
PLAIN BROWN RAPPER

News for the Grace and Tandy Brown Family

March, 2010

On this, the anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, it is my pleasure to dedicate the Plain Brown Rapper to one of the nicest men I know, our brother Frank!

Born on April 8, 1923 he is the 8th child of Grace and Tandy Brown, just about in the middle of all the confusion. As the 8th child he had five older sisters and one older brother. Little Tandy passed away as a two week old baby in 1916 so only Roy was an older brother. Roy was born in 1918, 5 years older than Frank. You can well imagine how it was with 5 women bossing you all over the place. Roy always said that Anna and Vivian made all the decisions in his life – Frank must have felt overwhelmed with five women giving him advice.

As Frank grew up he was an avid reader and loved music. One time Roy brought home a bunch of instruments and everyone chose something to play. Vivian played piano, Anna the violin, Roy could play any brass instrument, June the trumpet, Betty the violin, Leah played trombone, Frank the mellophone, Leonard - Charles and Nancy played clarinet. Later Grandma Eidam bought Frank a french horn and he truly excelled!!!

Through his school years, he was a good student and wonderful musician. He had a paper route and was a Railroad Call Boy (a demanding job especially in the winter). Since Roy was pretty much gone by this time, (off to college and etc.) Frank also had the chores and milking the cow. His life was not a bowl of cherries. He could play the French Horn with style and played in the VFW band, highschool band and orchestra along with the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra. He joined the National Guard and played in their band with our brother Roy. In later years he played with the Belleville, Illinois Symphony Orchestra and a Polka Band. Frank also sang in the church choir nearly all of his life and has a beautiful voice.

His smile radiates all over his face and gets into your heart. When we were growing up, he was always playing tricks on us and then we'd cry and he'd get spanked. He probably had more spankings than the good lord allowed, but it didn't seem to change much. He still teased us and we still cried. Hope he forgives us!

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Frank waited until he graduated from High School before joining the Marine Corps. He was a radio operator in a tank and during the battle of Bougainville, he was wounded. His wounds were very serious and he was sent to New Caledonia to recuperate.

You need to know this because at this time there wasn't any communication from Frank for a long period of time. Several months in fact. Mother worried and worried until she couldn't stand it any longer and called her good friend Senator Joseph O'Mahoney. It was only a short time until we got a letter from Frank. Frank laughed because his wounds affected his right side and he was left handed so he was busy writing letters for other men who were wounded and didn't think about writing home. As soon as he was called in front of the commander all that changed! Mother began to hear from Frank.

Shortly after his wounds began to heal properly, Frank was given the choice of going home or returning to battle. He returned to battle because that's where his unit was. His heroism is in my mind, is absolutely amazing.

Frank returned to his unit and went on to fight at Okinawa and Iwo Jima. His story is amazing and the complete version, in his writing can be read in the November, 1999 Plain Brown Rapper. It is a salute to veterans.

When the war was over, Frank returned home. He was one of the few Marines chosen for the V12 program, a precursor to the GI Bill, but was for men who showed great intelligence and potential. Thru this program Frank received his degree in Engineering from Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University at Fort Collins). Also during this time, he married Marilyn Lamb on March 22, 1947 and this year they celebrated their 63rd anniversary. On April 8, Frank will turn 87 and on April 19 Marilyn will be 39 (I think—might be 49)!

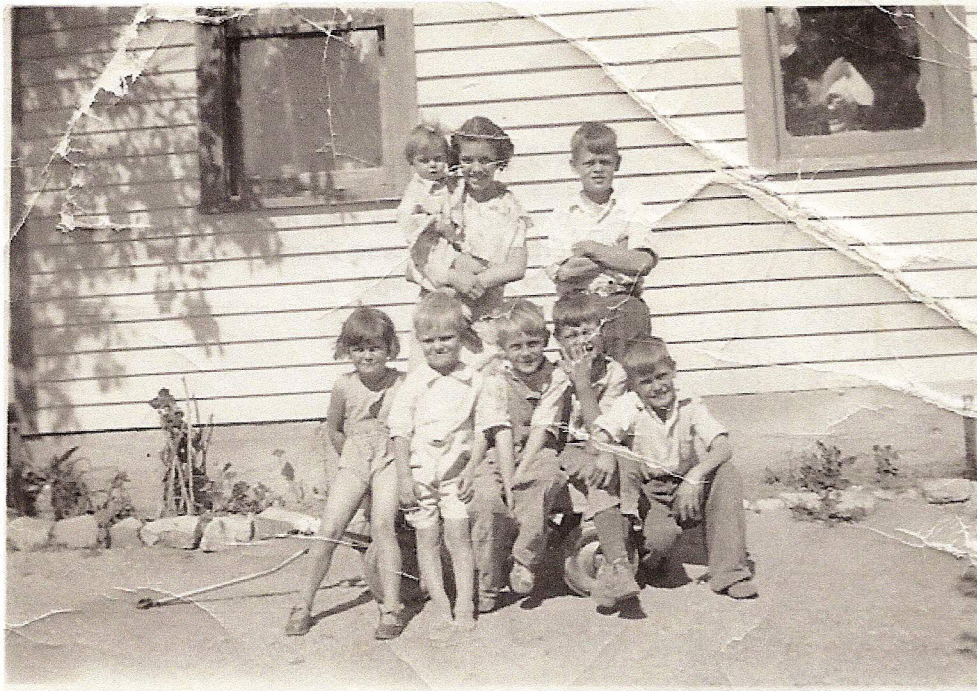
Frank worked for the Oregon Highway Department for a while but settled in Belleville, Illinois where he worked for many years and retired from the Illinois Highway Department. He volunteered numerous years in Boy Scouting, the Presbyterian Church, Marilyn's church, Tax help for seniors and he always walked the neighbor's dog. I'm sure there were many others but I'm not sure who they are.

Marilyn and Frank had three children, Tandy, Rick and Christie. They also have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!!!



Frank and Marilyn at the wedding of their Granddaughter a few years ago



This picture was probably taken in the summer of 1934. In the window is mother with Pattilou who would have been born on May 31 of 1934.

The group from l. to r: top row, Betty holding Dolfe and Frank. Bottom row, Nancy, Dick, Charles, Stuart and Leonard.

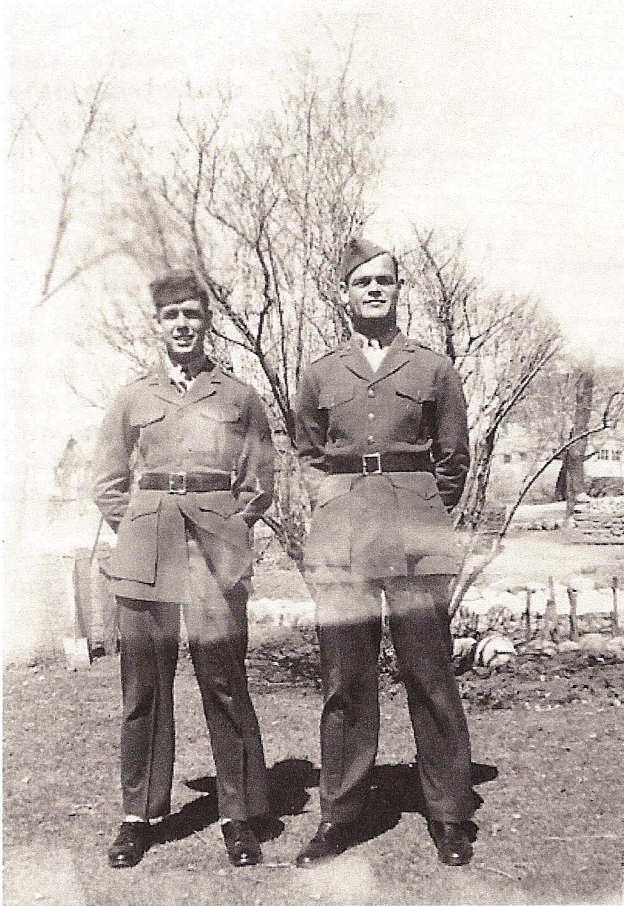
We lived at the Bergman Place at that time.

This picture was taken in 1941. Frank would be a senior in High School

From l. to r.: back row, Frank, Leonard and Dad, Middle row, June holding Sandy, mother holding Mike. Front, Dolfe.

Taken in front of the house at 1717 Alexander.





In 1945 as World War II was winding down, Charles joined the Marines. This picture was taken when Charles was home from boot camp and Frank was home from the war and getting ready to start college.

Just a footnote. In this picture Charles was a bit shorter than Frank. That didn't last long. By the time he was out of the Marine Corps, he was just as tall!!!!

Not much new on the family front.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT BEARDSLEE AND JENNA HOUDEK. THEY WERE MARRIED MARCH 27TH IN WISCONSIN.

ROBERT IS THE GREAT GRANDSON OF FRANK AND VIVIAN, GRANDSON OF BOB AND CAROLYN, SON OF COL. BOB AND KIM.

Spring is here, and graduations are on the horizon. Would love to hear from you about the graduations and any other family events. Just e-mail them to me at dolfe96@aol.com and include a picture if you would like.