warmest individuals in the world. They have only great things to say about the family and I only wish we had gotten to know them better a long time ago. When we go to Oregon, we always impose on their hospitality and usually go off to the Casino to have dinner. Dinner? Well, yes, that's one of the things you do at a Casino.

Then there is Frank, a real treasure. He teased us and loved us and I will always remember as a very little girl when I would sneak into his bed and wait for him to come home from his job as a "call boy" for the Union Pacific because he had a little bag of candy and he would share. Now I know the candy came from the "ladies" at the Railroad Hotel, but who cared.

Leonard is next. What a fun loving guy and great individual. Leonard wanted so much to be a part of the Military and was not accepted because of his history of lung problems. He did, however, belong to the Wyoming National Guard for a short time and went to summer camp before they discovered his problem. Bob and I always laugh, we had only been married for a year at the time and Leonard borrowed \$10 from him. He of course paid it right back, but Bob never had \$10 in his pocket and he still doesn't remember why he had it then.

Charles, oh yes, Charles. He introduced me to my first College Dance. One of his Fraternity Brothers took me as a date to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Sweetheart Ball in February of 1950. I wore a gold satin formal and they gave us pretty little turquoise jewelry boxes. I was the envy of all my friends and it was a night I'll never forget. I gave Barbara the jewelry box when she was a little girl, I had kept it all those years to remind me of such a wonderful time. Charles is still one of the

greatest guys in the world and I only hope he knows how much I appreciate all he does for me.

And now, our brother Dick. If I had a dime for every time I told someone I was Dick Brown's sister, I would indeed be rich. It was lots of fun to say those words and then be treated like the Queen of England. Dick had more friends than you can imagine. He was always my mentor and friend. He scolded me if I was wrong and loved me just the same. Of all the girls in High School, I had the most friends just because they all thought getting close to Dick Brown's sister would help their social life. I didn't care, it was perfect!!! When he went to the Marines, I had the best wardrobe around. In those days, girls in levis and boys tee shirts were just becoming stylish and Dick left a whole trunk full with instructions to mother not to let me touch them. Well, like I say, I had the best wardrobe in town. Sorry about the bumps in the tee shirts!!

Little Mike — with your big blue eyes and curly hair. We took you everywhere we went and you loved it. They always would say, "isn't he cute?" and you would reply, "I know it!" We taught you all the bad things we could think of and you still survived. We all cried when mother "suggested" you join the Marines. We were sure it would destroy our little brother. She probably saved you from a fate worse than the Marines. You have been a good friend Mike and when Bobby died, you and Nanette went above and beyond. Thanks for all you do.

This doesn't begin to touch the men in my life. My husband Bob VanAlyne who is also my best friend. Bob Treadway, Willis Shriver, Frank Beardslee, Norman French, and George Smith, brothers-in-law who have been the best guys around and I will get to them in a future issue. But for now, its on with this issue.

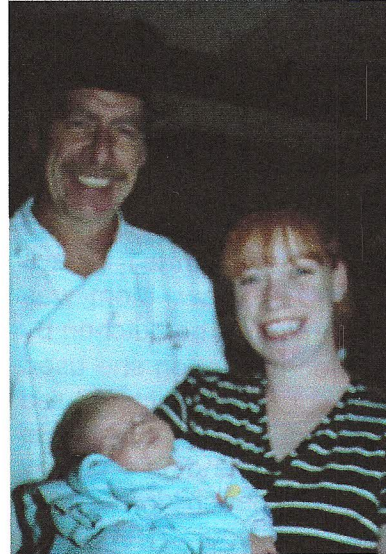
Dinner in Estes Park

The evening of September 4 a bunch of us went to Estes Park, Colorado for Dinner at Tandy Brown's Restaurant, the Dunraven Inn.

If you have never been there, you have missed a treat you won't ever forget. He grills a steak that is out of this world and the appetizers are supreme. But enough about the meal, there aren't enough words to describe how good it is.

There was June, Leah & Willis, Frank & Marilyn and Rick, Charles & LaVena and Natalie, Nancy & Bob, Dick & Marty and Sara, Bob & Dolfe, and Pat and Enid

and her two children, Tandy's daughter Jenny with her new baby and of course Tandy was in the kitchen preparing our feast. It was a fun evening, full of food (a Brown family favorite) and lots of jokes. We always look forward to Frank & Marilyn's visits.



Tandy came out of the kitchen long enough to have his picture taken with Jenny and little Nathaniel Tandy Brown



Bob VanAlyne, June Smith & Willis Shriver



Dick Brown and Marilyn Brown asking about the dessert menu. That Suicide Chocolate Cake is a killer.

Letters to the Editor

Stuart Beardslee writes, "I remember the times Uncle Charles and Uncle Frank came out to the farm and spent time with us. I also remember how nice it was to be able to walk across the street and jump into the irrigation ditch for a swim. We spent some happy moments there. The farm will always have a special place in my heart. Remember the rides on old "Blackie," you couldn't ask for a better horse to have fun on. If you fell off, he would just stand there until you got back on."

And about Vivian he wrote, "There was one thing I intended to include in my information that I always thought was very funny. As you know, Mom was always a very stern disciplinarian and in her kitchen by the window she had a large wooden spoon she used when she canned fruit. The spoon was stained red from the berry juice. There was a tale we always told to her grand children that this was grandma's bloody spoon she used when she spanked her children. Don't mis-behave or she will use it on you! The grand children gave her the nick name "Old law and order."

Bob, Stuart and Nancy are great to keep us posted on Vivian's condition. We thank you very much!!!

There is a new phone number for Vivian. A new phone has been placed in Vivian's room at the Assisted Living Facility. It is, 512-448-2399. She welcomes your phone calls and cards. Her address is the same as before, 9007 Chisholm Lane, Austin, TX 78748.

At this writing Vivian is doing just fine. She enjoyed three days in her own home when Bob, Stuart and Nancy arranged for her to have a furlough from the ALF and be home for a while. She hopes to do it again soon, was lots of fun.

Announcements and Celebrations

Apologies to Gabe Smith, son of Gregg Smith and Grandson of June. He captured First Place at the California State Speech Meet last Spring. From there he competed in the National's in Lincoln, Nebraska. This was supposed to be in the August issue and I misplaced it. Late Congratulations Gabe!!

Martha Brown Wyrsh (daughter of Dick and Marty Brown and spouse of Gerry Wyrsh) was named Vice President and General Counsel, Duke Energy Field Services, Denver. Duke Energy is one of the nation's

largest producers of natural gas liquids (NGLs), gatherers of natural gas and marketers of natural gas and NGLs.

"Martha's extensive legal experience in the natural gas industry will be a tremendous asset to Duke Energy Field Services as we continue to grow our natural gas gathering and processing business," said Jim Mogg, president and chief executive officer, Duke Energy Field Services.

Martha joined the company from KN Energy where she was Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. KN Energy is an integrated energy services company with operations that include natural gas gathering, processing, marketing, storage transportation and energy commodity sales based in Lakewood, Colorado. Prior to joining KN Energy, Martha was an associate with Davis, Graham & Stubbs in Denver.

Martha graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in English literature. She was Student Body President of UW during her Senior Year. She then earned her juris doctor degree from the National Law Center, George Washington University in Washington, D. C.

Martha and Gerry live in Englewood, Colorado with their two children, Peter and Molly. Gerry said they left out the most important part. He said, "besides being a bona fide corporate big shot, she's a tremendous wife and mother to our children." Peter is 9 years old and in the fourth grade at St. Mary's Academy and Molly is in her second year of pre-school and is keeping her brother in line.

Congratulations Martha, we are very proud of you! Not only us, the local Attorneys also offer their congratulations. You are notorious.

Birthdays

While October has lots of birthdays, there aren't any of the Brothers and sisters or their spouses.

November has one birthday,
Nanette Brown on November 19

There are three great anniversaries.
November 23, Leah & Willis, 59 years
November 24, Bob & Dolfe, 48 years
November 25, Mike and Nanette, 38 years.
That's 145 years of well, marriage

Our deepest sympathy goes to Gordy Schumacher, husband of Nicki French Schumacher. His sister-in-law was the victim of a car accident on Interstate 80 on August 21st of this year. Their address is:

Nicki & Gordy Schumacher
3205 N Kensington
Winnamucca, NV 89445

Nicki and Gordy must feel like they have had their share of heartbreak this year and I want to let them know we are keeping them in our hearts and prayers.

The family album

Please don't forget your pictures and bio's for the Family Album. Christmas is a perfect time for pictures and I hope you will send them along.

November's PBR

A Salute to our Family Veterans is the theme for the November Issue and if I have missed you in asking for your service and picture, please send it along. The pictures coming in are great and you are going to be very impressed with these service records!!!

TRY THESE WEB PAGES

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WWW.PRIVATEINFO.COM - Mike Wheelless

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send your e-mail address. It's proving to be an effective communication tool.