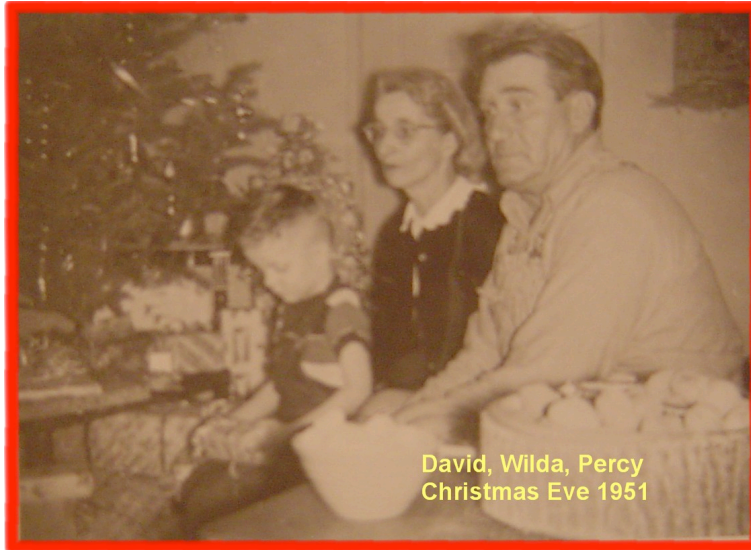


## CHAPTER 6 PERCY CLARENCE BROWN



David, Wilda, Percy  
Christmas Eve 1951

**Lorane Joyce Eaton Stepfather was Percy Clarence Brown** (born Mar 17 1894 in Ellensburg, WN; died Mar 20 1970); mother's name is Stutsman (had a gadabout car); father was a rancher on farm, poor and uneducated; Percy's mother gave him to an Indian reservation; Brownie went to school until 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and hopped out window to go fishing and never went back. Percy's brother was named Claude, and was raised by his mother in a life of wealth and privilege.

Renee says "Grandpa was dropped off at the Indian reservation when he was 3 yrs old and did not see his mother again until he was 16 and bought him a motorcycle. That is why he learned to fish and hunt like he did. He was raised by the Indians; Mama (Val) said he always said, *Ikkes Cuppa Whappachee* and drove him crazy." Cle Elum or Ellensburg is the tribe. When he was older his uncles taught him to run steam shovels and build roads, and read grade stakes. Yakima Toppenish and whole thing is full of Indian, like an Indian reservation.

Percy worked on the Railroad when he got older. He held onto the side of the train, he was a constable in Kittitas County. A constable is like a Sheriff, in a place not big enough



Lorane, David, Grandparents Wilda, & Percy Brown  
1948

to be a city. He had the power to speed and go. He was a forest ranger. A man came and shot the pet deer; grandpa went out and broke his rifle and

told him “get off the damn mountain and never come back.”

*In memory of  
Percy C. Brown  
Born Mar 17 1894  
Passed away  
Mar 20 1970  
Services at Chapel of the Chimes  
Of  
Tuel Funeral Home  
Bishops William C. Wright & Leroy Baldwin, Officiating*



Renee knew Claude Brown as a little kid and didn't like him, “he was crabby. I remember that Claude guy being kind of grouchy... thought he was better than grandpa, kind of arrogant.” Claude had Brownie fried, when he got up in the company that Claude was part of in California.

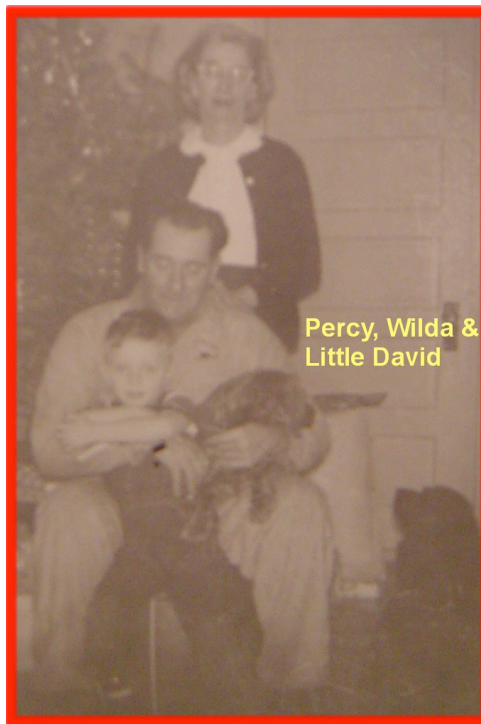


Percy and Wilda lived common law from about 1927 until they finally got married on May 22 1953. They started living in California, lived in Yakima Valley, picked fruit,

moving back and froth from CA to Yakima Valley. Also lived in Coeur d'Alene, ID. In 1929 Val and Lorane lived with Brownie and Wilda in 1929 in Petaluma, CA. Brownie went down to work for Shell Oil with his very rich brother Claude (the big shot with big bucks; Brownie was a castoff). In 1968 Percy and Wilda lived in Tacoma, 4209 E. T Street.

On the good side, Brownie could run a steam shovel and pick the hat off a man's head; he could grade a road and build a bridge, but had little education. As he got older he got more schizophrenic.

About Brownie "Beat by her every five minutes; did not know he as schizophrenic... he was illiterate; boy, illiterate schizophrenic that is quite a combination... just have to forgive him" Brownie was a good dancer; whole floor on springs and he won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in dance contest. He was a charmer.



Percy, Wilda & Little David

Percy was quite sadistic. Karen's earliest memory is Percy beating Kevin with a rubber hose for walking on his lawn. Percy made kids sit still for hours, without moving and barely breathing, in total silence. Percy once locked his daughter Lorane in a wood shed for three days to teach her a lesson. Why did Wilda stay with him?

He made passes at Lorane; he was schizophrenic, and made a few passes at her (Wilda would not believe her) so Lorane moved out after graduating High School in Cle Elum, WN. Brownie tried to molest Val's kid, but Val found out about it, and blew a fuse.



## Lorane's Sister Valla Brown



**Valla Brown's first husband was Robert Mataya.** Their children were Robert and Terry. Robert adored Valla, and even after their divorce, and after Valla married Lyle Gillard, Robert would come over and mow their lawn.

Valla and husband Lyle Gillard had a daughter named Renee. Renee calls the beatings. Lyle would come home most Friday nights, and demand a drink. He would rip open his shirt and the buttons would fly. Valla would tell the kids to run and hide. Renee recalls hiding upstairs, and hearing the inevitable "thump, thump, thump." There would be a lot of bruises and blood. Valla had broken ribs, swollen, blackened eyes, and her veins were shattered by those blows.

Valla in later life took up with Ron. Ron and Val lived in a trailer on property shared with Lorane Boje/Donlon. They mostly feuded, never having worked out the horror of Brownie to Lorane, while he treated Valla quite well, and also treated Val's daughter Renee quite well. Valla passed away a few years back, and Ron sold the property to Lorane. Now (May 2005) Karen Boje lives there with Jeremiah and a man named Dan.

Since this chapter is about Percy Brown, I will close with this story. Percy's mother had two sons, Percy and Claude. She took Percy to the Indian reservation (probably Yakima) and abandoned him there. He was raised by Indians, went to Indian school, until that time already mentioned he jumped out the school window in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to go fishing and never went back to school. I suspect that Percy learned Native American language and an appreciation for Nature. His brother Claude was raised in luxury and wealth. The family was forever split apart; the Percy and the Claude branches of the family could never surmount the status and prejudice differences. Yet Wilda loved Percy Brown, and despite all his faults they got on rather well. Both were wild, both raised in the wilderness, both had attachments to nature.





**Renee Gillard/Flanburg.** When Renee turned eight, Lyle did a despicable thing; he went to court and denied Renee was his daughter, to get out of paying alimony. Even so Renee cares for him in his old age and visits him frequently at the home.



**Renee Gillard/Flanburg with her sons David and Jake in Yelm WA home May 2005**

Grampa Gillard (Lyle Gillard's dad) was upstairs trying to fondle Renee; but does not remember Grandpa Brown trying anything with her (others relatives do). Lyle is still alive in Spokane, WA; he was a comedian and his brain started bleeding and damaged his short term memory; can carry on intelligent conversation in finance and other things (says Renee).