

Plain Brown Rapper

News for the Tandy and Grace Brown Family

November, 2001



Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, November 24, 2001

Just a little bit of news from our house, Bob and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary this year. Our children are honoring us with a reception at the First Presbyterian Church, here in Cheyenne, Wyoming on the 24th of November from 2-5 p.m. We would be honored if any of you are close enough to attend,

Our children are: Barbara Nash and her husband Walter of Pueblo, Colorado; Roger VanAlyne and his wife Susan of Gardnerville, Nevada and Rodney VanAlyne and his wife Cathy of Colville, Washington. We are looking forward to having all of our children, except our Grandson Devon who is out to sea on the USS Ohio, here for the reception.

Our grandchildren are, David Nash and his wife Kimberly, Andy Nash, Robert VanAlyne, Devon VanAlyne, Drew VanAlyne, Kelsey VanAlyne and Kaitlyn VanAlyne. Our "great-grandchild" is Erik Robert Nash.

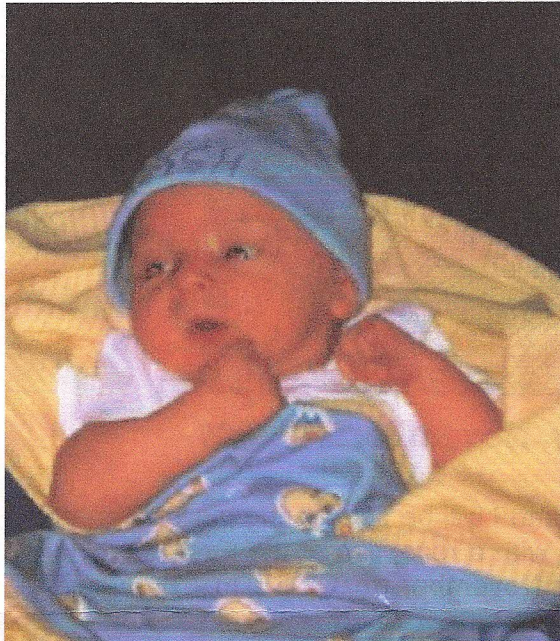
The month of November is an anniversary month. Several members of the family have their anniversaries during this time. Grace and Tandy were married on November 16, 1912, Leah and Willis have their 61st on November 23, Bob and I our 50th on the 24th and Nan and Mike their 40th on the 25th. Not sure why it worked out this way.

Other anniversaries of note coming in 2002: February 9th - Charles and LaVena's 37th, March 21st - Frank and Marilyn's 55th, April 4th - Roy and Alice's 60th, April 25th - Nancy and Bob's 54th, and June 11th is Dick and Marty's 47th.

All together, if my calculations are correct, the years add up to 405. Now, after hearing the brothers-in-law complain about being married to one of the "Brown" girls, I just wonder how we got this far. Perhaps they just like to complain and actually find us lots of fun!!!!

I'm not sure why there aren't any divorces. My own thought is no one was brave enough to face mother and tell her they wanted a divorce. She was adamant about "you made your bed, now lie in it" and other cute little sayings. But for whatever reason, none of her children ever got divorced and here we are with some spectacular numbers.

AND THE GOOD NEWS IS.....



Our grandson David Nash and his wife Kimberly have presented us with a great grandson to help with the celebration of our fiftieth anniversary. His name is "Erik Robert Nash" and he came into this world on October 18, 2001 weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces. We can hardly wait to see him for the first time.

This is our first picture of little Erik and you'll notice this bright, beautiful and alert little boy is checking out the world even though he is only 2 days old. He has blue eyes, blond hair and looks like he is ready to express his ideas. There is nothing in the world like a new baby to put a little excitement in our lives.

Charles' knee surgery is going great and he is up walking around. He is out of the hospital and recovering at home. The staples have been removed and he can get on with some serious rehab exercise.

Marty Brown's hip replacement was a huge success and she is just about back to normal and planning to get out on the links. Good work Marty!!!

June was in town this weekend. Was great to see her and – of course – have an excuse to get together for a fun family dinner.

Just received word from Lt. Col. Bob Beardslee (Bob and Caroline's son) about his new position. He will be coming to Warren Air Force Base, here in Cheyenne to assume his new assignment as Deputy Operations Group Commander. He will be second in command of 4 missile operation squadrons and one security forces squadron. He will report for duty in May.

Hope Bob and Kim get to live in one of those beautiful mansions along Officers Row on base. They are so beautiful and well maintained. Most of them are on the Historical Register.

Our congratulations to the Colonel and his new assignment. He will have a heavy responsibility, but he is such a great person we know it won't be a problem.

We all know how talented our sister Leah is. Most of us have some of her treasures in our homes. There are many in my house and I love each one. Every so often Leah decides to free up some space and have a "Craft Sale." Following the events of September 11, Leah decided to donate all proceeds to the Fireman's Fund.

Leah took **\$1000** down to the Fire Department. Can you imagine? I know she had lots of beautiful things but her sale, plus a small donation from her Eastern Star friends netted **\$1000** and she gave it all to the fund.

We, your family, are very proud of you Leah and thank you for your efforts!!!

Received a note from Nicki French Schumacher regarding Anna and Norman's final resting place. Nicki said, "On October 20, 2001 Kathi and I took Mom and Dad's (Anna and Norman) and Kathi's husband, Bob's (Bob Yenney) ashes up on top of the Blue Mountain Range. John and Bert Yenney took Leanna in their truck to show the way up. Gordon and Kathi and I followed with Gordy and Stacy in their truck. The road is narrow and a 4 wheel drive is the only way to get there."

"The view of the Washington and Oregon border and the valley below is beautiful. Bert told me, 'on a really clear day one can see all the way to the Cascades.' We had a clear view and could see the Columbia River from where we spread the ashes. John Yenney and Kathi's son, Pete have planted Austrian Pine trees in memory of Mom and Dad and Bob in this very special Place. On one side, the mountain forest protects the area and on the other is the most spectacular view of the valley where the wheat farms and river and mountains beyond can be seen. Joanne could not be with us but was there in spirit. The area is on the Yenney family farm acreage so we will always be able to visit whenever we can get up there. In the winter the snow will cover the spot and in the spring the new grass and young trees will gain new life. We did not say 'goodbye', but more like 'we'll see you later.'"

"If any of the family would like to visit the area I'm sure Kathi or one of her children would love to take you up there. It's a good spot for a picnic and a quiet walk."

Thank you Nicki for keeping us included in this important decision.

Editors note: *This was an especially difficult decision for Joanne, Nicki and Kathi. Anna wanted her ashes scattered on Highway 80 close to the "Lone Tree" and Norman wanted his scattered in the California Mountains he helped map in his college days. We are pleased the girls chose such a wonderful location, one which both Anna and Norman would have approved. We all know how Anna loved to be on the move and had they put her ashes up by Lone Tree she would have really been on the move. They would have been blown all the way to Nebraska, Kansas and all parts East in this Wyoming wind.*

AND THE CONCERNS ARE.....

Sue Shriver Myers' cancer is rearing its ugly head and she is once more undergoing treatment. Please keep her in your hearts and prayers. Sue has to be one of the bravest people I know. She still works every single day helping David in the Glass Shop. In a recent visit with Sue, she laughed about what was happening and said, "must be too mean to die" – but I don't believe that notion. She is a survivor, one of those rare individuals and we all hope she stays with us for a very long time!!!!

Leah's granddaughter Ricky Jean Patterson is fighting ovarian cancer and we need to keep her in our prayers.

A STORM TO REMEMBER

From Nancy Beardslee Ekdahl, a narrative about the storm, a tornado which blew into their home at Stonewall, Texas. She tells us the winds were from 159 to 230 miles per hour and the devastation was terrible. Luckily Nancy and her husband were spared injury.

Nancy writes: "On October 12, 2001 about 9 p.m. a storm blew in and suddenly our house was rocking and rolling. Red and I fled to the hallway and hung onto each other...we were terrified. While our trees were falling and debris was flying all around us all we could hear was the very loud wind. Some debris hit our house and we thought we were losing our roof. It was awful. The tornado lasted only a few minutes but the storm lasted for two hours...wind and rain...lightning and thunder. Of course we lost electricity, water and phone service immediately. The only light we had was from the lightning and we could see havoc all around us. Our trees were lying against the house on the patio...our metal storage building was gone and the lawn tractor was in the street behind us. But thankfully our house seemed to be intact and we were both okay...except for shaking that lasted for hours. We were finally able to lay down and get a little sleep."

"Saturday morning we woke early and of course it was dark as we had no power or water so we went to Fredericksburg and got some coffee and breakfast. When we arrived back in Stonewall, it was breaking day and the devastation was awesome. Buildings collapsed...one right behind us...second stories of houses missing...roofs missing and the large pecan trees uprooted and broken everywhere."

"But then Stonewall came alive...people and chain saws came from everywhere and all day long all you could hear was the buzzing of saws. We had about 10 men with saws in our yard cutting up the trees and 10 to 15 women and kids dragging limbs to an ever-growing pile of debris. By Saturday night our yard was cleared. There have been bulldozers and trucks and utility workers everywhere plus our utilities were back on Sunday afternoon."

"Thankfully, no one was injured in the whole town although there were some really close calls. Red and I are fine...very tired from all the cleanup, but very thankful we are alive and our home was spared."

"I'll keep you posted." Love, Nancy

Thank you Nancy, and we are very glad you and Red are safe and sound. Your house must be a well built structure. As soon as she sends some pictures I can print I'll send them along.

ANOTHER VERSION OF THE MEMORY

Recently I wrote about how I remembered the Pearl Harbor Invasion. Frank sent me this version of that memory.

Frank said, "The Plain Brown Rapper issue this time was fabulous, the only thing I found questionable was where Mom and I were when the report of the attack came in. Mom and I were sitting in the living room listening to the New York Philharmonic when they interrupted the broadcast, Mom looked at me knowing I was old enough to go. I had to get up and get out, I went over to the park and told some soldiers about it."

How about your memory of that day? Please let me know. This is what makes this newsletter so important. Each memory is important and differing memories are very important. Thanks Frank, you have been a great help to me in all this time and you will always be one of my best historians.



Also, from Frank comes this "Four Generation" picture. A recent visit by Frank and Marilyn's granddaughter, Jennifer, her mom Sue and the second cutest great-grandson Nathan Tandy Brown created the opportunity for the picture.

Pictured above are: Jennifer Brown, Nathan Tandy Brown, Marilyn Brown and Susan Hoyt.

Editors note: Please feel free to send any family pictures you would like added to the Plain Brown Rapper. This is a newsletter about the family and pictures are always welcome. Send along the snapshot and be sure to name the family members in the photo. The lighter the back ground the less ink it takes which makes me very happy. Some pictures I can get from the internet. If I have trouble bringing them up, I'll give you a call. Dolfe

A couple of new e-mail address: Leah Shriver <leahshriver@netzero.net> Jayne Clark <mclark316@msn.com> Marty Brown <martybrown@qwest.net> June Smith has one and hasn't sent it to me at this writing, but will print it as soon as I have it.

A full list will be sent to everyone with the December issue so you can use it for Christmas Greetings if you wish.

