

PLAIN BROWN RAPPER

News for the Tandy and Grace Brown Family

Jan/Feb 2001

Wishing all of you a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!** Hope your expectations are met and exceeded in the coming year. Good health and happiness being the greatest wish.

In light of the events happening in the world, thought you might be interested in a letter written 38 years ago by our sister Anna. Anna's husband, Norman, spent many years in foreign service with the Department of Agriculture. The program Norman administered was officially labeled the "Point IV" program. Their job was to show the people how to build dams, farm in a more efficient manor and in general give them the ability to help themselves. Norman was particularly successful in this endeavor and received many awards from the various countries he helped. Many of the beautiful accessories in their home were gifts of thanks from various foreign government leaders.

Joanna French-Jacka has been generous in copying these letters and sending them to me to use as I see fit in the Plain Brown Rapper.

This particular letter was written in November of 1963 and in the light of current events could have just as easily been written in January of 2002. Mother and Dad had passed away and since the letter doesn't have an addressee name, I can only assume it was a letter she wrote to everyone. She used this method of communication long before it became a popular Christmas communication.

The letter is as follows:

Lahore - Pakistan 22nd November 1963

Greetings from the land of the Punjabi:

In a few days we will have finished 16 months in Pakistan - 3.5 of which we spent in Karachi on the Arabian Sea, and the rest in Lahore - the old capital of the Punjab. This is the town where Rudyard Kipling's father was curator of the Punjabi Museum across from the famous old Punjab University. The famous cannon of Kipling's Kim sits in the square in front of both the school and the Museum. Rudyard Kipling was once a newspaper reporter on the "Civil and Military Gazette" - a prominent paper of the area which was exceedingly anti-American, anti-British and pro-Chinese(red) etc. It has just folded after 90 years publication.

Lahore is not a small town by numbers of population - over a million and a half people live here, but it seems smaller to us as we think of Phoenix, Denver, San Francisco and our so-called "sophisticated" cities. Here one sees the same contrasts that dot the Middle East, Far East, S. E. Asia and Africa which we compare as we go along - the donkey carts, the bullock carts called "rehra", the horse drawn buggies gaily painted and ornately decorated called "tongas" of which there are said to be 10,000 registered in Lahore, the clumsy plodding water buffalo rambling down the street or sidewalk making way for no-one or any object - cars screeching to a halt to avoid these lumbering but necessary creatures. They feed on any patch of grass - some private yards too. These animals furnish the milk, meat, labor, hides, etc. for the people. There are lots of fat-tailed sheep - goats - and the ever-present unfed dogs roaming the streets. They do not neuter

animals here - believe their lives should be fully lived, so the poor mamma dogs are either carrying or feeding a litter. They raid the garbage cans - eat whatever and wherever they can. Cats are not as prominent here as we saw in Jordan - Korea - Africa, and to us it seems strange because Muslims love cats because the Prophet did, and dislike dogs because the Prophet feared them. Pakistan is, of course, the most Muslim of all States. It was founded to become home for the Mussulmen just as Israel is to be the home of the Jews. There is no separation of religion and state.

Lahore is about 15 miles from the Indian border. The two countries are bitter enemies, and I know you all read of Kashmir, the disputed area both claim. Hatred for India colors all their rational thinking. Right now, we Americans are under fire because of AID to India. It is all so complicated and puzzling and we can't help but wonder where it will end. Our AID to Pakistan these past 11 years is around 5 million dollars a day just for the U. S. A. I. D. program alone...plus the Military Aid - the surplus food - the Ford Foundation - the U.N., the Peace Corps - the World Bank - and on and on. So it goes without saying that every now and then one feels galled at the insults leveled at us in the Press. But one also feels that basically the "people" are sure that the Western powers are friend, "tho' misguided at times" and that in the long run we will be proven "right." And I better end that subject right there.

Lahore is a beautiful city - green - lots of trees - flowers - but the old city is a thousand years away. One sees fast sleek American cars - smaller European cars - bicycles by the thousands - motor scooters, all vying for space with the animals and humans walking - walking - walking. Sidewalks are used - but streets are too, so one dodges and prays when driving down the roads. The only mark on our car came when a tonga ran into me. I couldn't dodge a horse drawn cart!!! Luckily we didn't hurt the driver, horse or cart!!! Because we rich Americans always are at fault.

We are enjoying our tour here very much and it is one of the most interesting places we have been outside Jordan. Norman has been able to get down to the nub of his projects and has had good cooperation. He has a wonderful counterpart and all the people in Forestry and Range Management are eager to see a successful program in progress. On one trip where the West Pakistan Governor visited one of the projects, he gave a lecture on Range Management that Norman felt was a good as any technician he had ever heard, and the Governor "thanked" the Americans and the U. S. Government publicly for the financial and technical assistance they have given to Pakistan. This is rare these days when the fashion is to pick our bones. So Norman feels that his efforts are not in vain.

The remainder of the letter is news about Nicki, Kathi and Joanne. A little bit about the traveling they had done and etc. Norman and Anna remained in Pakistan for a few more years before Norman retired and they returned to Wyoming. From there they moved to Washington State and remained in the Milton-Freewater area until they passed away.

The important part of the letter, I felt, was the status of the country of Pakistan. As we in the United States enjoy a constant upgrade of the material goods in our life, the way of life in those countries seem to remain the same. While we take our sound systems, computers, digital TV's, modern plumbing, telephones and etc. for granted, they are constantly searching for food. It is very difficult for me to understand and I'm sure they don't understand our need for "things" to make our lives comfortable.

Hope you enjoyed the letter.

Family news:



Leah will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on February 5th. Her phone number is 307-632-1377. Call her and wish her a Happy Birthday. Some of the family, along with her family will be taking her to lunch on February 2nd. Charles and LaVena will be our only out of towners making it to the luncheon. Happy Birthday Leah!!!!

The picture on the left is from the Birthday party on the second of February

There were two brothers and four sisters at the luncheon. From left to right: Pat, Nancy, Leah, Mike, Dolfe and Charles.



Roy just had a pace-maker installed. Alice says it's a Cadillac of pace-makers and it makes hers just an old Model-T. Roy says it will still be ticking even after he dies (must have an ever-ready bunny battery). Roy will be celebrating his 84th birthday on February 14. His phone number is 503-538-0606. Better call him too. Happy Birthday Roy!!!!

Sue Myers is still battling her cancer. Each day she survives is a day she gains on the disease. Why don't you stop for a minute and send her a card? Sue Myers, 3416 Whitney Road, Cheyenne, WY 82001. Keep up your fight Sue, you are an inspiration to all who know you.

In the talented side of the news. You might be interested to know about Laurie Brown (Orpha's daughter-in-law, Stuart's wife) being featured in the Jan/Feb issue of "Hand Woven." Purchased the magazine to find her beautiful woven scarf in the center fold of the book. An absolutely wonderful use of 6 colors, woven into a geometric design. The magazine is carried by nearly all of the news outlets and book stores. It is considered the premier magazine of the weaving community. Congratulations Laurie, it is a pleasure to see your beautiful work on display for all the world to see!!!!

Understand Martha Brown-Wyrsh (Dick and Marty's daughter, Gerry's wife) will be taking a new job with Duke Energy. Before relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina in June, Martha will attend an Advanced Management School at Harvard University. When the Wyrsh's go to Charlotte, Martha will become General Council for Duke Energy's Gas and Electric Businesses. Martha is currently Vice-president and General Council for Duke Energy in Denver. Congratulations Martha, this is pretty exciting for you and your family.



As promised, here is a picture of Stuart Beardslee's newest Grand-daughter. Little Kiley Elizabeth is shown with her mom and dad, Noel and Mike. Mike is serving the Army. Thank you Mike for what you do.

Speaking of our service men, Charles and LaVena's grandson, Ryan (Cindy's son) is a sailor on the USS Russell. They are currently in the Indian Ocean. He was part of a team which rescued the four flyers who were downed during the conflict in Afghanistan. He said it was pretty awesome pulling them out of the sea. Thank goodness they were close by and could save them. Good job Ryan, you make us very proud.

Please send your news, pictures and memories!!!!