

# Plain Brown Rapper

News for the Tandy and Grace Brown Family

April, 2008

JUNE!!!! BUSY MONTH. FATHER'S DAY, BIRTHDAYS AND GRADUATIONS. LET ME WISH ALL THE FATHER'S IN OUR FAMILY A VERY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR YOUR FAMILIES.

This is a salute to our father, Tandy Parks Brown. The more I learn, the more admiration I have for him. He was born on December 21, 1889. Just 24 short years after the end of the Civil War. Tandy was born in a very small town named "Tripp," Georgia. The name of the town was later changed to Grayson. His parents and grandparents would have witnessed Sherman's march thru Georgia and they watched the burning of Atlanta. Grayson is just a few miles northeast of Atlanta.



There would have been very strong feelings about the North and the roll they played in destroying their beloved Georgia.

He could have instilled in all of us a bitterness, his family certainly was angry even into the 1900's but he chose instead to give us all an opportunity to judge people on our own. He was honest and admirable. If you did something you weren't supposed to, he just looked at you with those deep blue eyes and said, "Now what will they think of Tandy Brown?!" Usually you didn't want to ever be put in that position again.

We have a great deal to thank him for and proudly we can remember him as the very best!!

*The picture I have chosen is one which typifies Tandy. He gave us our haircuts until we got old enough to protest. The boys wore short GI style cuts and the girls all had "Dutch Bobs." This picture is Tandy cutting our son Bob's hair. They are in the corner of the dining room and the ever present Union Pacific calendar hangs on the wall.*

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to our sister June who will be 89 on June 29. June is now our eldest family member so she can boss all of us around.

June has always been and will always be so very special to me. She made sure we had new dresses, undies, shoes and socks for Easter Sunday and many other occasions. She paid for my piano lessons. She did countless wonderful things to make my life wonderful. June and George took us in when Pat and I would go to Casper to high school games. Always a welcome and a bed and breakfast when we passed thru Casper. Thanks doesn't seem sufficient!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE – we love you very much!!!!**



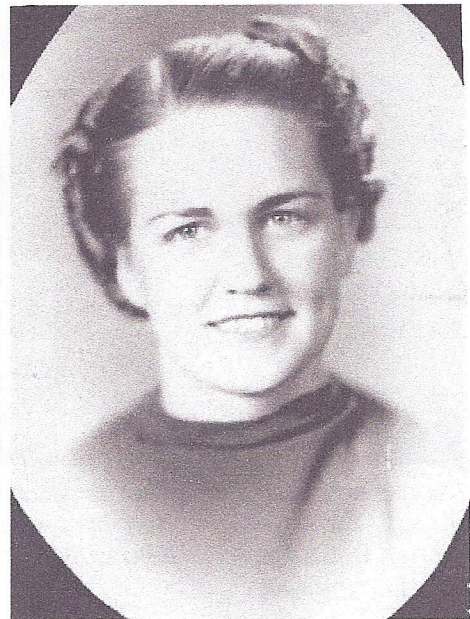


As you remember Mother put a lot of importance on education. She insisted we must graduate from High School and go on to college. Of all the things in mother's life, the one she wanted the most, to further her education, was denied her so she made sure all of her children had the opportunity. Because June is a month of graduations, I decided to share graduation pictures of the Brothers and Sisters.

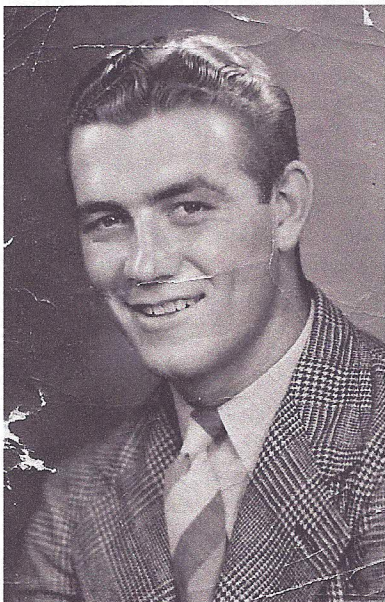


This is our sister Vivian. She was the oldest of the family and gave us lots of love and attention. Vivian graduated from High School and soon after married Frank Beardslee. She was an avid piano player and played "Honky Tonk" to perfection. It was fun to have her entertain us.

Vivian and Frank had three children; Bob, Stuart and Nancy. They had a farm in Northern Colorado for several years and then moved to Texas. Frank was a welder and because of an accident, he had to quit welding and became the "Safety Officer" for the City of Austin. Vivian went to work for and retired from the IRS.



Anna was the second child of Grace and Tandy. She went on to Nursing School and became a Registered Nurse. For several years she was a Public Health Nurse and traveled across some of Wyoming's poorer counties helping educate and administer aid. When she married Norman French, she became the mother of Joanne. Joanne's mother had passed away. Later they adopted Nicki and Kathi. Norman and Anna and their girls traveled to many foreign countries as part of the Agriculture program teaching farming to third world countries. Anna was always involved in the Red Cross efforts in those countries.



Our brother Roy was the fourth child of Grace and Tandy. Before him a little boy named Tandy, Jr. was born but passed away when he was only two weeks old.

Roy was a wonderful musician. He could play any brass instrument put in front of him. He was the band master for the National Guard band and for many other bands in Cheyenne. He had his own dance band while he was in college.

The National Guard was activated in 1940 and he served in the Army until the end of World War II. He married Alice Denton and pursued a career as a funeral director. He retired from the funeral business and bought a golf course. He said that was his all time favorite job.

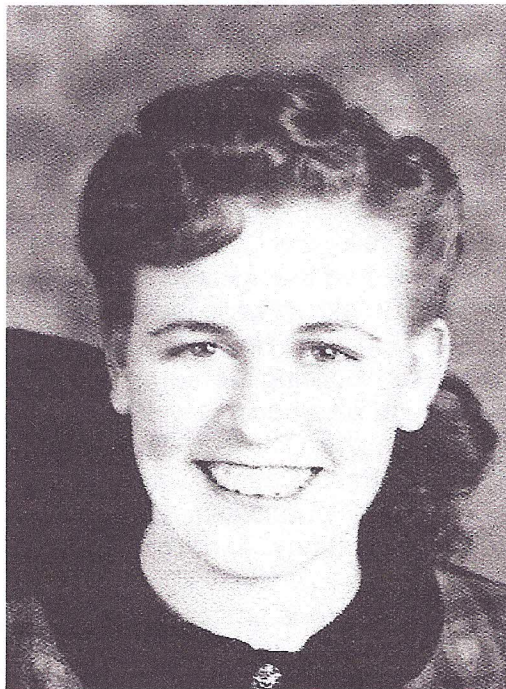
Roy and Alice had three children; Denny, Rosemary and Richard.





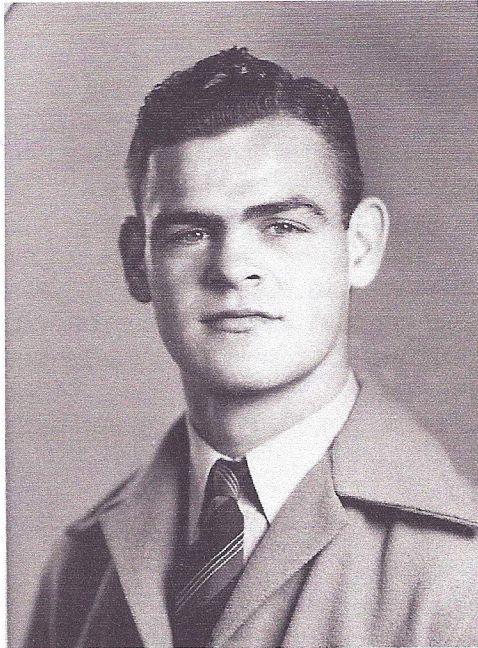
This is June's graduation picture. She is the fifth child of Grace and Tandy Brown. After graduation she went to Hastings College in Nebraska where she received her teaching certificate. Taught in rural schools in Goshen County. Later she went to Casper where she met and married George Smith. George worked for Salt Creek Freight ways. June continued to teach and worked with handicapped children. Retiring from the Employment Security Commission she continues to stay busy. Drives for Meals on Wheels and playing bridge every week. June and George had four sons; Jim, Kerry, Gregg and Kirk.

This is not Betty's graduation picture but was taken not too long after she graduated so it would be perfect. Betty was the sixth child of Tandy and Grace. She was a quiet, loving person and had a ready smile. After graduation, Betty went to school in Hastings, Nebraska to get a teaching certificate and taught at the Iron Mountain Ranch. It was there she met her husband Charlie Sylvester and they married. During World War II while Charlie was serving in the Army, Betty worked at the Modification Center – a real "Rosie the Riveter!" Betty and Charlie had three daughters; Ilene, Sally and Donna. Betty passed away in 1946.



Leah is the seventh child of Grace and Tandy. This very talented lady married Willis Shriver soon after graduation and was a stay at home mom to Susan, Jeanne, Jerry and Jayne. Later she worked as a manager for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Leah has always been a very talented artist and many of us have her ceramic treasures. In her later years she has taken up quilting and has made some of the most beautiful quilts you have ever seen. Leah and Willis have several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even great-great grandchildren.





Frank is the eighth child of Tandy and Grace Brown. Upon graduating from High School, Frank joined the Marine Corp and served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Regiment during World War II. He was wounded in the Battle of Bougainville and was sent to New Zealand for six weeks. He could have returned home because his wounds were so serious, but instead he returned to his unit. He was a radio operator in a tank and he could no longer do that job so he became a runner. He was in the battles for Iwo Jima, Okinawa and most of the Pacific. A true hero.

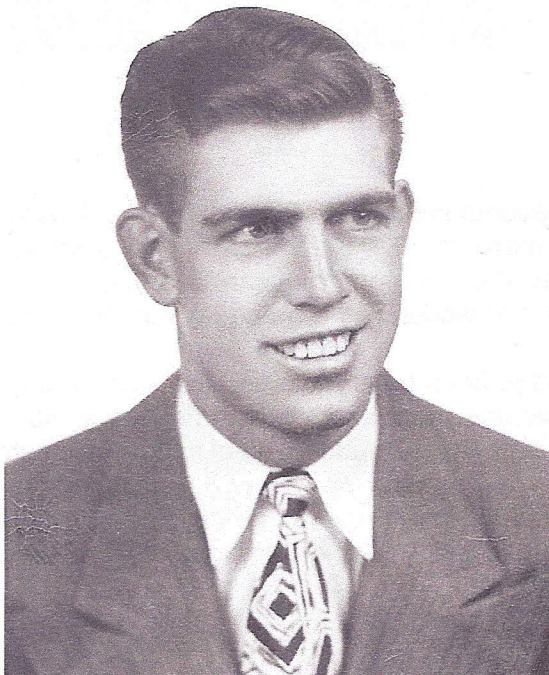
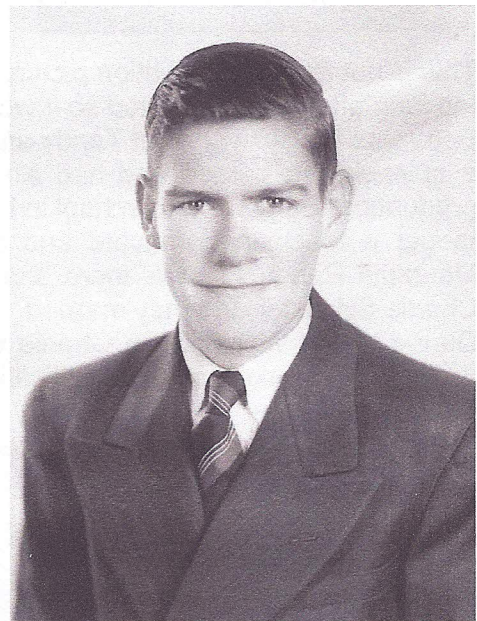
When he returned from the war, he attended school in Colorado Springs where he met Marilyn Lamb. They were married and he went on to Colorado State University and his engineering degree. He played the French Horn and was the Drum Major for the college band. He looked very handsome in his Shaker!!

Frank and Marilyn had three children; Tandy, Rick and Chris.

Leonard was the ninth child of Tandy and Grace Brown. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in engineering and worked for many years as a supervisor for the Arizona Highway Department.

Leonard was a real comedian. He kept us laughing all the time. He would have made a great standup comedian! He was also a wood carver. Each of us has one of his treasures. Mine is a beautiful cardinal. Some are caricatures and etc. He was quite a guy.

Leonard married Orpha Grimsrud. They had one child, Stuart.



Charles is the eleventh child of Tandy and Grace Brown.

He served in the Marines having joined as the war was winding down. After he was discharged he went to college at Colorado State Univ in Ft Collins and graduated in engineering. He met and married Barbara Brookhart while there and they settled in Colorado Springs. He worked with her father in the Brookhart Building Centers and soon became an owner. He also became very active in politics and served on the Colorado Springs City Council and as an El Paso County Commissioner until he was term limited. Charles and Barbara had three children; Kenny, Cindy and Ron. Sadly Barbara passed away.

Later, Charles married LaVena Lester and they had one daughter, Natalie.





Nancy is the twelfth child of Tandy and Grace Brown. After graduation, she went to work with the Air Force and then as the bookkeeper for Gages Grocery. She held that position for many years. She married Bob Treadway and after a very short time, he was recalled to active duty to serve in Korea.

After his return, Bob went into construction and was involved in building many very large and beautiful buildings. Nancy and Bob adopted Mary and Matt and Nancy was a stay at home mom until they graduated. Then she went to work for the County and was in charge of the elections.

Dick is the thirteenth child of Tandy and Grace Brown. After graduation Dick went into the Marines and served during the Korean War where he was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. After discharge he continued his education at the University of Wyoming and graduated in Business.

He was Student Body President at the University and then Alumni Director. Senator Gale McGee brought him on board as his assistant and he served there until McGee was defeated. He went on to work for and retired from Pacific Power.

While at UW he met and married Martha Bauman. They have six children; Becky, Mary, Martha, Sarah, Charlie and Katie.



Dolfe is the fourteenth child. She graduated in 1950 Pretty much a stay at home mom, after marriage she worked off and on as a Kelly "Old" Girl. In 1951 she married Bob VanAlyne who was serving with the Wyoming Army National Guard. He retired after 41 years in 1991. Their highlight was his 8 year tour of duty in Washington, D.C. while he served at the Pentagon.

Dolfe had the honor of serving as an Army Lady of Arlington. An organization formed to represent the Chief of Staff of the Army at funerals of veterans.

They have four children, Bob, Barbara, Roger and Rodney.

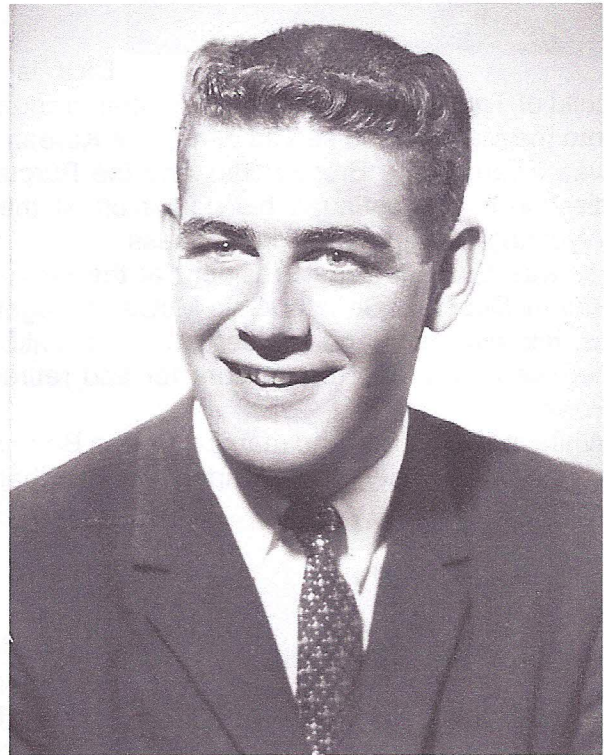




Pat is the fifteenth child of Tandy and Grace. She graduated and went to the University of Wyoming where she received her degree in Nursing. She worked for a long time at the Memorial Hospital in Cheyenne and then she married James White. She worked for many years as a nurse and upon the death of James, she taught nursing in Sheridan, Wyoming at the college there.

Pat is now semi-retired and works for her son part time and at a check cashing business.

Pat and James had eight children; James, Enid, Burke, Janet, Bruce, Edwin, Perry and Page.



Mike is the seventeenth child of Tandy and Grace. He was the baby and about the same age as many of his nieces. He was surrounded by women!!!! They made his life miserable.

After school, Mike went into the Marines and served in Japan. When he returned, he attended the University of Wyoming and graduated with a degree in Business. He worked for many years with Burroughs Business Machines and in later years as a Realtor. He married his High School Sweetheart, Nanette Metz while he was in the Marines.

Mike and Nan had four children; William, Amy, Katie and Jenny.

The tenth child of Tandy and Grace was Stuart George Brown. He was between Leonard and Charles. He passed away when he was nine years old from a brain tumor. In any pictures of the boys you will know him, he looks just like Leonard, Charles and Dick!!!

The sixteenth child of Tandy and Grace was a little girl named Sandra Shirley Brown. A precious little girl with a smile of an angel. Mother called her a blue baby because she had a heart problem which in that day and time could not be corrected. She passed away when she was three.

There you have it. A very classy group. Mother and Dad were very proud of all of them. They lived the dream and considering the trend during the time they were in school, this is a major achievement!



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Dick and Marty will be celebrating their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations!!

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## KEEP THESE FAMILY MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS

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☺Our brother Frank is home again recovering nicely from his broken hip. Knowing this man, its my bet he does his exercises every day and is anxious to get back in the swing of things.

☺Mike had some minor surgery and is doing just great. Says he even lost a bunch of weight. Good job!!!

☺Dick and Marty are very much in need of prayers as they fight their battles with cancer. Please keep them in your heart and your prayers as they undergo this challenge.

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## NEW GRADUATES

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This June, several of the great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren are graduating from High School and College. The following are the ones who have sent information.

**Devon VanAlyne**, son of Roger and Susan VanAlyne, grandson of Bob and Dolfe and husband of Emily graduated from "THE NEW SCHOOL." He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Resources Management. Devon is currently serving in the Navy as a Petty Officer First Class a Nuclear Reactor Operator. He served on the submarine USS Ohio. Currently he is an instructor at the Power School. His degree work has been done at night and when his submarine was in port for any length of time. Congratulations Devon!!!!

**Audrey Brown**, daughter of Stuart and Laurie Brown, granddaughter of Leonard and Orpha will graduate from Stanford University. She will be receiving a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Product Design). She has been a member of the Triathlon and Cycling teams, both of which went to Nationals this year! Congratulations Audrey!!!!

**Devon Brown**, daughter of Stuart and Laurie Brown, granddaughter of Leonard and Orpha will graduate from Lake Oswego High School and will attend the University of Washington in the fall. She is planning on studying Mechanical Engineering. She was on both the Varsity Volleyball and Track teams in High School. Congratulations Devon!!!!

**Charles Brown**, son of Ken and Elizabeth Brown and Vicki Brown, grandson of Charles and LaVena will graduate from UCLA. He will be receiving a degree in Foreign Language with a Minor in International Affairs. Charles speaks five languages. He will truly be an asset to anyone who hires him. Congratulations Charles!!!!



**Jenna White**, daughter of James White and the late Susan White, granddaughter of Patricia and James White will graduate from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina. She majored in Industrial Design with a minor in Movie Graphics. She will continue her education in Toronto Canada where she will study Make Up and Special Effects. Congratulations Jenna!!!!

**William French Schumacher** is graduating from Pershing County High School in Lovelock, Nevada on June 7<sup>th</sup>. He has signed a letter of intent to Western Nevada School to play baseball and plans to major in Forestry or a field dealing with the environment. William is the son of Alley and Annette Schumacher, grandson of Nicki and Gordy Schumacher and Great-grandson of Anna and Norman French. Congratulations William!!!!

**Willis Dean Patterson** will graduate from East High School in Cheyenne, Wyoming on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He plans on working this summer and entering the Air Force in the Fall. Willis is the son of Scott and Darrallynn Patterson, grandson of Jeanne Patterson and Darrell Patterson and the great-grandson of Leah and Willis Shriver. Congratulations William!!!!

**Peter Louis Wyrsh** graduated from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School in Houston, Texas. Peter was a varsity football player for his team and excelled in Academics. Peter will be a Freshman at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, where he will pursue majors in English Literature and Japanese Studies. He is the son of Martha and Gerry Wyrsh and Grandson of Dick and Marty Brown. Congratulations Peter!!!!

There you have it, some very outstanding young family members. We are very proud of each and every one of them and wish them well as they start this part of their lives. Congratulations and God's Speed.

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The next Plain Brown Rapper will be in September. If you have any news to share, please pass it along to me. You can send it to my home via snail mail or by e-mail to: [dolfe96@aol.com](mailto:dolfe96@aol.com)

Have a great summer!!!!